



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND FINANCE

Ref. No. **02974** /DPF
Date: 11 February 2025

REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST

International Expert on Cross-Border Trade and Transport Facilitation Agreements
(Ref. No. ICS-072, Project ID No. P176088; IDA Credit No. 7102-LA)

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT); the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF); the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC); the Ministry of Public Security (MOPS); the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Finance (MOF) of Lao PDR have received financial support from the International Development Association (IDA), a member of the World Bank Group, (WB) 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 objective of the consultancy is fourfold: 1) To contribute, as per the specific activities and deliverables defined in Section C and Section D below, to a comprehensive report that provides the baselines for further engagements and interventions under Sub-component 2.2, in order to support Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam in negotiating and implementing their cross-border transport agreements and achieve the mandated results under the Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity Project, as well as facilitating and enhancing the transport and trading opportunities vis-à-vis PRC; 2) To address the structural and regulatory gaps related to previous and current trade and transport agreements, particularly with respect to regulatory frameworks, institutional arrangements, and capacity-building requirements; 3) To provide technical assistance to the Department of Transport (DOT) in drafting a comprehensive bilateral land transport agreements and offering technical guidance for negotiating and finalizing the future agreement; and 4) To conduct a needs assessment survey for the technical departments in MPWT and develop a capacity-building and training plan to be funded by the project.

This shall be a lump-sum contract with payments based on deliverables. The assignment must be completed within a period of 6 calendar months. The International Consultant is expected to implement approximately 50% of the assignment in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, to maximise the opportunities to coordinate with the Government of Lao PDR and the World Bank.

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:

- Master's degree in public or business administration, international trade, transport law, economics, or other related fields;
- Senior international consulting expertise with at least 15 years of activity vis-à-vis issues of relevance to cross-border trade and transport agreements;
- Past similar positions in a government or IFI funded project within the past 5 years is a strong advantage.
- Demonstrated expertise in cross-border trade and transport agreements;
- Practical experience of working and having a network of work contacts with, and advising projects on WTO, ASEAN, GMS and intergovernmental agreements of relevance to trade and transport regulation and facilitation;
- Ability to manage complex projects with the involvement of multiple experts and government officials;
- Good understanding and track record of cooperation and assistance to the Government of Lao PDR would be an asset; and
- Excellent command of both verbal and written English is a must.

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 **26 Feb 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, xaysomnuk.s@gmail.com and bounta_ov@yahoo.com

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Vannasone K. Thepvongsa

Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Finance (MPWT)
Deputy Head of Project Procurement Committee