

# REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST (REOI)

## INTERNATIONAL PROJECT TECHNICAL ADVISER TO SUPPORT DOR - MPWT REFERENCE No. CRRCIP-IC-12

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 Lao PDR Climate Resilient Road Connectivity Improvement Project (CRRCIP) with a project duration of six (6) years starting from middle of year 2025, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The proposed of Climate Resilient Road Connectivity Improvement Project (CRRCIP) seeks to build about 300 km of District Roads and Rural Roads in the poor districts of Khammouan, Savannakhet, and Saravan provinces. The MPWT in consultation with the DPWT of these three provinces had identified a long list of proposed roads. About 100 km of roads in each of the provinces will be selected from the roads in this longlist through a prioritization exercise based on aspects which include: (i) passing through a poor district – based on poverty headcount, (ii) criticality of the link for climate resiliency of the network, (iii) connectivity to agricultural areas, (iv) population served by the road, (v) traffic level, (vi) not passing through environmentally sensitive areas, and (vii) no resettlement of more than 200 people (or 40 households) and/or more than 40 households severely affected with 10 percent of productive assets owned by individual household lost in all three target provinces. The proposed project provides connectivity to National Roads and access to the east-west economic corridor between Vietnam and Thailand thus increasing market linkages and contributing towards greater economic gains to the local communities.

The CRRCIP now intends to engage a part-time, suitably qualified, and experienced International Project Technical Advisor for the Department of Roads, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, to undertake tasks under Components 1 and 3 as described in the Terms of Reference (ToR). The full ToR for the assignment can be found at the following website: <https://ppmd.mof.gov.la/opportunities/com> or can be provided to interested candidates upon written request to the email address below.

This assignment is intended as a part-time, time-based contract with an individual consultant for up to 12 person-months, spread over a period of three years as required and subject to budget availability. The assignment is planned to start in June 2025, with the possibility of renewal based on project needs and satisfactory performance. The duty station will initially be at the MPWT Office in Vientiane, Lao PDR, and the consultant's home country.

The CRRCIP 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:

- Relevant degree (Bachelor's degree or higher) in civil engineering or a related field; specialization / certificate in road construction and OPBRC is a strong asset.
- Minimum of 15 years of experience in project and or program management within the infrastructure sector; such experience in road construction is an asset.
- At least 1 similar assignment implemented in the past 5 years, including experience with OPBRC/HPBC, DBMOT with PBC, PPP or similar arrangements for road construction and performance-based maintenance; such experience in South-east Asia is an asset.
- Familiarity with the GoL projects funded by the WB, ADB or other International Institutions and GoL's administrative and other procedures.
- Knowledge, skills and experience in result-based planning, quality control, monitoring and evaluation and human resources management, ideally within the infrastructure sector.
- Good presentation and capacity building skills; experience in training on project management is essential.
- Good inter-personal and team building skills.
- Excellent spoken and written skills in English;
- Willingness to travel as needed to provinces.
- Flexibility and ability to work and deliver high-quality production time.

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" 4<sup>th</sup> 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 e-mail) on or before 26 May 2025, 16:00 o'clock Lao time (submissions via email are also acceptable). Only the 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 : Mr. Vannasone K. Thepvongsa  
Deputy Director General, Department Planning and Finance (DPF - MPWT)  
Email : [proc.dpf.mpwt@gmail.com](mailto:proc.dpf.mpwt@gmail.com) with Cc : [pphonh.plv@gmail.com](mailto:pphonh.plv@gmail.com), [inthapada@hotmail.com](mailto:inthapada@hotmail.com) and [maxmahaxay11@hotmail.com](mailto:maxmahaxay11@hotmail.com)



Yours sincerely,

**Mr. Phitsaphonh Philavong**

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

**TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**  
**INTERNATIONAL PROJECT TECHNICAL ADVISER TO SUPPORT DOR**  
**FOR COMPONENT 1&3, REFERENCE NO. CRRCIP-IC-12**

**1. Background**

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 Lao PDR Climate Resilient Road Connectivity Improvement Project (CRRCIP) with a project duration of six (6) years starting from middle of year 2025 and also 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.

The CRRCIP seeks to build about 300 km of District Roads and Rural Roads in the poor districts of Khammouan, Savannakhet, and Saravan provinces. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) in consultation with the Department of Public Works and Transport (DPWT) of these three provinces had identified a long list of proposed roads. About 100 km of roads in each of the provinces will be selected from the roads in this longlist through a prioritization exercise based on aspects which include: (i) passing through a poor district – based on poverty headcount, (ii) criticality of the link for climate resiliency of the network, (iii) connectivity to agricultural areas, (iv) population served by the road, (v) traffic level, (vi) not passing through environmentally sensitive areas, and (vii) no resettlement of more than 200 people (or 40 households) and/or more than 40 households severely affected with 10 percent of productive assets owned by individual household lost in all three target provinces. The proposed project provides connectivity to National Roads and access to the east-west economic corridor between Vietnam and Thailand thus increasing market linkages and contributing towards greater economic gains to the local communities. The proposed project will benefit about 600,000 people (approximately 8 percent of the country's population) in poor districts of Khammouan, Savannakhet, and Saravan Provinces.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve climate resilient road access in targeted provinces, enhance capacity to manage the road network, and, in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, respond promptly and effectively to it.

