



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

PN Issue Date	9 December 2019
Project Code	20-IN-95-GE-CON-A
Title	International Conference on Blockchain Solutions for Productivity
Timing and Duration	7–9 April 2020 (three days)
Venue	Seoul, Republic of Korea
Implementing Organization(s)	Korea Productivity Center (KPC)
Maximum Number of Overseas Participants	36
Maximum Number of Local Participants	12
Closing Date for Nominations	10 February 2020

1. Objectives

This conference aims to equip policymakers and industry leaders with the tools, methodologies, and potential strategic blueprints to deploy relevant blockchain solutions for enhanced productivity and innovation. Experience from countries leading the blockchain revolution shows that devising solutions through blockchain technology requires careful coordination, well thought-out processes, and candid consultations driven by data analysis, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IOT).

Specifically, the objectives are to:

- a. Enhance knowledge of and practical ability to understand the fundamentals of blockchains, the concept of decentralized technology, and their relevance and applications to solving problems in reference to public- and private-sector organizations;
- b. Develop an appreciation of the potential of blockchain solutions for enhancing productivity in various economic sectors, with particular focus on banking and financial technology, supply chains and logistics, and public services such as smart cities, education, etc.;
- c. Identify potential challenges where blockchain solutions can be applied in member countries to enhance productivity; and
- d. Discuss examples of blockchain technology applications, current regulatory frameworks, and the effective adoption and deployment of blockchains for productivity gains.

2. Background

Blockchains are widely regarded as an exponential technology. The potential of blockchains across traditional industries has been widely discussed and is rapidly impacting APO member countries in all sectors and aspects of people's lives. All countries face challenges in addressing the wide-ranging implications of blockchains and prioritizing targets, resources, and policy measures for digital transformation. It is thus necessary to establish a holistic understanding of blockchain solutions and develop strategies in response to the opportunities and challenges of distributed ledger technology (DLT). This conference aims to provide an opportunity for participants to develop coordinated, logical processes to adopt blockchain solutions driven by big data, AI, and the IOT.

3. Scope and Methodology

Scope

Identifying key stakeholders in the ecosystem for blockchains, understanding the readiness of businesses and sectors to adopt blockchain solutions, and creating two-way targeted dialogues to understand the needs of and solicit feedback from blockchain ecosystem players.

Methodology

Conference plenary sessions, breakout networking sessions, and curated site visits.

The tentative program of this project is given below:

Date/Time	Activity
Monday, 6 April 2020	Arrival of international participants in Seoul, ROK
Tuesday, 7 April 2020	Opening Ceremony Morning session Presentation 1: Blockchain-driven Productivity in a Global AI Ecosystem: Sharing Knowledge, Solving Problems, and Pushing Productivity through Blockchains and AI Presentation 2: Blockchains and Industry 4.0: Creation of a New Marketplace Based on Distributed Consensus Breakout networking session Lunch break

	<p>Afternoon session</p> <p>Presentation 3: Blockchain and Fintech: Cryptofinance, Examples of Use, and Potential Issues to Resolve</p> <p>Presentation 4: Smart Cities Driven by Blockchain Solutions: Decentralizing Smart City Data Management through Distributed Consensus Algorithms</p> <p>Presentation 5: Universal Portability of Education Credentials: The Future of Digital, Tamper-proof Transcripts and Diplomas</p> <p>Breakout networking session</p> <p>Welcome dinner</p>
<p>Wednesday, 8 April 2020</p>	<p>Morning session</p> <p>Blockchain Implementation in Various Economic Sectors for Enhanced Productivity: Sharing by APO Member Countries (Member countries present current experiences in implementing blockchain solutions for productivity gains)</p> <p>Afternoon session (hosted by the KPC)</p> <p>Presentation 1: Blockchain-based Fintech in the ROK and Asia-Pacific: Opportunities and Challenges</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Banking and finance have been hit by a tsunami of disruptive digital technologies threatening to eliminate intermediary banking functions. Social media giants such as Facebook, Alibaba, and Tencent have announced ambitious plans for their own cryptocurrencies to empower those without banking access. This panel discussion will focus on game-changing solutions and major controversies in the financial world. How will DApp payments, tokenomics, stablecoins, fungible tokens, and digital assets function in an increasingly complicated, multidimensional fintech ecosystem?</p> <p>Presentation 2: Regulatory Management: Role of Government Authorities in a Decentralized Tech-based Era</p> <p>Panel Discussion: The ROK leads the world in deploying blockchain solutions with government financial support, a light-touch regulatory approach, and marketing promotion efforts. How can governments in the Asia-Pacific region change restrictive attitudes toward decentralized innovations? How can legislators establish friendly, fully open regulatory frameworks without losing their fundamental oversight roles?</p> <p>Presentation 3: Productivity in Supply Chain Management: How Decentralized Technology Keeps Global Trade Humming in a Closed-trade Global Climate</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Managing today's global supply chains, consisting of all links involved in creating and distributing goods, is extraordinarily complex. How could blockchains enhance trade productivity and reduce the complexity and lack of transparency of</p>

