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འགྲོ་འགྲུལ་སྐྱེལ་འདེན་ལས་ཁུངས།

Royal Government of Bhutan
Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
Department of Surface Transport



Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Royal Government of Bhutan

ACCELERATING TRANSPORT AND TRADE CONNECTIVITY IN EASTERN SOUTH ASIA (ACCESS) – BHUTAN PROJECT

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR RAILWAY ADVISOR

A. BACKGROUND

The World Bank’s Accelerating Trade and Transport Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach (MPA) consists of a series of linked transport and trade facilitation projects in Eastern South Asia designed to increase the efficiency and resilience of trade and transport along selected regional corridors. The ACCESS Program was approved on June 28, 2022, with Phase 1 covering Bangladesh (\$753m) and Nepal (\$275m). ACCESS Phase 2 consists of a \$150m notional allocation for Bhutan. The proposed project development objective is to enhance the resilience and efficiency of trade and transport along selected corridors in Bhutan (“Project”).

The ACCESS program framework consists of three main pillars: (a) Digital Systems for Trade: provision of digital solutions and automation, designed to eliminate manual and paper-based processes, resulting in faster border crossing times; (b) Green and Resilient Infrastructure: enhancing regional corridors, infrastructure, and trade gateways; and (c) Institutional and Policy Strengthening for Transport and Trade: technical assistance and capacity building for trade and customs modernization.

The Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) is currently preparing the Bhutan phase of the ACCESS Project (\$150m), including but not limited to targeted road investments, digital trade systems, and relevant enablers that are aligned with ACCESS objectives. The implementing agencies for the project are the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT, the lead agency) and the Government Technology Agency (GovTech), in coordination with other relevant stakeholders and technical partners. In addition, a Multi-Sectoral Technical Committee (MSTC) was formed to oversee high-level technical issues related to ACCESS. The Committee is Chaired by the MoIT Secretary, and currently consists of representatives from MoF, GovTech, Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Employment (MoICE), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MoFAET). In October 2023, the RGoB received a Project Preparation Advance (PPA) of US\$2.5 million to support the preparation of the proposed ACCESS Project, until approval of the eventual \$150m loan. The PPA is spread over 1 year.



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Using a portion of PPA from the World Bank (PPA Advance No. IDA V504-BT). The Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MOIT), the Employer, intends to recruit an appropriately qualified individual (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Consultant’) a Railway Advisor to MoIT. The services will be procured following the latest World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016, and Revised November 2020.

B. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The key objective of the assignment is to provide technical guidance to MoIT on downstream railway engagement at national and regional level, and assist MoIT in its initiative for preparation of Railway Master Plan which will be supported by ACCESS.

C. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The consultant will carry out the following activities as part of this assignment-

1. Review the technical drawing/design, choice of technology etc. for the cross-border railway links, and advise the MoIT for changes required, recommendations etc.,
2. Prepare ToR for hiring of consultants for preparation of “Railway Feasibility Study and Master Plan”, which will be supported by ACCESS.
3. Provide strategic and technical guidance on the preparation, planning and execution of interventions under the national and regional railway development initiatives of MoIT.
4. Engage closely with the PMU to monitor progress and ensure agreed milestones are met regarding railway.
5. Provide strategic and hands-on guidance for policy formulation for railway and facilitate high-level discussions concerning the implementation of these reforms and the supporting role of MoIT interventions.
6. Review and provide feedback on technical and strategic analytical work carried out by MoIT.
7. Review and provide feedback on technical studies, procurement documents, evaluation reports, etc. carried out by MoIT.
8. Assess the institutional capacity and human resource requirements for the effective implementation and management of railway projects, and recommend capacity-building initiatives.
9. Provide guidance on the legal and regulatory framework required for the railway sector, including policies, acts, and guidelines related to railway operations, safety, and environmental compliance.
10. Review the organizational setup of the Transport Planning and Development Division under the Department of Surface Transport and recommend suitable



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Royal Government of Bhutan
Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
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measures in building capacity and human resource particularly in the field of railways.

11. Any other task assigned by the client.

D. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The successful candidate should meet the following criteria:

- Master's degree in a relevant field.
- At least 20 years of experience in railway, preferably in the South Asia Region with a demonstrated track record in technical and analytic work.
- Extensive knowledge and experience in the rail sector on key issues including (i) reform of industry structure, governance, and regulation, (ii) funding and financing of investments and services including through co-financing among bilateral and multilateral development agencies, private sector participation, and government-to-government arrangements; (iii) decarbonization of urban mobility and logistics; climate resilience; (iv) regional connectivity; and (v) development of inclusive services.
- Experience in private sector participation in railways.
- Experience with climate finance and opportunities for rail.
- Proven strategic skills and ability to work in teams, with external clients and development partners.
- Demonstrated project/program management skills and ability to promote client/beneficiary participation to ensure implementation and long-term sustainability of projects/programs.
- Ability to effectively communicate with senior authorities on complex policy issues.
- Demonstrated capacity to understand the political economy and local context.
- Demonstrated client orientation through identifying and evaluating emerging opportunities.
- Demonstrated leadership in teamwork and inclusion to support collaboration and working across boundaries.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to constructively solve conflict situations and proven ability to lead from behind.
- Demonstrated clear and concise oral and written communication skills in English.

E. INPUTS FROM THE EMPLOYER

The Employer will be responsible for providing the following inputs:



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1. All relevant documents on the Project, growth vision of Bhutan and relevant policies, regulations and Acts.
2. Authoritative support for effective coordination and monitoring.
3. Office space with internet and printing facilities in the client's office if the consultant works in the client's country

F. DELIVERABLES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Consultant is expected to provide the following deliverables while in this position:

1. Policy notes, technical review notes and recommendations, and thematic papers, other documents and reports as required based on the broader scope of work.
2. ToR for the hiring of consultants for preparation of “Techno-feasibility study and preparation of master plan for for Railway”,
3. Periodic updates (bi-weekly) and as-needed on project progress as required for the assignment.

G. REPORTING

The Consultant will report to the Project Coordinator of the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the ACCESS PPA.

H. CONTRACT DURATION

The consulting services will be required for 80 person-days intermittent input for the contract period of one year. Based on the performance and the need of the project, the client may extend the contract period.

I. SELECTION METHOD

Selection of the consultant will be carried out in accordance with the approved selection methods for the Open competition International market approach for Selection of Individual Consultants as stated in the “World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, September 2023.