



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

Ref. No. 21898 / DOR
Date : 16 August 2023

REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST
NATIONAL JUNIOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT CONSULTANT
FOR SUB-COMPONENT 4.1, REFERENCE NO. ICS-043

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 year 2022. 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 Junior Project Implementation and Operational Support Consultant for DPF-MPWT to support C4.1 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:

- At least a Bachelor Degree in finance, accounting, economics, business administration, international relation, or another relevant field and graduation from a native English-speaking country is an advantage;
- At least 2 years' experience in similar assignments as Project Coordinator or similar positions with major donor funded project particularly with World Bank funded project, will be an advantage;
- Familiarity with the GoL projects funded by the WB, ADB or other International Institutions and GoL's administrative and other procedures;
- Must have team player experiences with low-capacity environment, demonstrated project management skills, self-development skills, perseverance and diplomacy etc.,
- Basic knowledge of World Bank financial management, procurement and disbursement guideline and procedure is preferable;
- Familiar with Project Management Software and other donor's client connection system is an advantage;

- Proficiency in English – speaking and writing in both English and Lao languages.

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" July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018 ("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 e-mail) by 10 September 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, Phonhxai Village, Saysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Litta Khattiya

Director General, Department of Roads (DOR - MPWT)
Head of SEARECC 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 JUNIOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT CONSULTANT FOR SUB-COMPONENT 4.1, REFERENCE No. ICS-043

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 Health (MOH) and Ministry of Finance (MOF) of Lao PDR had 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.

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, Oudomxay, Luangnamtha, Luangprabang, and Xayaboury. 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.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) are to improve regional and domestic trade and climate resilient transport connectivity along an East-West corridor in Southeast Asia, and to provide immediate and effective response in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency. The proposed PDO-level results indicators are:

- A. Improved regional and domestic transport connectivity
 - 1. Travel time along the selected sections of the NR2 corridor
 - 2. Number of people provided with improved, climate resilient road access
 - 3. Beneficiaries expressing satisfaction with transport connectivity (percentage)
- B. Improved cross-border trade efficiency
 - 4. Average cross-border processing time at selected Laos-Vietnam and Laos-Thailand border checkpoints
 - 5. Time taken for SPS certification in agricultural trade

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.

2. Objective of the Assignment:

The SEARECC Project, DPF-MPWT seeks a Junior National Project Implementation and operational support Consultant (NJPIOSC) for Component 4 to work closely with an Existing National Project Implementation and Operational Support Consultant and International Consultant for Component 4.

NJPIOSC will be hired under the Component 4 with Procurement Reference No. ICS-041 is included in the SEARECC Procurement Plan review for fiscal year 2023.

3. Scope of Work of the JNPIOSC:

The Consultant's assignment will support the International and National Implementation Support and Operational Consultants of C4, the Project Management Unit (PMU) of Component 4. Activities to be undertaken by the Consultant shall include but are not limited to:

1. Supporting for Component 4:

- Assist Component 4 in implementation of activities to ensure that Component 4 activities are implemented as planned, effectively, and efficiently;
- Assist and Coordinate in the preparation of progress reports (semi-annual and annual), including provide inputs related to status and issues of Component 4 that may arise during the course of implementation.
- Facilitate information sharing as well as coordinate activities amongst project stakeholders;
- Facilitate arrangement of meetings, workshops, conferences, communication related brainstorming meetings, documentations, other project related documents of Component 4;
- Document and prepares minutes of the meeting and documenting other meetings required by Component 4;
- Assist PMU-Component 4 Manager in undertaking the essential administrative and management requirements such as draft workplan and budget, track and follow up the implementation of project's activities. Raise any implementation issues with PMU, including time, within budget, and in accordance with the policies and procedures of the government and World Bank (WB);
- Assist the PMU-Component 4 in arranging field missions and mid-term review of component 4 project activities;
- Assist PCC Secretariat in review all related financial documents of the Project to ensure the correctness of the Project's source of fund, component code, activity code, implementing agency and etc. before pasting to FM and disbursement team.

2. Together with the International and National Implementation Support and Operational Consultants of C4, support PMU-C4 roles and responsibilities to those listed from the PIM and PAD, such as the following:

- Review and assist in the updating of the implementation schedule for project activities and disbursement plan (jointly with the PMU-C4; Department of Planning and Finance-MPWT and Finance Management Unit of SEARECC;
- Assist in the review and preparation of Annual Work Plan and Budget, and submit to the World Bank for review and NOL. DPF and the FM unit of SEARECC will have overall responsibility for financial management of the project;
- Monitor and consolidate report on project progress, including but not limited to the project results framework, to the PMU-C4; DPF-MPWT and Project Coordination Committee (PCC) and WB;
- Follow up on agreed actions, and assist in preparation of the consolidated progress reports, cash forecast, annual work plan and annual budget and etc., review of Interim Financial Report (IFR), financial audit report and provide recommendations (if any);
- Liaise with the World Bank and other financiers, and facilitate the communication between departments of MPWT and other central and local government agencies and the financiers to ensure that required actions would be fulfilled and completed.

3. Supporting all Components:
 - Preparing, updating and ensuring compliance with the Project Implementation Manual (PIM);
 - Ensuring that all Components implement technical, procurement and financial audits and environmental and social standard activities;
 - Assist each component in implementing the frameworks and actions agreed for the aforementioned departments to strengthen the coordination, management, internal control and accountability as stated in the PAD and PIM;
 - Participate in the project missions and provide comments to Aide Memoire.
4. Other activities as requested by the Director General of the Department of Planning and Finance, MPWT, or their nominee/representative, and the PMU-C4 Manager.

4. Output Reporting Requirements:

The NJPIOSC will report on a monthly and quarterly basis to the Director of Department of Planning and Finance with copies and documentation to the project manager. The JNPIOSC will work under the Department of Planning and Finance.

5. Place of Assignment:

The NJPIOSC will work with the PMU of Component 4-DPF of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in Vientiane Capital and report to the Project Consultants for Component 4, as well as to the PMU. The NJPIOSC shall work under the direct supervision of PMU and the project consultants for Component 4 day-to-day of the Project implementation.

6. Duty Station and Duration of the Assignment:

The Consultant will work with the PMU of Component 4-DPF of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in Vientiane Capital and report to the Director-General of the DPF, MPWT, or the authorized representative or Component 4-Project Manager from DPF-MPWT.

The total estimated inputs for this assignment are full-time (time-based) for 24 months with possibility of renewal based on satisfactory performance review and Project requirements., this assignment expected to be started between October 2023 to October 2025.

7. Qualifications

The following experience and qualifications of the NJPIOSC are desirable:

- At least a Bachelor Degree in finance, accounting, economics, business administration, international relation, or another relevant field and graduation from a native English-speaking country is an advantage;
- At least 2 years' experience in similar assignments as Project Coordinator or similar positions with major donor funded project particularly with World Bank funded project, will be an advantage;
- Familiarity with the GoL projects funded by the WB, ADB or other International Institutions and GoL's administrative and other procedures;
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