	<p>current supply chains? How can blockchains transform the supply and logistics industry in an increasingly closed-trade global climate?</p> <p>Breakout networking session</p>
Thursday, 9 April 2020	<p>Site visits: Curated visits to top Korean blockchain startups and unicorns, as well as leading companies with demonstrated success in adopting blockchain solutions for productivity enhancement.</p> <p>Wrap-up session: Postconference debriefing, action plan/follow-up action plan discussion session, and project evaluation. The aim is to discuss how best to develop blockchains and enhance relationships among conference participants.</p> <p>Closing Ceremony</p>
Friday, 10 April 2020	Departure of international participants

4. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Present Position	Government officials involved in blockchains or blockchain-related industrial policy, academics in universities and research institutes responsible for blockchain R&D, founders of blockchain companies/startups, etc.
Experience	At least two years of experience in the position described above.
Education	University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university/institution.
Language	All proceedings of the project are conducted in English, and participants are frequently required to make oral and written presentations. They must therefore be proficient in spoken and written English. Those who are not proficient in English will not be accepted.
Health	Physically and mentally fit to attend an intensive project requiring participants to complete a number of individual and group activities and strenuous fieldwork. It is therefore recommended that member countries do not nominate candidates likely to suffer from physical and mental stress.
Age	Candidates who fit the above profile are typically between 30 and 50 years of age.
Attendance	Participants are required to attend the entire program.

5. Requirements

The participants are required to undertake preparatory work such as writing country papers prior to departure for the project venue.

All participants are required to prepare and submit action plans to the APO and to share them with their NPOs within 10 working days after attending the project. The participants are also required to submit postproject follow-up reports six months after project completion to document the achievement of outcome(s) of the project. The NPOs will monitor the follow-up actions and report submission by participants.

The Guidelines for Project Preparatory Work will be provided in the project circular, and the Postproject Activity Guidelines are given in Attachment 1.

5-1. Repeat Participants (who attended previous APO projects)

- a. In the Candidate's Biodata form (application form), candidates are required to provide details of follow-up actions taken after attending a previous APO project(s) and outcomes (benefits) of those activities.
- b. Candidates are also required to state in the Candidate's Biodata form whether they submitted a report on their follow-up actions.

5-2. All Participants

- a. In the Candidate's Biodata form, candidates are required to list their expectations from the project and planned postproject actions/activities. This is a tentative list, which participants are free to revise or replace after attending the project (as in item b below).
- b. All participants are required to develop and submit final follow-up action plans within 10 working days of project completion in the format to be provided by the APO Secretariat later.
- c. All participants are required to submit reports on the follow-up actions taken within six months (or a period specified for a particular project) of project completion.
- d. The reports on follow-up actions are separate from the trip reports participants usually submit to their organizations/NPOs immediately after returning from project venues. The report format will be provided before project completion.

