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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Country: Lao People's Democratic Republic
Project: Global Partnership for Education III Project: Learning and Equity Acceleration Project (LEAP)
Sector: Education
Description: **01 Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist (Lao National)** for the Global Partnership for Education III
Funded (GPE III):
Credit No.: 6854-LA

Background

The Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) is implementing the "GPE III Learning Equity Acceleration" Project (P173407) or the Project with financing support from the World Bank (WB) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPEIII). The Project main objective is to *improve learning outcomes in primary grades, and strengthen teacher practices, education sector equity and accountability in the Lao PDR*. The Project activities are being implemented through the following 3 components: (1) Prepared and Motivated Learners; (2) Prepared and Motivated Teachers; and (3) Effective School Governance for Improving Teaching and Learning

Objectives of the Assignment is to assist MOES (ESF Team under DOP and the Project implementing entities or PIEs) timely and effectively implement all ESF requirements for the Project activities. Specifically, the ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD SPECIALIST will (a) Assist the Project ESF Team to prepare and/or update ESF documents and instruments as required for Project activities to ensure full compliance with the ESCP, SEP and/or ESMF as developed by and agreed between DOP and WB; (b) In close consultation with WB team, prepare and provide training to the Project staff and PIEs on issue related to the ESF and lead the implementation ensuring that the Project is in compliance with ESF requirements; and (c) Assist the Project ESF Team during supervision mission including preparation of E&S monitoring reports (ESMR) to be submitted to the WB.

Scope of the Assignment: The Specialist will report directly to the Deputy Director General (DDG) of DOP responsible for the Project as assigned. The Specialist will review all ESF documents related to the Project (see paragraph 3 above) and carry out this assignment in close consultation with the ESF Team at DOP and the WB team throughout the assignment. Specifically, the specialist will conduct the following (refer to detailed TOR), but not limited to plan and prepare Work Plan (Inception Report), Training on ESF, relevant ESSs and instruments to the Project, Finalizing/Updating ESF documents and Providing Guidance on Social and Environmental Activities including ethnic-related risks and inclusion, Monitoring and Reporting.

Key Inputs and Deliverables: This is a full-time assignment with an estimated input of about 12 man-months over 2024-2025, starting from the beginning of 2024. Subject to possible need and discussion with MOES, the Consultant contract may be extended to complete the assigned tasks and/or perform other activities beyond the scope of this assignment. (Detailed TOR is provided upon request).

Required Qualifications and Experience of the Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist

The Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist will have the following minimum qualifications to perform the tasks assigned under his/her contract:

- Master's degree in social sciences, environmental science, and/or other related disciplines related to the assignment with and minimum working experience of 5 years on environment and social impact assessment and/or implementation of the WB safeguard and/or ESF application of the WB in Laos PDR.
- Solid knowledge and experience on social development, gender, and/or ethnic groups management in Lao PDR, particularly those related to the implementation of the national laws and regulations of Lao PDR related to the ESF of the WB especially those related to the Environmental Protection Law (2013), EIA Decree (2019), Compensation and Resettlement Decree (2016), labor law, health law, Land Law (2019), forest laws (2019).
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in social impacts assessment and/or ESIA and risks (ESIA/R) management, preparation of documents and training in ESIA/R management with various government and donor-funded development projects. Have ability to communicate and facilitate the implementation of the key tasks identified in this TOR in English of a quality acceptable to the World Bank.
- Having personal initiative and being well-organized and proactive with the stakeholders to complete the tasks assigned.

The attention of interested Consultant is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. The Consultant will be selected based on Individual Consultants selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Interested eligible candidates in this position may obtain further information and the detailed TOR from the **Ministry of Education and Sports, Education Coordination Unit (ECU)** or <http://www.moes.edu.la/> at the address below during office hours 08:00 to 16:00 hours or by e-mail. Please submit CVs and a letter of interest by **18 – 31 January 2024** to the address below. Only short listed individual candidates will be contacted for an interview.

To: Ministry of Education and Sports
Department of Planning
Lane Xang Avenue, P.O Box 67, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Attn: Mr. Anoupheng Keovongsa
Deputy Director General of Department Planning/GPE III Project Director
Tel/Fax: 021 243672 or 020 5582 6153; e-mail: ecudp.laopdr@moes.edu.la ; cc: amphamay@gmail.com