



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 739

Date of Issue	18 November 2025
Project Code	25-RC-11-GE-RES-A
Title	Research on the Educational Divide and Implications for Productivity
Timing	18 November 2025–31 December 2026
Hosting Country(ies)	APO Secretariat
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Hybrid
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date	19 December 2025 NPO Pakistan Closing date: 16 December 2025
Remarks	The closing date is for the submission of proposals by research institutions. Please refer to the implementation procedures for information.

Objectives	Analyze the educational divide among APO members; evaluate its implications for productivity; explore challenges and opportunities in this field led by technological advances, including AI; and provide policy implications for stakeholders for fostering inclusive economic growth.
Rationale	The educational divide refers to the disparity in educational attainment and achievement among different groups within a population. It can have significant implications for productivity. To bridge the divide for inclusive economic growth, it is important to examine implications for productivity, identify root causes and opportunities, and suggest policy interventions to bridge it.
Background	<p>The OECD highlights that macroeconomic gains from human capital arise from both increased access to education and improving its quality (2022). Significant educational disparities, such as restricted access and unequal opportunities for high-quality education among certain segments of the population, can lead to the creation and entrenchment of a low-skilled, low-productivity workforce, posing a threat to inclusive productivity.</p> <p>Recent technological advances, including AI, provide opportunities for improving both educational attainment and quality, but may also widen the educational divide, resulting in skill polarization and exacerbating job–education mismatches due to skill-biased economic growth. This research examines the implications of the educational divide for productivity, explores emerging issues and opportunities, and recommends strategies to reduce disparities and promote inclusive productivity in APO member economies.</p>
Topics	Impact of the educational divide on productivity; Underlying issues of the educational divide; Opportunities and challenges from technological advances, including AI; and Policy measures by stakeholders to bridge the educational divide.
Outcome	Improved understanding of the educational divide’s implications for productivity; identification of key issues and opportunities; and development of policy recommendations and best practices for APO members to reduce disparities and enhance inclusive productivity.
Qualifications	Policy analysts or academic researchers specializing in education and productivity policy.

Please refer to the implementation procedures circulated with this document for further details.



Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General

**IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES FOR APO RESEARCH PROJECT ON
THE EDUCATIONAL DIVIDE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PRODUCTIVITY
(HYBRID MULTICOUNTRY)**

1. Methodology

- a. Submission of research proposals: The APO Secretariat will identify partner research institutions, invite research proposals, and form a research team. Interested research institutions should submit their proposals to the APO Secretariat by the deadline.
- b. Multistakeholder consultative meeting: To finalize the plan for the research, a meeting will be held virtually, tentatively in January–February 2026. The indicative agenda items are:
 - Research overview
 - Proposals for the study by research institutions
 - Discussion on implementation of the study and
 - Finalization of the research plan.
- c. Joint study implementation: The research team will collect, process, and analyze data for the report. The final report with findings will be submitted to the APO Secretariat by the end of October 2026, with an interim report by May 2026.
- d. Dissemination activities of final research output in APO members: To increase the visibility of the final research output, create more public engagement, and impact public policymaking, effective dissemination activities in participating APO members will be carried out either in the face-to-face or online modality, when necessary, as part of project implementation.

2. Tasks of the Selected Research Institution(s)

- a. Assist and work with the APO Secretariat in developing the research framework and analytical approach related to the educational divide and productivity.
- b. Finalize the methodology and outline of the policy study report structure with the APO Secretariat.
- c. Collect and analyze relevant data on the educational divide, productivity, and policy implications in line with the agreed framework and methodology.
- d. Prepare and submit an interim report and a final report to the APO Secretariat within the agreed time frame.
- e. Assist the APO Secretariat in validating research findings with APO member economies.
- f. Provide support in the dissemination of the research findings to APO members, either in the face-to-face or online modality, upon completion of the report.

3. Qualifications of Research Institution(s)

The APO Secretariat will select an appropriate research institution(s) with the following qualifications:

- a. Extensive, specialized expertise in the educational divide and productivity as demonstrated through publications and international research.
- b. Proven capacity to collect and analyze data related to the educational divide and productivity across multiple APO member economies, including conducting cross-country comparisons and contextualizing findings within global best practices.
- c. Experience in providing policy advisory services to governments or international organizations on the educational divide and productivity-related issues.
- d. Excellent English writing skills.

- e. Strong commitment to undertaking and completing the research project within the given time frame.

4. Actions by Participating APO Members

- a. Promote the research project among relevant local institutions/think tanks interested in undertaking the study, in accordance with the Request for Proposals to be available on the APO website.
- b. Make the necessary arrangements and assist in undertaking local dissemination activities, in either the face-to-face or online modality, of the final research output within APO members, including inviting local stakeholders as participants in the program.

5. Financial Arrangements

To be met by the APO

- a. Honorarium for the research institution(s) to be paid upon completion and acceptance by the APO of the reports.
- b. Costs relating to the face-to-face or online dissemination activities of the final research output, which include but are not limited to the expenses of the expert(s) and APO Secretariat staff, as well as a portion of the local implementation costs such as logistics and meeting room package in APO members.

To be met by APO members

- a. Other costs of the research output dissemination activities, in either the face-to-face or online modality, that are not covered by the APO if undertaking local implementation.

To be met by research institutions

- a. All implementation costs incurred by research institutions when conducting the study.

Cover Letter Format (Submitted on Letterhead)

To
Multicountry Program Division 2
Asian Productivity Organization
1-24-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033

Subject line: Proposal for Research on the Educational Divide and Implications for Productivity

Dear Program Officer:

1. We the undersigned, having carefully examined the Request for Proposal (RFP) document for conducting research on the Educational Divide and Implications for Productivity, propose to provide the required services in full conformity with the RFP document.
2. We have read all the provisions of the RFP document and confirm that they are acceptable to us.
3. We further declare that additional conditions, variations, and/or deviations, if any, found in our proposal shall not be put into effect.
4. We agree to abide by the terms in this proposal, consisting of this letter, the approach and methodology, the financial proposal, and all other documents for submission of proposals as stipulated in the RFP document and modifications resulting from work order negotiations, and it shall remain binding upon us and may be accepted by you at any time within a maximum of 90 days of the date of submission of the proposal.
5. Until the formal final work order is prepared and executed between us, this proposal, together with your written acceptance of it and your notification of awarding the project, shall constitute a binding work order between us.
6. We declare that all the information and statements in this proposal are true and accept that any misrepresentation or misinterpretation contained in it may lead to our disqualification from consideration.
7. We understand that you are not bound to accept any proposal you receive, nor to give a reason for rejection of any proposal, and that you will not bear any expenses incurred by us in preparing and submitting this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

<Signature>

Name

Date: dd mm 2025

Designation

Organizational Details

Details of the Organization	
Name of Organization	
Date of Incorporation/Establishment	
Date of Commencement of Business	
Address of Registered Office	
Address for Correspondence	
Areas of Expertise Related to This Project	
Name of Contact Person	
Mobile Phone Number of Contact Person	
Email Address of Contact Person	

Experience in Similar Projects

Project Details				
No.	Project client	Project details	Year project was undertaken	List of supporting documents or samples enclosed