6. Financial Arrangements

6-1. Airfare

The APO will meet the cost of round-trip economy-class international airfare between the international airport nearest to the participants' place of work and Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Participants should note that the arrangements for the purchase of air tickets should follow the "Guide on Purchases of Air Tickets for APO Participants," which will be sent to the selected participants and is also available on the APO website and from APO Liaison Officers in member countries.

6-2. Insurance Coverage

Participants' insurance premiums: All participants should be fully insured against accident and illness (including hospitalization and death) for a principal sum equivalent to USD10,000.00 for the entire duration of the project and travel and must submit to the APO Secretariat a copy of the comprehensive travel insurance certificate before participation. Such insurance should be valid in the host country. This insurance requirement is in addition to existing government insurance coverage in some member countries. Neither the APO nor the implementing organization will be responsible for any eventuality arising from accident, illness, acts of war, force majeure, or any unexpected events beyond human control such as those related to natural disasters.

6-3. Cost Sharing

Subject to the conditions stated in the Financial Arrangements section, the following table shows the cost-sharing arrangements between the APO, host country, and participants or participating countries.

Cost item	Cost to be met by		
	Participants or participating countries	Host country	APO
Round-trip economy-class international airfare (refer to paragraph on Airfare for conditions)	No	No	Yes
Participating Country Expenses (PCEs) (refer to paragraph on PCEs)	NA	NA	NA
Hotel accommodation at the venue	No	Yes	Yes
Per diem allowance at the venue	No	Yes	Yes
Transportation costs to and from hotel and airport at the venue	No	Yes	Yes
Insurance coverage in the host country (refer to paragraph on Insurance Coverage)	Yes	No	No

Cost item	Cost to be met by		
	Participants or participating countries	Host country	APO
Any expenses related to visa fees and airport taxes	Yes	No	No
All expenses incurred by participants for any reason including but not limited to: a. Stopovers b. Extension of stay c. Early arrival or late departure d. Flight cancellation	Yes	No	No
Any cancellation charges for expenses such as airfare and accommodations incurred by the APO or host country after issuance of Letters of Acceptance	Yes	No	No
Assignment costs of international resource persons	NA	No	Yes
Assignment costs of local resource persons	NA	Yes	No
All local implementation costs including but not limited to: a. Meeting rooms b. Documentation c. Preparatory costs	NA	Yes	No
Notes (special conditions):			

7. Actions by Member Countries

- a. Each participating country is requested to nominate three or more candidates in the order of preference. Please ensure that candidates nominated meet the qualifications specified under section 4. Qualifications of Candidates above.
- b. No form of self-nomination will be accepted. All nominations must be endorsed and submitted by an APO Director, Alternative Director, Liaison Officer, or their designated officer.
- c. Please note that nomination of a candidate does not necessarily guarantee that he/she will be selected. Selection is at the discretion of the selection committee of the APO Secretariat. A basic criterion for selection is the homogeneity of the participants in terms of qualifications and work experience. Nonselection therefore does not mean that the candidates concerned are not competent enough. Sometimes candidates are not selected because they are overqualified for a project.
- d. Each nomination should be accompanied by the necessary documents. A nomination lacking any of these documents may not be considered: two copies of the candidate's biodata on the APO biodata form together with a passport-sized photograph. The biodata form can be downloaded from the APO website (www.apo-tokyo.org). We encourage submitting the biodata form to the APO Secretariat in electronic form as an attachment to a cover e-mail message from the APO Director, Alternate Director, or Liaison Officer. The nomination documents should be sent to the department in charge of this project.
- e. The APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form. Every candidate must complete and submit a copy of the APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form with his/her biodata at the time of nomination. Please note that self-declaration is sufficient for candidates without any of health conditions or illnesses listed on the reverse side of the medical form. However, for all others, medical certification by a licensed physician on the reverse side of the medical form is required.
- f. Necessary documents are to be submitted electronically. In that case, there is no need to send a hard copy by postal mail. However, if the documents are submitted by fax, member countries are requested to mail the originals of the documents to the APO Secretariat as well. If a digital

photograph of a nominee is not attached to the electronic biodata form, a hard-copy photograph should be sent to the APO Secretariat by postal mail. Please give the candidate's name and the project code on the reverse side of the photograph.

