



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

WSM-16
Reference Paper No. 6

OVERVIEW OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM ON PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT FOR SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES (METI Special Cash Grant)

1. Objective

The objective of this paper is to give a preliminary overview of the Training Program on Productivity Improvement for Supporting Industries, which will be funded by a special cash grant from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI). It should be noted that the budget for this program is subject to the approval of the National Diet of Japan and that the details of the program must be approved by METI.

2. Background

Through cooperation with local enterprises, numerous Japanese companies have expanded their business into Asia and contributed to its economic growth. To maintain rapid economic growth, improved productivity in local supporting industries is particularly crucial. This program aims to promote improvements in local supporting industries and the quality of their human resources by providing opportunities to learn about and acquire productivity skills and management techniques developed and refined in Japan. This will allow more supporting industries to contribute to higher national productivity.

3. Objectives and Targets

The objectives and targets of the program are to provide capacity-building opportunities for employees of supporting industries by transferring time-tested Japanese productivity skills and management techniques such as lean production systems, total quality management, and quality control circles.

Target Countries

The target countries are Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Target Companies and Qualifications of Participants

Participants in this program should be employees of the following target companies:

- a) Local companies that are current suppliers and business partners of Japanese companies in the target countries;
- b) Local companies that are potential suppliers and business partners of Japanese companies in the target countries; and
- c) Japanese SMEs that have business bases in the target countries.

4. Implementation Procedures

The program will be conducted in following manner:

- Step 1: Promotion of the program in cooperation with NPOs and Japanese organizations such as business associations and JETRO branch offices in the target countries;
- Step 2: Receiving training implementation plans for local companies and Japanese SMEs from Japanese companies with bases in the target countries, including training implementation plans for potential suppliers and business partners of Japanese companies proposed by NPOs;
- Step 3: Evaluation and approval of the plans; and
- Step 4: Implementation of the approved plans by Japanese companies.

5. Methodology

Training will be conducted in the local country of the target company, trainees may be invited to Japan or to a third country and experts will be dispatched to the target companies.

In addition, training sessions will be held in Japan for NPO staff and government officials, where they can receive information on Japanese productivity standards and skills as well as share and exchange ideas regarding the best practices of effective productivity improvement activities.