



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

Ref. No. : 08326 / DOR
Date : 29 March 2023

REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST
CONSULTING SERVICE FOR CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND TRADE FACILITATION SUPPORT
(CONSULTING SERVICE – FIRMS SELECTION, REF. NO. FS-008)

The Government of Lao Peoples Democratic Republic (GoL) has 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 middle of year 2022. 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.

Lao PDR's SEARECC Project is seeking an experienced consulting firm capable to offer a team of professional part-time and full-time consultants to assist the project team working at 3 departments – Customs Department (LCD), Department of Import and Export (DIMEX) and Department of Immigration (DOI) - in assessing Customs, Immigration, and Trade Facilitation practices to prepare best practice manuals, action plans and implementation arrangements that will assist re-designing border crossings that serve the five provinces of Phongsaly, Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang and Xayabouly. The border crossings are on National Road 2 from Muang Ngeun, adjacent to the Thai border in Xayabouly Province to Pang Hok in Phongsaly Province at the border with Vietnam. The assignment is planned to start in July 2023 and be completed within a period of 12 months from services' commencement date. More details are provided in the Terms of Reference or the assignment, which can be obtained at the address given below.

The SEARECC now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- At least 10 years of professional experience providing advisory services and technical assistance in customs and international trade reforms, customs administration, international regulations, capacity building and related services;
- At least 10 years of relevant professional experience and providing advisory services to public entities on trade facilitation, trade policy related issues and related regulatory reforms; such experience in Southeast Asia is an advantage;
- Experience in assisting the Customs Departments / Offices in upgrading and customizing ASYCUDA;

- Experience in technical assistance in harmonizing and standardizing cross-border clearance procedures for greater overall efficiency of clearance times;
- Experience in delivering professional training to customs and border officers.

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) shall be submitted in English. Consultants are required to submit a maximum of 20 most relevant past contract references for examination. Should the Consultants include more than 20 past references, Client shall examine and score only the first twenty listed references. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's Regulations - Procurement in Investment Project Financing - Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services (July 2016, revised November 2020 edition), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A consulting firm will be selected under the method of Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) in accordance with the said WB Procurement Regulations set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8.00 to 16.00, Monday to Friday. Expressions of interest must be delivered via e-mail to the address below by 17.00 (Local time of Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, GMT+7) of 21 April 2023 as the deadline for the submission.

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

Attention : Ms. Vanh Dilaphanh
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Yours sincerely,



Mr. Litta Khattiya

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