



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRATIC UNITY PROSPERITY

Ministry of Planning and Investment
Lao Statistics Bureau
Department of Cabinet

No 1462 /CAB
Vientiane Capital, Date 1/2/2024

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
International Consultants

The Lao PDR has received a Loan under the project: "Lao PDR Strengthening the National Statistical System Project (LAOSTAT II)" financed by International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank for an amount equivalent to twenty-one million US dollar (US\$21 million) to improve the capacity of the Lao PDR Statistical System to produce and disseminate good quality statistics in a timely manner and to enhance use of key statistics, and in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, respond promptly and effectively to it. The project is aligned closely with the Strategy of the Development of National Statistical System (2016 – 2025) and Vision 2030 which outlines key strategies for sustainable development of the Lao Statistical System. Lao PDR intends to use part of the proceeds of this loan for payments under a contract for **International Consultants** to assist LAOSTAT II in managing and implementing procurement activities.

I. International Expert on Improvement of Consumer Price Index for Lao Statistics Bureau (Ref. No. CS- 23).

1.1 SCOPE OF WORK:

- Develop a comprehensive methodology for rebasing the CPI using LECS6 data.
- Design and implement a price collection system for commodities from selected outlets or stores.
- Train LSB staff on new methodologies and techniques for CPI calculation and price data collection.
- Explore and provide guidance on the use of web scraping for price data collection in Vientiane Capital and other major cities.
- Prepare LSB staff to make use of LECS7 data into the CPI rebasing process when data is made available.
- Ensure that all methodologies align with international best practices and are suitable for the Lao context.

1.2 QUALIFICATIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Advanced degree in Economics, Statistics, or a related field.
- Extensive experience in CPI calculation and rebasing, preferably in a developing country context.
- Proven track record in designing price collection systems and methodologies.
- Experience in capacity building and staff training.
- Knowledge of alternative data collection methods, including web scraping.

II. International Expert on Developing Producer Price Index for Lao Statistics Bureau (Ref. No. CS- 30).

2.1 SCOPE OF WORK:

- Conducting a comprehensive review of the current statistical methodologies and data sources used in Lao PDR for price indices.
- Designing and developing a methodology for the PPI that is in line with international best practices and suitable for the Lao context.
- Identifying and categorizing the basket of goods and services to be included in the PPI.
- Collaborating with relevant stakeholders to gather necessary data and information.
- Formulate the design of the survey to collect the necessary price data.
- Construct the PPI given data sourced from survey.
- Training LSB staff on PPI methodology, data collection, and analysis.
- Preparing detailed documentation and manuals for the PPI production and dissemination process.

2.2 QUALIFICATIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

- Preferably advanced degree in Economics, Statistics, or a related field.
- At least 5 years of experience in developing and implementing producer price indices, preferably in a developing country context.
- Strong understanding of economic statistics and price index theories.
- Experience in training and capacity building.

III. International Expert on Developing Export and Import Price Indices (Ref. No. CS- 31).

3.1 SCOPE OF WORK:

- Assess the availability, suitability and quality of administrative data sources for XMPI compilation, including trade statistics from the Customs Department.
- Develop robust methodologies for XMPIs, including selection of items, data sources, validation techniques, index calculation and dissemination, following international guidelines.
- Work closely with the trade statistics expert on harmonizing concepts, classifications and data integration; and with the ICT expert on automating compilation processes.
- Compile quarterly XMPIs from 2016 to 2023 using available data.
- Prepare detailed documentation of data sources, methodologies and compilation procedures.
- Conduct training for relevant LSB staff on XMPI concepts, data management, compilation, analysis, dissemination and regular updating of the indices.
- Provide recommendations for further improvement and sustainability of XMPI production.

3.2 QUALIFICATIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

- Advanced degree in Economics, Statistics, or a related field.
- Significant experience in developing export and import price indices.
- Familiarity with international standards for trade statistics and price indices.
- Proven ability to analyze complex trade data and pricing mechanisms.
- Experience in training and capacity building.

Interested Consultant should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services, such as an updated curriculum vitae indicating personal and technical skills, academic qualifications and experience in similar assignments. Consultants may obtain copies of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) in English from the address below during office hours **9:00 am to 4:00 pm** Monday through Friday.

Expressions of interest shall be delivered by e-mail by **15 July 2024** to the following:

Sithan Neue Village, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Tel/Fax: 021 214740, 021 212022

E mail: Keosouvanh_lsb@hotmail.com

cc: phaykham13@gmail.com and chilapha77@gmail.com

Director of Cabinet



Fongsamout Khamvalongsa

Director General

Cabinet of Lao Statistics Bureau

Lao Statistics Bureau

Ministry of Planning and Investment