

REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST (REOI)
INTERNATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION SUPPORT CONSULTANT
FOR COMPONENT 1, REFERENCE No. ICS-089

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.

The proposed of 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. National Road 2 (NR2), 295 km long and a part of ASEAN highway No. 13. 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 Department of Roads (DOR) now intends to engage a part-time suitably qualified and experienced as International Project Implementation and Operation Support Consultant for the Department of Roads, Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) to undertake the tasks under Component 1 as described in the Terms of Reference (ToR). 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.

This assignment will not exceed 220 working days on a part-time basis, with at least 40% of the time spent in Lao PDR, spread over a period of 2 to 3 years, until the project's completion in May 2028. The assignment is planned to commence in January 2026.

The Consultant will work closely with the Project Mannagement Unit (PMU)/Component Management Unit (CMU) and report to the Director General of the DoR. He/She will also collaborate with other project implementation agencies and support the PMU/CMU in coordinating with development partners, including the World Bank, the EIB, and other stakeholders.

The Project Procurement Committee of SEARECC Project 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:

1. At least a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, road & bridge engineering or a related engineering field; specialization / certificate in road construction and maintenance is a strong asset.
2. Minimum of 10 years of experience in project and or program management within the infrastructure sector; such experience with OPBRC, PBC or Hybrid PBC contracts is an advantage.
3. Proven experience in climate-resilient national road / highway design, BoQs and technical specifications; such experience with projects funded by the WB, ADB or other IFIs is an advantage.
4. At least 1 similar assignment implemented in the past 5 years for road construction and performance-based maintenance; such experience in South-east Asia is an advantage.
5. Experience in result-based planning, quality control, monitoring, and evaluation, and human resources management, ideally within the infrastructure sector.
6. Experience in training on project management and contract management is an asset.

7. Good inter-personal and team building skills.
8. Excellent spoken and written skills in English.
9. Willingness to travel to provinces.
10. Flexibility and ability to work and deliver high-quality, within set production time(s).

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 15 December 2025, 17:00 o'clock Lao time (submissions via email are also acceptable). Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Project Management Unit, Department Planning and Finance (DPF)
Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lane Xang Avenue, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

Attention : Mr. Vannasone K. Thepvongsa, Deputy Director General, DPF

Email : proc.dpf.mpwt@gmail.com with Cc : ssouphanh@gmail.com; phouvi_say@hotmail.com and maxmahaxay11@hotmail.com.



Mr. Sysouphanh Chansavat

Deputy Director General, Department of Roads (DOR - MPWT)

Head of Project Procurement Committee

Date : 01st December 2025

Term of Reference (TOR)
International Project Implementation and Operational Support Consultant
to support Component 1, Department of Roads - MPWT
(Reference No. ICS-089)

1. Background

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT); Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE); Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC); Ministry of Public Security (MOPS); 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.

The Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity (SEARECC) aims to enhance domestic and regional transport connectivity and logistics facilities, along with associated policy reforms, to stimulate economic activities along selected transport corridors in Northern Lao PDR. The project scope includes improving transport connectivity and logistics services in Lao PDR, enhancing trade facilitation, managing border crossing control, and promoting agricultural trade along the NR2 corridor and in the five provinces within the corridor's catchment area: Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Luangnamtha, Luangprabang, and Xayaboury. NR2, 295 km long and part of ASEAN Highway No. 13, consists of NR2-West (145 km), connecting with the Thai border at Huai Kone, and NR2-East (150 km), connecting with the Vietnamese border at Tay Trang, Dien Bien Phu Province. As a major road corridor, it intersects with the new Lao-China rail corridor in Muang Xai, creating potential for multimodal transport connectivity between north-south and east-west routes that connect Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, and China. The development of NR2 provides linkages to Thailand, Vietnam, and China, which can help achieve the Lao PDR's aspiration to become a land-linked country. The proposed project will help attract more investment, boost cross-border trade, and generate additional employment opportunities in the surrounding areas.

Currently, 65% of the civil works at the local roads have been completed, while 100% completion and delivery are expected by mid-2026, while all contracts for NR2 have been awarded and the first milestones have been achieved.

Similarly, the works at the Border Facilities are progressing satisfactorily, 55,5% at Pang Hok and 18,5% at Nam Nguen, with completion expected by mid-2026 and end-2026, respectively.

