



**Tokyo Statement on the Centrality of Productivity:  
A Tribute to Productivity on the Diamond Jubilee of the APO**

**9 June 2021**

Congratulating the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) on its 60th anniversary in 2021 and applauding the tenacity of the organization in continuing the momentous journey that began in 1961;

Commending the APO's standing as an international organization that has consistently and effectively pursued its mission and goals since its establishment;

Appreciating the close cooperation among APO members in achieving productivity enhancement in the Asia-Pacific region through the exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices of productivity improvement methodology, tools, and techniques during the last six decades;

Appreciating further the expansion of productivity applications beyond the economic and business spheres to other key areas central to the well-being and dignity of the current and future generations including the preservation of the environment and greater social inclusivity;

Acknowledging the sustained productivity performance of APO members leading to remarkable socioeconomic progress in the region;

Recognizing the broad dimensions of productivity including its contributions to developing sound, well-rounded societies;

Realizing that productivity improvement has become more urgent and important considering the unprecedented, unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic; and

Supporting the aspirations of the APO Vision 2025 to promote inclusive, innovation-led productivity growth in the region:

The APO Governing Body hereby reaffirms the commitment to promoting the centrality of productivity in driving national development endeavors and in enterprise, organizational, and individual growth to meet new, fast-emerging demands and challenges, with emphases and priority targets outlined in the attachment to this statement.

The Governing Body further tasks the APO Secretariat with following up on the points contained in this statement in coordination with the National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) of APO members and in synergy with the goals and deliverables of the APO Vision 2025 and looks forward to receiving a final report on the implementation of this Tokyo Statement on the Centrality of Productivity together with the assessment of Vision 2025 after its completion.

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Tokyo, 9 June 2021

## **Tokyo Statement on the Centrality of Productivity: Emphases and Priority Targets**

### **Maximizing the New Drivers of Productivity**

1. Leverage innovations to maximize the impact of productivity improvement initiatives by preparing the enabling environments, regulatory frameworks, and human resources that promote and sustain innovation.
2. Take advantage of advanced technologies and successful Fourth Industrial Revolution experiences leading to cutting-edge productivity improvement methodology, tools, and techniques.
3. Capitalize on digitalization, thereby broadening and expediting productivity-driven smart transformation.

### **Building a Quality Workforce**

4. Anticipate future work scenarios and develop a quality workforce across APO members through retraining, upskilling, and continuous learning by optimizing the APO's open, e-learning platform and various virtual learning programs.
5. Accelerate the certification of productivity professionals to facilitate workforce development by developing NPOs as APO certification bodies.

### **Enhancing Tools, Techniques, and Methodologies**

6. Upgrade Green Productivity (GP) by updating its tools, techniques, and methodologies; building synergy with other approaches and frameworks for mitigating new, pressing global environmental issues; and mapping out additional opportunities for international collaboration to enable GP to contribute to meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
7. Demonstrate and disseminate the tangible outcomes and benefits of GP to gain greater recognition and support from governments, the private sector, international organizations, and ordinary citizens.
8. Develop innovative entrepreneurial and business skills among youth by imparting productivity tools and techniques for evolving work and business styles under the new normal.
9. Produce practical, user-friendly productivity improvement tools, measurements, and monitoring methods for SMEs in the form of mobile applications to support their digitalization efforts.
10. Disseminate key learning from the APO Centers of Excellence, demonstration companies, and site visit partners by producing *genba*-based, down-to-earth productivity innovation stories to encourage replication of successful applications of productivity tools and techniques across the region.

### **Promoting Inclusive Productivity**

11. Intensify training and workshops for women entrepreneurs and female workers focusing on innovation and smart productivity tools and techniques to produce more women leaders in the business world and in the workforce.
12. Step up national productivity movements aimed at developing productivity mindsets in all segments of society including those in micro industries and the informal sector as well as persons with different abilities by harnessing the power of digital technologies that enable broad, inclusive outreach.

### **Strengthening NPOs**

13. Empower NPOs to become key policy partners of their governments by equipping them with productivity data, outlooks, and insights generated through joint research and data-driven analyses.

14. Provide robust, tailored in-country programs to assist NPOs in developing national productivity master plans, overcoming the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, disseminating the goals and deliverables of the APO Vision 2025, elevating national productivity awards, and establishing broad-based, inclusive national productivity networks.
15. Support cooperation among NPOs through various in-country platforms to realize greater sharing of productivity improvement experiences and practices and promote cross-fertilization of ideas among APO members.

**Promoting International Cooperation and Partnerships**

16. Explore opportunities for expanding membership, as full members or associates, for eligible countries in the Asia-Pacific region and intensify cooperation with governments and international organizations for achieving greater synergy in the work of the organization and in addressing issues of common concern.
17. Encourage participation of the private sector, research institutions, associations, alumni, and nongovernmental organizations to enrich the work of the APO.

**Strengthening the APO Secretariat**

18. Support the transformation of the APO Secretariat including building up strategic digital capability to enhance services to its members.

The Governing Body may review and adjust the priority targets and emphases listed in this Attachment as required. The APO Secretariat will submit an interim report on the implementation of the Statement on the Centrality of Productivity at the end of 2023.

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