



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

Ref. No. : 11353 /DOR
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REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST

CONSULTING SERVICE FOR SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MANAGEMENT MODERNIZATION AND AGRICULTURE TRADE PROMOTION TO SUPPORT SUB-COMPONENT 3.1, REFERENCE NO. FS-009

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. 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.

The Sub-Component 3.1 of SEARECC project aims to support on enhancing agricultural trade and improving the SPS Management system. Capacity development to support agricultural trade will focus on improving the enabling environment for agricultural trade activities. The key activities include: (i) financing technical assistance to review and improve business process for cross border trade for agriculture products through streamlining of export and import permits, raising awareness of traders' compliance with SPS requirements, and simplifying the registration and certification of farm inputs; (ii) providing trainings to strengthen operational capacity for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Offices (PAFOs), and District Agriculture and Forestry Offices (DAFOs) in agricultural trade promotion; and (iii) capacity development to address key gender gaps in agricultural value chain to enhance trade including unequal access to information for women, barriers registering businesses, accessing financial credit, technology and market.

This REOI is issued for Consulting service for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Management Modernization and Agriculture Trade Promotion to support Sub-Component 3.1. The objective of this consultancy is to strengthen the capacity for MAF, PAFOs, DAFOs, boarder checkpoints and the Ministry of Health for the cross border agricultural and food product trade and SPS Management with focus on improving the enabling environment for agricultural and food product trade activities, improve business process for cross border trade for agriculture products through streamlining of export and import permits, raising awareness of traders' compliance with SPS requirements, and simplifying the registration of farm inputs, review and improve legislations relevant for SPS; strengthening the institutional and operational capacity in SPS management.

The Consulting Firm shall be responsible for the supervision of, and support to, the work and delivery of deliverable of the TA Team, the monitoring of the consultants' performances and the implementation of the support to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) of MAF during the implementation of this sub-component 3.1 activities related to the scope of work and detail tasks related to this consultancy service. This, includes ensuring full compliance with the environmental and social risk management measures as required by the World Bank (WB) and the Government of Laos (GOL), and prepare the required reports on these, including monitoring progress report toward project's indicators outlined in the project framework related to this consultancy service. To achieve these objectives a Consulting Firm shall have to mobilize a minimum of 10 International and 15 National consultants for the assignment, according to Client's estimates.

Expected date for the mobilization of consultant is from 3rd quarter of year 2023. The TOR for Consultant covers the improvement of SPS related work and business process improvement for a period of 48 months. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website www.mpwt.gov.la or can be obtained at the address given below.

The SEARECC Project 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 Consultants is expected to be a firm or an association of consulting firms or association of independent consultants with the appropriate capabilities and experience to execute the services. It is essential for the Consultants to mobilize the required staff, including national consultants and expatriates having to travel to Laos. For this purpose, the Consultants are required to demonstrate availability of qualified international and national staff to carry out the assignment anywhere in Laos. Consultants are strongly encouraged to create Joint Ventures (JV) or sub-consultancy arrangements in this context. The shortlisting criteria are:

- **Criterion 1 – Review of Legal and Regulatory Documents (30%):** At least 10 years of experience in working with development project, review of legal and regulatory documents; such experience in South/ South-East Asia is a strong asset.
- **Criterion 2 – Sanitary and Phytosanitary (30%):** At least 10 years experiences working in the areas of sanitary and phytosanitary of plant health, animal health and food safety (individually or as lead JV member) in the past 10 years;
- **Criterion 3: - Development of e-Phyto and e-certification (25%):** Minimum 1 assignment to support the initiate and develop e-Phyto and e-certification system.
- **Criterion 4 (15%):** Quality assurance of the company including technical backstopping capabilities to assist the recruited consultants and support them during their mission.

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 and staff qualifications in general will not be evaluated at this 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. A shortlist of firms will be established based on the submitted expressions of interest and in line with the criteria as outlined above. A shortlist of five to eight best qualified firms/associations shall be selected for the next phase of evaluation, based on the scores obtained. Shortlisted Consultants will be invited to submit full technical and finance proposal.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8.00 to 16.00, Monday to Friday. Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below by 17.00 (Local time of Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, GMT+7) of 28 May 2023 as the deadline for the submission (electronic submission is acceptable).

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
Email : proc.dpf.mpwt@gmail.com with Cc : k_litta@yahoo.com, dilaphanhana@yahoo.com,
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Mr. Litta Khatiya
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