

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Request for Expressions of Interest
For

Lao PDR Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS)

1. International Lead Author

2. National Lead Author

Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Tier 1 Project

Project No: EIF-TIER 1-LAO-001

In 2004, the Government of Laos (GOL) joined the Integrated Framework (IF) initiative, which was set up to provide Least Developed Countries with trade-related technical assistance, including human and institutional capacity building, for supporting trade and trade-related activities. As part of the IF process, a Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS), together with an Action Matrix was prepared and validated by the government and donors on September 12, 2006. This matrix lays out over 100 activities with varying level of priority, whose objective is to collectively increase growth and improve export competitiveness for the GOL. The DTIS document and the resultant action matrix has been an extremely useful document for Lao PDR in the documenting and identification of trade related developments and constraints.

To date, the IF process has been implemented successfully by the Government of Laos (GoL), including the establishment of the National Integrated Framework Governance Structure, from the top tiers of Government through to the IF National Implementation Unit (NIU) and implementing agencies within line ministries. Therefore, NIU is looking for the DTIS International Lead Author and National Lead Author to join the team.

The objective of this assignment is to undertake a Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) of Lao PDR.

This will result in the DTIS study document including a strategic Action Plan for the trade and private sector, prioritized Action Matrix and related M&E framework.

1. DTIS International Lead Author (Reference no: NIU/EIF/IIC/01/Y11)

The indicative estimated inputs for this assignment are **85** consulting days over a period of 12 months.

Scope of work:

- Working closely with the lead National Export Strategy (NES) / Private Sector Development consultant
- Working closely with the DTIS Task Team of Government Officials and Development Partner representatives
- Overseeing and quality control of other chapters, ensuring that chapters are coherent and well integrated.
- Presenting to the DTIS Review Committee
- Taking a leading role in the research and production of the following chapters
- Create the framework for, prepare and facilitate the scope and prioritization of the Action Matrix
- Support the M&E consultant in the development and review of a robust M&E framework
- Working closely with the lead national consultant on technical matters and for the management of local consultants

Experience and Qualification

- Minimum Master Degree in Law, Economics or Commerce
- Minimum 15 years of work experience in research and trade policy advice. Preference will be given to those with working experience in Laos and understanding of the country's economic regime. Experience in assisting least developed countries to accede to the WTO would be an asset.
- Have a good knowledge on WTO agreements and regional trade in South-East Asia.
- Previous experience preparing a DTIS in LDCs would be desirable.
- Be able deliver inputs in Laos in various stages over the period of 12 months.

2. DTIS National Lead Author (Reference no: NIU/EIF/NIC/01/Y11)

The indicative estimated inputs for this assignment are **84** consulting days over a period of 12 months.

Scope of work:

- Working closely with the International lead author on technical matters and for the management of local consultants
- Assisting in monitoring of inputs and coordination of missions
- Meeting with national consultants on a regular basis
- Working closely with the lead National Export Strategy (NES) / Private Sector Development consultants
- Working closely with the DTIS Task Team of Government Officials and Development Partner representatives
- Overseeing and quality control of other chapters, ensuring that chapters are coherent and well integrated.
- Presenting to the DTIS Review Committee, Lao IF Secretariat
- Support the M&E consultant in the development and review of a robust M&E framework
- Finalize the DTIS and ensuring the comments on the Draft Report are taken into account in the final version

Experience and Qualification

- Minimum of a Master Degree in Law, Economics or Commerce
- Minimum 10 years of work experience in research and economic policy advice in Lao PDR.
- Have a good knowledge on economic and trade issues related to Lao PDR.
- Good interpersonal skills and effective communication.
- Knowledge of gender awareness and sensitivity
- Excellent skills in English and Lao report writing and communication,

The full detailed terms of reference are available from NIU upon request.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Lao Government's Procurement Guidelines. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Expressions of Interest and CV must be delivered to the address below by **31 May 2011, 10 am** (Vientiane Time) with the Request for Expression of Interest **Ref Number**.

Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Foreign Trade Policy Department
National Implementation Unit
P.O.BOX 4107, Phonexay Road, Vientiane Lao PDR
Tel: +856 21 413 916
E-mail: procurement@laosaft.org