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, Xayabouly, 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.

**2. Scope of the Project**

The Project will achieve the stated objective through activities that:

1. Improve 300 km of District Roads and Rural Roads in the provinces of Khammouan, Savannakhet and Saravan to the standards of Class V/VI roads as per MPWT's Road Design Manual and addressing climate and disaster resilience aspects.

2. Implement management practices including financial and technical audits, environmental and social monitoring, and safety audits.
3. Develop technical and operational capacity of MPWT and DPWT in OPBRC/HPBC contract management and cross cutting issues on road maintenance, road safety, gender, citizen engagement and climate disaster risk.

### **Project Locations**

The project will carry out climate resilient road asset management works in Khammouan, Savannakhet and Salavan Provinces. The institutional strengthening elements of the project will have sector-wide coverage as they refer to sector strategy, systems improvement, and sector capacity development.

### **Project Components**

The project has 4 components. Component 1 on Climate Resilient Road Access, Component 2 on Project Management, Component 3 on Institutional Development and Component 4 on Contingent Emergency Response.

This POM covers Components 1, 2, and 3. For the implementation of Component 4, in the event of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, the project will respond to it as per the Contingent Emergency Response Manual. The Contingent Emergency Response Manual will consider climate risks on both mitigation and adaptation.

### **3. Objective of the Assignment**

The International Project Technical Adviser will support Component 1&3 of the CRRICIP project with the Component Management Unit (CMU) at the Department of Roads in the implementation of the Project.

### **4. Scope of Work and Main Tasks**

The consultant will work closely with the CMU's team in the overall project management to ensure that the project achieves its objectives. The Project Management Consultant will work jointly with the project management team under the direction of Department of Roads, in:

- Provide support to DoR in managing ongoing road projects financed by the World Bank.
- Provide support to Project Managers (CMU's team) under CRRICIP and SEARECC on overall project management including OPBRC/HPBC contracts' implementation, overseeing progress of works, overseeing and advising on the performance of contractors and consultants, regular updating overall work program and its critical path, monitoring compliance with WB policies related to the projects and covenants in the financing agreement between the government and Development Partners.
- Advising the CMU staff on project management (e.g. financial, administration and technical aspects) to ensure its smooth and efficient functioning.
- Assisting the CMU's procurement consultants on (a) drafting technical parts of the ToRs, RFPs, RFBs, (b) evaluation of technical aspects of bids / proposals, and (c) contribution to relevant parts of the evaluation reports for Consultant and Works procurement.
- Preparation of various progress reports (quarterly and annually) of the project activities in general, and on the HPBC' implementation in particular.
- Development and put in place monitoring and evaluation system of performance of the HPBC contractors during road rehabilitation / improvement / maintenance phases and advising the CMU on ways to improve their work.
- Monitoring and evaluation of performance of the project supervision consultants (Implementation Support and Work Supervision-ISWS) and advising the CMU on ways to improve their work.
- Assisting CMU in coordination with and support to the key stakeholders (DPF, DoT, PTI and Provincial DPWTs of project area in project implementation, including liaising with the World Bank.

- Provide training on project management, contract management, HPBC to MPWT/DPWT staff. Provide Capacity Building for local contractor in the area of hybrid performance contract (HPBC).
- Provide support to CMU in preparation and participation in joint implementation support missions.
- Provide support to CMU to follow up the implementation of action plan agreed during the implementation support missions.
- Provide support of future project Preparation.
- Other duties as assigned.

## **5. Output Reporting Requirements:**

The Consultant will work under DoR management and report to Project Manager and work in close coordination with other project implementation agencies including the World Bank and other stakeholders. Specific deliverables include the following.

- 1) Contribution to /quarterly/annually progress reports of the overall implementation of the project activities;
- 2) Work plan for overall CMU activities,;
- 3) Brief quarterly report on the performance review of (a) HPBC contractors and (b) Supervision Consultant (progress, findings, issues or problems encountered on execution); including of recommendations for improvements as required.
- 4) Assist in evaluation of technical proposals / bids of the Works and Consultants Bids and in related contract negotiations on technical aspects;
- 5) Review draft Bidding Document (if any) and HPBC and ISWS contracts;
- 6) Coordination assistance with stakeholders;
- 7) M&E system;
- 8) Develop and put in place contract management system;
- 9) Updated Project Implementation Plan;
- 10) Ad hoc reports and documents as per the needs of the project.

## **6. Duty Station and Duration of the Assignment**

The consultant shall work directly under and report to the DG/DDG of the DOR. The duration of the assignment will be required for up to 12 person months on a part time basis spread over the period of 3 years as required and depending on budget availability, planned to start in June 2025, and with a possibility of annual renewal based on the Project needs and satisfactory performance. The duty station is initially at MPWT Office, Vientiane, Lao PDR, and from home country.

## **7. Consultant Selection Criteria**

The Consultant will have the following qualifications:

- Relevant degree (Bachelor's degree or higher) in civil engineering or a related field; specialization / certificate in road construction and OPBRC is a strong asset.
- Minimum of 15 years of experience in project and or program management within the infrastructure sector; such experience in road construction is an asset.
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