



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 568

Date of Issue	6 March 2025
Project Code	25-RC-24-GE-RES-A
Title	Research on the Gig Economy in APO Members
Timing	1 April 2025–31 December 2025
Hosting Country(ies)	Not Applicable
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	23 May 2025
Remarks	The above deadline is for nomination of national experts.

Objectives	Analyze the impact of the gig economy on productivity trends; assess key forms of gig work and worker characteristics in different economies; examine regulatory frameworks that support workers in the gig economy; and provide policy recommendations to align the growth of the gig economy with sustainable economic development and workforce resilience.
Rationale	The gig economy represents a significant shift in employment patterns, driven by digital platforms and flexible work models, and it is rapidly transforming labor markets. While it has enabled innovation and access to diverse talent pools, it also challenges traditional productivity metrics by creating fragmented work environments and inconsistent worker protections.
Background	The gig economy, rooted in the rise of digital platforms in the early 2000s, has enabled on-demand services and freelance work, offering flexibility and new income opportunities but also raising concerns about income instability, social protections, and equitable growth (WEF, 2020). While it has created pathways for entrepreneurship and expanded labor market access, it has also deepened socioeconomic divides, leaving many workers vulnerable in the absence of robust policy frameworks. These dynamics have presented barriers to sustainable productivity, including inconsistent income streams, skill mismatches, hindrance to skill development, and regulatory gaps. These challenges call for a systematic analysis to uncover how the gig economy both supports and disrupts productivity growth. Understanding the gig economy's impact on productivity, innovation, and inclusive growth in APO members is necessary to foster a resilient, equitable economic ecosystem.
Topics	Trends in the gig economy; Impact of the gig economy on productivity; Effects on and transformation of the labor market; Key forms and characteristics of gig work; Regulatory frameworks for gig work; and Workforce adaptability and strategies for a sustainable gig economy.
Outcome	Comprehensive analyses of gig economy trends, major forms of gig work in different sectors and their characteristics, and impacts on productivity, including policy recommendations for optimizing the gig economy for more inclusive, sustainable growth and economic resilience of APO members.
Qualifications	Experts must have strong backgrounds in and knowledge of labor economics, workforce productivity, and policy analysis, with proven research experience on socioeconomic trends through publications in English.

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



Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES FOR APO RESEARCH PROJECTS (HYBRID MULTICOUNTRY)

1. Methodology

- a. In-country research: Each national expert will collect and analyze data and write a preliminary report based on the research framework circulated prior to the coordination meeting. The reports will be finalized after the coordination meeting.
- b. Coordination meeting of experts: A coordination meeting to finalize the research methodology and framework will be organized. The preliminary reports detailing country-specific situations will be presented in this meeting for feedback from other experts. The coordination meeting among experts will be held virtually for around three hours each day.
- c. Dissemination activities of the final research output in APO members: To increase the visibility of the final research output, create more public engagement, and influence and impact public policy-making, effective dissemination activities in participating APO members will be carried out in either the face-to-face or online modality, when necessary, as part of project implementation.

2. Qualifications of Experts

Chief expert

Extensive experience in leading international research projects on labor economics, workforce productivity, and policy analysis, with proven ability to conduct cross-country analysis and publish high-quality reports in English on these topics. A strong track record in advising policymakers or international organizations is preferred.

National experts

Policy analysts or academic researchers specializing in labor economics, workforce productivity, and policy analysis, with at least five years of relevant experience. Strong track record in research and analysis, as well as excellent English writing and presentation skills, are required.

3. Tasks of Experts

Chief expert

- a. Develop the overall framework and guidelines for the research.
- b. Present the research framework, methodology, and report structure during the coordination meeting.
- c. Review the drafts and provide feedback to national experts to ensure the quality of the work.
- d. Provide support and advice to national experts in conducting the research.
- e. Prepare the final report and submit it to the APO Secretariat by the deadline.
- f. Assist in the dissemination activities of the APO Secretariat of the final research output in members when necessary.

National experts

- a. Collect data at national level following the methodology and framework provided, especially national data on the gig economy.
- b. Write country reports on the analyses and findings based on the data collected.
- c. Present the preliminary reports during the coordination meeting.
- d. Revise the reports following the agreement during the coordination meeting and reflect the comments of the chief expert and APO Secretariat.
- e. Cooperate with the chief expert to ensure the quality and consistency of the final report.

- f. Submit the reports following the agreed format to the chief expert and APO Secretariat by the deadline.
- g. Assist in the dissemination activities of the APO Secretariat of the final research output within the country when required.

4. Financial Arrangements

To be met by the APO

- a. Honoraria for the chief and national experts.
- b. All assignment and relevant research publication costs.
- c. 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 experts and APO Secretariat staff as well as a portion of the local implementation costs such as logistics and meeting room package for the dissemination activities when necessary.

To be met by experts or participating members

- a. All local implementation costs incurred by national experts when collecting data at the national level.
- b. A portion of the local implementation costs of the dissemination activities for the final research output, when necessary, if they agree to undertake local implementation.

5. Actions by Participating APO Members

- a. Participating members are requested to nominate at least two candidate national experts before the deadline for selection.
- b. Candidates should submit an abstract of their research of between 250 and 1,000 words related to the subject.
- c. Nominations should be registered and endorsed by NPOs in the designated project management system before the closing date for nominations.
- d. Assist in undertaking local dissemination activities for the final research output within the country, when necessary.

6. Actions by the APO Secretariat

- a. Identify and invite a chief expert to lead the research until its completion.
- b. Coordinate all arrangements related to the research activities and dissemination of the final research output in APO members in either the face-to-face or online modality.