



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 18 July 2024

REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST
National Consultant on Cross-Border Trade and Transport Facilitation for Sub-Component 2.2
(Ref. No. ICS-065, Project ID No. P176088; IDA Credit No. 7102-LA)

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport; the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; the Ministry of Public Security (MOPS); the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance of Lao PDR have received financial support from the International Development Association (IDA), a member of the World Bank Group to implement the Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity (SEARECC) project with a duration of six (6) years, starting from the 4th quarter of year 2022.

The proposed activities under Sub-component 2.2 include technical assistance to: 1) Establish a collaboration platform for dialogue between Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam; 2) examine the possibilities for the role that SEARECC can play in order to foster transport and trade facilitation between the three countries and the People's Republic of China (hereinafter, PRC), 3) Strengthen the capacity to implement cross-border transport agreements and address cross-border transport issues, such as harmonization (or mutual recognition) of heavy vehicle dimensions and standards, permitted axle loads, driver licensing, climate change, road safety, communicable disease control (including multisectoral cooperation for regional health security at border check points using the OneHealth22 approach) and facilitation of Customs procedures; and 4) Improve regulatory frameworks to support the implementation of existing cross-border transport agreements. The aim is to augment and enable smooth regional trade and transport logistics.

This shall be a lump-sum contract with payments based on deliverables, expected to last a total of 20 weeks from the date of mobilisation. The aim is to contract the Lao PDR National Consultant and the International Consultant (Team Leader) at the same time and by no later than mid-July 2024, to be able to complete the consultancy by the end of December 2024

The SEARECC Project Procurement Committee now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. 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:

- Preferably a Master's degree in either public administration, law, economics, transport, or business administration, or related fields;
- Working experience in consulting services with at least 10 years of activity vis-à-vis issues of relevance to cross-border trade and transport agreements.
- At least 2 similar assignments successfully accomplished within the past 8 years; such experience under a GoL / IFI funded projects is a strong advantage.
- Strong analytical skills and solid a track-record in analyzing the legal and regulatory frameworks of Lao PDR;
- Strong network of contacts within the competent authorities of Lao PDR in charge of trade and transport facilitation.
- Sufficient expertise in Customs, immigration and quarantine requirements, in addition to trade and transport expertise.
- Knowledge of online interactive platforms and organizational abilities to coordinate the activities of Government ministries and agencies would be an asset in light of the work to establish the 'Collaborative Platform'; and
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Laotian, as well as the ability to conduct socialization events and present in English at workshops or other meetings with national or international counterparts.

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 Aug 2024, 16:00 o'clock Lao time** (submissions via email are also acceptable). **Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

Email to: proc.dpf.mpwt@gmail.com with Cc: ssouphanh@gmail.com, bounta_ov@yahoo.com, xaysomnuk.s@gmail.com, visara.khamvongsa@gmail.com

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Sysouphanh Chansavat
Chairman of Procurement Committee