- g. Member countries are requested to adhere to the nomination deadline given on page 1. The APO Secretariat may not consider late nominations as they have in the past resulted in considerable difficulties to the implementing organization in its preparatory work for the project.
- h. For member countries where nominations are required to be approved by higher government authorities and require a longer time, APO Liaison Officers/NPOs are urged to send the names of nominees on or before the deadline, indicating that government approval will follow.
- i. If a selected participant becomes unable to attend, he/she should inform the APO Liaison Officer/NPO in his/her country immediately and give the reason for withdrawal. The NPO concerned is requested to transmit that information to the APO Secretariat and the host country promptly.
- j. NPOs are requested to inform the selected participants that they are not to bring family members or to engage in any private business activities during the entire duration of the project.
- k. Each selected participant should be instructed to arrive at the venue one day before the start of the official project. Also, he/she is expected to return home upon completion of the official project because he/she is visiting the host country for the specific purpose of attending this APO project.
- l. NPOs should inform participants that they must attend the entire program of the project.
- m. NPOs should assist the APO and/or host country in collecting amounts corresponding to cancellation charges arising from withdrawal or no-show of a participant.

8. Actions by the APO Secretariat

- a. Under normal circumstances, candidates who are selected will be informed of their acceptance at least four weeks prior to the start of the project.
- b. If some candidates fail to qualify or be unable to participate after selection, or if some member countries fail to nominate any candidate, their slots may be filled by alternates from the same or another member country on a merit basis.

9. Project Preparation

The participants are required to prepare a short paper prior to departure for the project venue. In preparing the paper, they are expected to follow the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Papers" to be provided later.

10. Postproject Actions

All participants are required to prepare action plans and share the plans with their NPOs. The APO also requests participants to submit progress reports six months after completion of the project. In addition, participants taking part in training-of-trainers courses must also submit a report summarizing a training project that they conducted following the action plans to the APO and NPOs within six months after project completion.

11. Evaluation of Participants

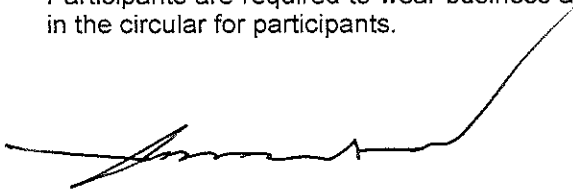
If the conduct/attendance/performance of a participant is not satisfactory, these will be reported to the APO director concerned.

12. Guide for Participants

Other conditions for participation are given in the *APO Guide for Participants*, which is available from APO Liaison Officers/NPOs in member countries and on the APO website (www.apo-tokyo.org).

13. Dress Code

Participants are required to wear business attire during the project. Other instructions will be provided in the circular for participants.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. AKP Mochtan', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General

Attachment 1
POSTPROJECT ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

The follow-up actions by participants after project attendance determine the extent of multiplier effects (outcomes) of APO projects in member countries. The APO has therefore established an interdepartmental Participant Selection Committee to ensure selection of the most appropriate candidates. A key consideration is whether individuals are in a position, have the ability, and are willing to undertake follow-up actions after project attendance.

Each participant is required to undertake follow-up actions after attending an APO project based on his/her learning from it and report on those activities to the NPO of his/her country and the APO Secretariat, following the guidelines below:

Examples of Follow-up Activities

The examples below are suggestions and are not meant to limit participants' choices of follow-up actions:

- a. An official report on project attendance to participants' organizations, or NPOs, or both;
- b. Newspaper/magazine articles based on learning from the project;
- c. Application of knowledge, skills, techniques, or technologies for improving job performance and/or organizational capacity;
- d. Delivering a presentation or lecture on the project topic;
- e. Conducting a workshop/seminar/conference/forum on the project topic;
- f. Improving training/teaching/extension materials related to the project topic; and
- g. Sharing project findings with colleagues, professional groups, or others.

