



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-CP-37-GE-WSP-A-PN2100035-001

Date of Issue	18 June 2021
Project Code	21-CP-37-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on Smart Transformation for Various Economic Sectors
Timing and Duration	21–23 July 2021 (three days)
Hosting Country(ies)	Republic of China
Modality	Digital Multicountry
Implementing Organization(s)	China Productivity Center and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	12
Qualifications of Participants	Policymakers, government officials, and representatives of government organizations and enterprises, especially SMEs and startups, working on improving productivity and fostering innovation through digital transformation
Nomination of Participants	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
Closing Date for Nominations	12 July 2021

1. Objectives

- a. Introduce effective methods used by governments, business associations, and enterprises in implementing smart transformation initiatives.
- b. Familiarize participants with the tools and techniques deployed for organizational digital transformation.
- c. Acquaint participants with innovation-led productivity improvement initiatives involving Industry 4.0 technologies, including digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI).

2. Background

Digitization-driven Industry 4.0 creates opportunities for increased productivity and more sustainable production. However, it also presents challenges related to technology access, workforce transformation, and intensified competition in global value chains. The US National Institute of Standards and Technology in 2018 defined smart transformation as a pivot toward “fully integrated, collaborative manufacturing systems that respond in real time to meet changing demands and conditions in the factory, in the supply network, and in customer needs.” Technology convergence and connectedness are other ways of defining the impact of ICT on achieving smart transformation and improving efficiency at all levels.

Industry 4.0's impact is felt not only in manufacturing but also in the service, logistics, and agriculture sectors. Capgemini's Digital Transformation Institute in 2019 predicted that smart factories could add as much as USD1.5 trillion to the overall output of the industrial sector in the next five years, allowing some industries to almost double their operating profits and margins. Digitalization, AI, and emerging technologies are also promoting a paradigm shift in how organizations in various sectors can improve productivity through the adoption of smarter, more integrated workflow tools, AI and machine learning, and augmented reality. There is a need to understand how organizations can harness productivity potential and address related challenges from ongoing advances such as robotics, AI, and service automation technologies.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, most sectors are going through digital transformation, which is now regarded as a must rather than an option. Once the productivity gains achieved through this accelerated digital transformation have been experienced by many organizations and countries, it is just a matter of time before smart work and better performance become the norms. It is therefore important to consider how smart transformation should be approached. A digital transformation framework is the blueprint for how to move through this period of significant change as working conditions evolve. Such frameworks can guide all levels of organizations or even countries through the transformation journey.

This workshop will introduce smart transformation processes to increase productivity in various economic sectors by familiarizing participants with tools, concepts, and methodologies deployed and introducing effective digital transformation and Industry 4.0 concepts to assist them in launching similar initiatives in accordance with their national contexts.

3. Scope, Methodology, and Certificate of Attendance

The duration of each day's sessions will be around three hours comprising presentations by experts, group discussions, and other relevant learning methods. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

Day 1: Understanding Smart Transformation

- Smart transformation tools, concepts, and methodologies
- Smart transformation for various sectors
- Case studies

Day 2: Digital Transformation Technologies

- Why data matters
- How Industry 4.0 technologies such as AI or the Internet of Things can be used for smart transformation

- Digital transformation frameworks

Day 3: Paradigm Shifts and Future Directions

- Process innovation
- Smart transformation toolkits
- Lessons from failure cases

The detailed program and list of speakers will be provided two weeks prior to the sessions with announcement of the names of the selected participants.

The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

4. Financial Arrangements

- a. The APO will meet the assignment costs for overseas resource persons.
- b. The host country will meet the assignment costs of local resource persons and for a virtual site visit(s), either broadcast live or recorded as applicable.

5. Implementation Procedures

Please refer to the implementation procedures for APO digital multicountry projects circulated with this document.



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Secretary-General