



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 613

Date of Issue	12 May 2025
Project Code	25-CP-24-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on Enhancing Access to Finance for MSMEs for Technological Upgrading and Resource Efficiency
Timing	19 August 2025–22 August 2025
Hosting Country(ies)	Lao PDR
Venue City(ies)	Vientiane
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	Lao National Productivity Organization
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	6
Closing Date	7 July 2025
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Understand crucial aspects related to climate finance; gain insights into the current tax landscape in the Asia-Pacific region; and explore approaches in leveraging various financial mechanisms for technological upgradation and resource efficiency.
Rationale	Access to finance, especially in developing markets, poses direct challenges to MSMEs' ability to achieve business growth by limiting capital inflow for efforts related to technology upgradation, productivity enhancement, and expansion to new markets. Under the APO Green Productivity (GP) 2.0 roadmap, this workshop is an effort to address the gap in capacity building for climate finance.
Background	<p>Climate finance was at center stage during COP29, bringing together nearly 200 countries in Baku in 2024. While addressing the needs of developing countries and focusing on the role of SMEs in the green transition, the finance commitments were tripled to USD300 billion annually from USD100 billion annually by 2035.</p> <p>Recognizing the gap in capacity building and expanding the coverage of the APO's GP concept, the GP 2.0 roadmap mentions regulations and financial incentives as key approaches in response to current trends and GP initiatives. This workshop aligns with the GP 2.0 roadmap and aims to bridge knowledge gaps and connect stakeholders in building a robust finance ecosystem. Moreover, capital deepening, allowing direct access to finance, directly impacts total factor productivity, especially for SMEs that rely on constrained cash flows, have limited financial opportunities, and lack knowledge of regulatory frameworks, which restrict business growth.</p>
Topics	Key aspects of tax structures in the Asia-Pacific; Policy and regulatory frameworks focusing on technology upgradation and resource efficiency; overview of environment, social, and governance frameworks for reporting and emission tracking; Interlinking carbon pricing and trading mechanisms with climate finance; Approaches to leverage financial instruments; Group work; and Site visit.
Outcome	Expansion of the GP framework to new areas, creation of opportunities to leverage financial instruments for business growth of MSMEs across the Asia-Pacific, and identification of gaps requiring interventions through key roles of the APO.
Qualifications	Representatives of industry associations, SME owners, personnel from financial institutions, policy researchers from think tanks, consultants, and trainers working on climate finance, sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and clean industrialization.

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



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