



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 639

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| Date of Issue | 20 June 2025 |
| Project Code | 24-CL-13-GE-WSP-A |
| Title | Workshop on Policies for Gender Equality and Competitive Female Labor |
| Timing | 24 September 2025–26 September 2025 |
| Hosting Country(ies) | Sri Lanka |
| Venue City(ies) | Not Applicable |
| Modality | Online |
| Implementing Organization(s) | National Productivity Secretariat, Sri Lanka and APO Secretariat |
| Participating Country(ies) | All Member Countries |
| Overseas Participants | 38 |
| Local Participants | 12 |
| Closing Date | 25 August 2025 |
| Remarks | Not Applicable |

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| Objectives | Promote understanding of the importance of gender equality and female participation in the labor market; introduce practical knowledge for establishing agencies promoting gender equality and female participation in the labor force; and provide recommendations on necessary policies and plans for gender equality in the workplace and promoting sustainable growth. |
| Rationale | According to the IMF (2022), gender equality goes hand-in-hand with macroeconomic and financial stability, which also promotes economic growth and improves efficiency in both the public and private sectors. Equal opportunities in the labor market can contribute to increased productivity and a more competitive economy. |
| Background | <p>There is a strong link among gender equality, productivity, and national economic competitiveness. Countries with greater equality between genders are more productive, have higher levels of economic growth, and better development outcomes. However, in the world of work, women everywhere tend to experience higher unemployment, unfair treatment, working poverty due to lower wages, precarity in employment, and higher informal-sector employment rates caused by various reasons and backgrounds.</p> <p>As the APO Vision 2025 promotes social inclusion including promotion of female participation in the labor market, this workshop offers an opportunity to explore ways to eliminate gender inequality in the workplace, allowing women to contribute more to the economy and earn decent livelihoods, especially in APO members. It will also promote a better understanding of the current situation around gender issues and the incorporation of measures to create opportunities for women in employment policies and plans.</p> |
| Topics | Links between gender equality, productivity, and national economic competitiveness; Current issues and challenges in gender equality and competitive female labor such as pay and promotion gaps; Measures to create opportunities for women in employment policies and plans; and Cases from countries with greater equality between genders and their outcomes. |
| Outcome | Understanding the relationships among gender equality, productivity, and economic competitiveness including different levels of gender equality indicators in APO members and policy proposals that address the challenges and opportunities in promoting gender equality and competitive female labor. |
| Qualifications | Government officials and policy researchers involved in public programs and policy for gender equality, and representatives of industrial associations, professional groups, and productivity practitioners engaged in promoting female participation and gender issues. |

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



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Secretary-General