



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

Ref. No. 17735 / DOR
Date : 12 July 2023

REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST (REOI)
NATIONAL INVESTMENT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
TO SUPPORT C3.2, REFERENCE No. ICS-041

The Government of Lao Peoples Democratic Republic (GoL) has applied for financing support from the World Bank's (WB) International Development Association (IDA) to implement the Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity (SEARECC) with a project duration of six (6) years starting from middle of year 2022 and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) is the lead implementing agency of the SEARECC. The proposed of SEARECC seeks to improve the domestic and regional transport connectivity and logistics facilities, with associated policy reforms for increased economic activities along selected transport corridors in Northern Lao PDR. The project scope includes improvement of transport connectivity and logistics services in Lao PDR, trade facilitation, border crossing control management, and agriculture trade along the NR2 corridor and five provinces in the corridor catchment area. National Road 2 (NR2), 295 km long and a part of ASEAN highway No. 13. SEARECC consists of five (5) components as follow: (1) Lao PDR and Regional Connectivity Enhancement, (2) Logistics Services Development and Vorder-Crossing Management, (3) Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Regulatory Framework in Agriculture, Transport, and Investment Planning, (4) Project Management and (5) Contingency Emergency Response.

The SEARECC now intends to engage a full-time suitably qualified and experienced as National Investment Planning and Management Consultant for DPF-MPWT to support C3.2 for a period of 24 months from August 2023 to July 2025 to undertake the tasks described in the Terms of Reference (ToR). The assignment includes supporting the international consultant in (a) preparation of a PWT-specific Three-Year Public Investment Rolling Plan (3YRP) model, which could be utilized at both MPWT and provincial PWT levels; (b) integrated multi-modal transport to be considered in preparing the rolling plan; (c) development of a linkage to the 3YRP model to the sector's 5-year development plan (2021-2025) and other tasks. The full ToR for the assignment can be found at the following website www.mpwt.gov.la or can be sent to candidates upon written request to the e-mail address below.

Interested Consultant should provide information (CV, Expression of Interest, other supporting information, if any) demonstrating that s/he has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. In order to qualify for this position, the candidates shall meet the following experience and competence requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or higher-level degree in Economics, Business or Finance Administration, transport, or other relevant fields.
- A minimum of 5 years of working experience performing assignments related to project public finance management (PFM) and public investment management (PIM) in Lao PDR.
- A minimum 5 years of working experience in Institutional development; policy management; developing regulatory framework, particularly working with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning and

Investment in Lao PDR supported and funded by the World Bank or other international finance institutions.
An understanding of the operational and procedural issues of the Lao PDR.

- Experience of working with international consultants, as well as good communication and reporting skills are an asset.
- Fluency in verbal and written English are essential; translation skills English-Lao-English are an asset.
- Must be a team player experienced with low-capacity environments, demonstrated project management skills and diplomacy, etc.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" 4th edition of November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by 01 August 2023, 16:00 o'clock Lao time (submissions via email are also acceptable). Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Department Planning and Finance, Ministry of Public Works and Transport
Lanexang Avenue, Phonxai Village, Saysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

Attention : Ms. Vanh Dilaphanh
Director General of Department of Planning and Finance (DPF - MPWT)
E-mail : proc.dpf.mpwt@gmail.com with Cc : k_litta@yahoo.com, dilaphanhnana@yahoo.com,
bottaphanith@yahoo.com and ptv.tulaxay@gmail.com.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Litta Khatiya

Director General, Department of Roads (DOR - MPWT)
Head of Project Procurement Committee



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

SOUTHEAST ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC CORRIDOR AND CONNECTIVITY (SEARECC)
(PROJECT ID No. P176088; IDA CREDIT No. 7102-LA)

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)
NATIONAL INVESTMENT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
FOR COMPONENT 3.2, REFERENCE No. ICS-041

1. BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT); Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF); Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC); Ministry of Public Security (MOPS); Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Finance (MOF) of Lao PDR have received financing support from the World Bank's (WB) International Development Association (IDA) to implement the Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity (SEARECC) with a project duration of six (6) years starting from 4th quarter of the year 2022.

The Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity (SEARECC) seeks to improve the domestic and regional transport connectivity and logistics facilities with associated policy reforms for increased economic activities along selected transport corridors in Northern Lao PDR. The project scope includes improvement of transport connectivity and logistics services in Lao PDR, trade facilitation, border crossing control management, and agriculture trade along the NR2 corridor and five provinces in the corridor catchment area: Phongsaly, Luangnamtha, Oudomxay, Xayabouli, and Luangprabang. NR2, 295 km long and a part of ASEAN highway no 13, consists of NR2-West (145 km) connecting with the Thai border at Huai Kone via NR4A and NR2-East (150 km) connecting with the Vietnamese border at Tay Trang, Dien Bien Phu province. As a major road corridor, it crosses the new Lao-China rail corridor in Muang Xai, creating the potential for multimodal transport connectivity for both north-south and east-west routes connecting Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, and China. The development of NR2 provides linkages to Thailand, Vietnam, and China, which can help achieve Lao PDR's aspiration to become a land-linked country. The proposed project will help to attract more investment, boost more cross-border trade, and generate more employment in the surrounding areas.