Two Implementation Support and Works Supervision (ISWS) Consultants are fully mobilized, providing adequate technical oversight and ensuring quality, schedule adherence, and cost compliance.

The World Bank and the government are preparing additional financing for SEARECC. The proposed activities to be funded under the Additional Financing include: (i) the improvement of National Road 2W from the Pak Beng to Muang Ngeun section, covering approximately 55 km; (ii) the upgrading of an additional 100 km of local roads in Phongsaly, Luangnamtha, and Oudomxay provinces; (iii) paving of certain sections of existing road contracts that remain unpaved under the original SEARECC budget; and (iv) institutional strengthening. For additional section of NR2 and new local roads, DPWT are working on conceptual design, which will form part of bidding document.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is 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 PDQ-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 Border-Crossing Management, (3) Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Regulatory Framework in Agriculture, Transport, and Investment Planning, (4) Project Management and (5) Contingency Emergency Response.

The project is managed by the Project Steering Committee (PSC), chaired by the Minister of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), the Project Coordination Committee (PCC), chaired by the Assistant Minister of MPWT, and the Project Management Units (PMU). DoR has appointed a dedicated team for Component 1 that will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation and operation of the project, including contracting and supervision of all consultants the Component Management Unit (CMU).

2. Objective of the Assignment

The objective of this assignment is to engage an International Project Implementation and Operational Support Consultant to provide strategic and operational support to Component 1 of the SEARECC Project, implemented by the Department of Roads (DoR) under MPWT. The Consultant will assist the PMU and CMU in ensuring effective and timely implementation of Component 1 targets, including the preparation of the request for Additional Financing, anticipated to become effective in November 2026.

3. Scope of Work and Main Tasks

The consultant will work closely with the CMU team on overall project management, implementation monitoring, and on time, within budget, quality delivery, to ensure the project achieves its objectives. The Project Management Consultant will work jointly with the project management team under the direction of the Director General of DOR, in:

- 1) Providing support to the Director General of DoR on strategic road sector management, including planning, prioritization, budget allocation, and monitoring the implementation of the five-year investment plan for the road sector; this will also include improving business processes for road improvement and maintenance. In addition, MPWT is engaging in the private sector for critical road improvement and maintenance. The consultant will also provide advisory support to DoR on due process of the private sector engagement.
- 2) Supporting project coordinators and managers in managing NR2 corridor improvement and maintenance contracts, local roads improvement and maintenance contracts, and cross-border facilities construction contracts under SEARECC. This includes reviewing/commenting on detailed designs developed by contractors, endorsed by the ISWS consultant, and providing recommendations for the project manager's approval. Additionally, it involves monitoring the performance of Implementation Support and Work Supervision (ISWS) and contractors through regular reports, site visits, and follow-up meetings.

- 3) Regularly monitor updated project work programs and critical path schedules. Monitor compliance with WB and EIB policies related to the projects, ensuring adherence to covenants outlined in the financing agreement(s) between the government and Development Partners.
- 4) Assisting the DOR in collaboration/coordination of PMU and other relevant agencies, including those involved in cross-border facilities.
- 5) Cooperate with the CMU, PMU, WB & EIB for the preparation of the additional financing, the preparation of the additional preliminary designs, and updated ESF, including ESMP.
- 6) Review the conceptual design prepared by DPWT and support DoR/DPWT, prepare bidding document for proposed activities to be financed by SEARECC additional financing.
- 7) Assisting the CMU in the preparation of procurement documents for contracts to be financed by additional financing, evaluation of technical aspects of bids/proposals, and contribution to relevant parts of the evaluation reports.
- 8) Help in developing and monitoring the projects' procurement plans in cooperation with the procurement consultants.
- 9) Contributing to the preparation and final review before submission to DoR and PMU of the various CMU's progress reports (monthly, quarterly, and annual) on construction and supervision contracts and other relevant project activities overall, with a specific focus on Hybrid-PBC and OPBRC implementation.
- 10) Assist CMU in monitoring and evaluating the performance of the project supervision consultants (Implementation Support and Work Supervision-ISWS) and advising the CMU on ways to improve their work, including reviewing their monthly, quarterly, bi-annual, and any other requested reports and provide recommendations for improvement.
- 11) Assisting Procurement, Financial Management and Admin staff in managing and setting up project data, information, and documents by establishing an e-library for contracts under component 1, as instructed by the CMU and other completed projects (if any), as instructed by DoR / DPF.
- 12) Assisting CMU in coordination with and support to the key stakeholders (DPF, DoT, PTI, and Provincial DPWTs of the project area in project implementation, including liaising with the World Bank.
- 13) Contribute to the preparation of road construction supervision / maintenance related policy documents, guidelines, and manuals as needed.
- 14) Cooperate with the firm providing Consultancy Services for the preparation of the "Strategic Lao PDR Highways Infrastructure Development Plan and O&M Financing Framework"
- 15) Provide training on project management and contract management to DPF / DoR/DPWT staff.
- 16) Provide support to CMU in preparation and participation in joint implementation support missions.
- 17) Perform additional tasks relevant to project implementation and management as assigned by the Director General of DoR.