SEARECC consists of five (5) components, and they are further divided into subcomponents. Component 3 aims for Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Regulatory Framework in Agriculture, Transport, and Investment Planning, which has two subcomponents. Subcomponent 3.2 Institutional capacity development for the transport sector is critical for enhancing GoL's transport and logistics strategies, policies, plans, and institutional capacity aims to develop an Integrated Multimodal Transport Strategy, undertaken through the P4I approach and led by the Department of Planning and Finance (DPF), MPWT.

The development of multi-modal logistics and public transport plans for the northern corridor will identify priority investments from public and private resources. These together with the existing 5-year development plan and beyond will need to be budgeted for, working within the fiscal envelope available to the Lao Government, including development partner funding. Therefore, it is essential that investment planning fits into the Laos Government budgetary system, especially in the field of development budgeting/capital expenditure management. Given the recent attempts for improvement in public finance management (PFM) with the initiative of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and public investment management (PIM) with the

initiative of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), the MPWT institutional capacity must be strengthened based on these updated management frameworks.

MPWT-DPF is currently collaborating with MOF and MPI on introducing a medium-term budget plan (for recurrent expenditure) and a three-year public investment rolling plan (for capital expenditure). The rolling plan method supports MPWT in providing broader views for resource/financial management when planning and formulating detailed projects under the transport sector strategy. Based on the updated budget management methods, demarcation of project management among central and northern region PWT entities may become apparent using the same three-year budget platform. Capacity development support will be essential for MPWT and provincial PWTs to embed a three-year rolling budget approach, including projects emerging from SEARECC plans.

2. SCOPE OF WORK:

The assignment will provide technical support to the Department of Planning and Finance (DPF) of MPWT in implementing of activities under Component 3.2. Activities to be undertaken by the Consultant shall include but are not limited to:

- Support the international consultant in the preparation of a PWT-specific Three-Year Public Investment Rolling Plan (3YRP) model, which could be utilized at both MPWT and provincial PWT levels. Integrated multi-modal transport to be considered in preparing the rolling plan. Given that sector debt is high and fiscal space is limited, the plan should also consider limiting government liability and optimizing the limited resources.
- Support the international consultant in the development of a linkage to the 3YRP model to the sector's 5-year development plan (2021-2025)
- Support the international consultant in collaboration with P4I team determine how specific programmes, investments and actions within the multi-modal transport and logistics strategy can be embodied within the 3-year rolling plan.
- Support the international consultant to ensure that development plans and strategies can be interpreted into investment projects and activities in a form suitable for inclusion in the rolling plan
- Support the international consultant in detailed planning, formulation, and implementation of projects through various financial resources including government budget, road fund, ODA, provincial budget, and private investment. Resource allocation includes prioritization and comprehensive financial management improvement. The investment budget and recurrent budget should be analyzed on what and how the subsectors spend to find realistic fiscal space and ensure optimization of transport sector asset investment and its sustainability.
- Support the international consultant in drawing on P4I's development of project prioritization tools develop a project preparation process and template, which are required input for annual workplan and budget.
- Provide data compilation and analysis to support the work of the international consultant. This involves liaising with line departments.
- Other activities as requested by the Department of Planning and Finance, MPWT, or their nominee/representative, and the Component 3.2 Coordinator/Manager and provide consultancy and advisory services for DPF to work as a counterpart with P4I team.

3. OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

- A functional tool and process for MPWT and provincial PWT levels to prioritize and implement infrastructure investments consistent with the 5year sector development plan and multi-modal transport and logistics strategy
- Project planning and formulation procedures, including templates and guidelines.

- In collaboration with P4I develop as manuals /handbooks that translate the investment policies and monitoring mechanisms for infrastructure investment to the 3YRP
- A standard Operating Procedures (SOP) model for project planning, formulation, budgeting, and monitoring. An institutional structure for SOP linkage among central and local resource/budget management.
- Progress reports on the development progress and issues for discussion with the project coordination committee
- Final report.

4. DUTY STATION AND DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultant report to Director General of DPF of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in Vientiane Capital and or the authorized representative and works closely with Component 3.2-Project Manager or Coordinator from DPF-MPWT.

The assignment will be required on a full-time basis at MPWT, for a period of 24 months with possibility of extension, depending on and satisfactory performance, project needs and budget availability. This assignment is expected to start in August 2023.

5. CONSULTANT SELECTION CRITERIA

The following experience and qualifications of the consultant are desirable:

- Bachelor's degree or higher-level degree in Economics, Business or Finance Administration, transport, or other relevant fields.
- A minimum of 5 years of working experience performing assignments related to project public finance management (PFM) and public investment management (PIM) in Lao PDR.
- A minimum 5 years of working experience in Institutional development; policy management; developing regulatory framework, particularly working with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning and Investment in Lao PDR supported and funded by the World Bank or other international finance institutions. An understanding of the operational and procedural issues of the Lao PDR.
- Experience of working with international consultants, as well as good communication and reporting skills are an asset.
- Fluency in verbal and written English are essential; translation skills English-Lao-English are an asset.
- Must be a team player experienced with low-capacity environments, demonstrated project management skills and diplomacy, etc.