4. Duty Station and Duration of the Assignment

The consultant shall work directly under the supervision of the DOR. The assignment will not exceed the 220 working days on a part-time basis, of which at least 40% will be spend in Laos, spread over a period of 2 to 3 years, until the project end in May 2028. It is planned to start in January 2026. The duty station is initially located at the MPWT Office in Vientiane, Lao PDR, with periodic travels to the project provinces.

The Consultant will work with PMU/CMU and report to the Director General of DoR. He/she will collaborate closely with other project implementation agencies and help PMU/CMU coordinate with development partners, including the World Bank, EIB, and other.

The Consultant's performance shall be subject to periodic performance evaluation, which will be decisive for extension or termination of the Consultant's services under the Contract.

5. Reporting and Deliverables:

The following reporting and deliverable requirements shall be used for the Consultant's periodical performance evaluation:

No.	Deliverables	Tentative date
1	6-months reports	Within 15 days of next month
2	Annual Reports	Within 15 days of next month
3	Review and comment to monthly plan for overall CMU activities;	Monthly - within 5 days of after the event.
4	Field Mission preparation, active participation & reporting.	As applicable - within 5 days of after the event.
5	Review / comment detailed designs being developed by the contractors, endorsed by the ISWS consultant, and provide recommendations for the project manager's approval.	As applicable - within 15 days of after the DoR's request.
6	Contribution to Additional Financing Envelop Preparations & Implementation.	As applicable, tentatively in 2026 - within 15 days of after the DoR's request.
7	Timely and efficient assistance to procurement team on evaluation of proposals for selection of consulting firms, under the ISWS or other road sector TA contracts.	As applicable - within 15 days of after the DoR's request.
8	Timely and efficient assistance to procurement team on evaluation of bids' technical aspects, under the bidding processes for works.	As applicable - within 15 days of after the DoR's request.
9	Preparation of road construction supervision / maintenance related policy documents, guidelines, and manuals.	As requested – based on agreed schedule with the DoR.
10	Brief periodic report on the performance review of (a) Road Contractors and (b) Supervision Consultant (progress, findings, issues, or problems encountered on execution).	As requested – based on agreed schedule with the DoR.
11	Regular site visits with CMU / DoR team to the projects' sites to observe progress, meet contractors and consultants, and to identify eventual implementation issues.	During the whole assignment period – based on agreed schedule with the DoR.
12	Regular contribution to update of E-library's & Project Planner	During the whole assignment period
13	Knowledge transfer & capacity building	During the whole assignment period

6. Consultant Selection Criteria

The Consultant shall have the following qualifications:

- (a) At least a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, road & bridge engineering or a related engineering field; specialization / certificate in road construction and maintenance is a strong asset.

- (b) Minimum of 10 years of experience in project and or program management within the infrastructure sector; such experience with OPBRC, PBC or Hybrid PBC contracts is an advantage.
- (c) Proven experience in climate-resilient national road / highway design, BoQs and technical specifications; such experience with projects funded by the WB, ADB or other IFIs is an advantage.
- (d) At least 1 similar assignment implemented in the past 5 years for road construction and performance-based maintenance; such experience in South-east Asia is an advantage.
- (e) Experience in result-based planning, quality control, monitoring, and evaluation, and human resources management, ideally within the infrastructure sector.
- (f) Experience in training on project management and contract management is an asset.
- (g) Good inter-personal and team building skills.
- (h) Excellent spoken and written skills in English.
- (i) Willingness to travel to provinces.
- (j) Flexibility and ability to work and deliver high-quality, within set production time(s).