

Short and Medium-term Assignments Technical Experts for Water Resources Management and Hydroelectric Dam Management Lower Mekong Region 2014

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking technical experts to assist in planning and implementing technical assistance on dam and water resources management. Assignments may include short (1-2 weeks) or medium-term (1-3 months) trips to the countries of the Lower Mekong, including Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Burma, and Vietnam.

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides assistance to developing countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis. The program is currently operating across the globe with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. DOI-ITAP has managed short- and long-term multi-partner projects in over 50 countries since 1995.

DOI-ITAP is supporting the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) through a partnership with USAID Regional Development Mission Asia. Launched in 2009, LMI is a partnership among the five Lower Mekong River countries (Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam), and the United States to promote trans-national cooperation within this important Asian sub-region. As an LMI support tool, USAID and DOI recently launched the "Smart Infrastructure for the Mekong" (SIM) project. SIM, announced by Secretary of State John Kerry in July 2013, will provide the LMI countries with rapid, demand-driven technical and scientific assistance to promote environmental and social safeguards for large scale infrastructure projects (primarily hydroelectric dams) and water resources management projects.

ASSIGNMENT: ITAP is seeking specialists for short- and medium-term technical assistance trips over the next two years. The ideal candidates will have extensive technical expertise in a specific area of dam and water resources management, a strong project planning and coordination background, and international development experience.

The technical experts will help plan and implement DOI's SIM activities, with major duties and responsibilities focused on the following:

1) Develop Scopes of Work

Working closely the DOI-ITAP U.S.-based manager, the specialist will develop Scopes of Work for implementation of SIM activities. The specialist will provide expert knowledge on DOI capabilities in water resources management, hydroelectric dam management, and related issues to DOI-ITAP to ensure that proposed activities are technically sound and will effectively address the requests from LMI governments.

2) Implement Technical Assistance

The specialist will provide expert assistance in his/her area of expertise to government partners in the Lower Mekong countries on environmental and social safeguards for infrastructure projects. Key areas of expertise include:

- Water resources management
- Drought and low-flow hydrological monitoring
- Dam safety and flood control
- Sediment flushing
- Fish passage systems
- Related hydroelectric dam management issues

SCHEDULE: The assignments will be scheduled throughout 2014, as requested by partner governments. Exact dates are to be determined.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP. Background material and briefings will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The selected individuals will be expected to work in close collaboration with DOI-ITAP project managers and USAID staff on the preparation and follow-up over phone and email. Within three weeks of the completion of the trip, the individual will provide the DOI-ITAP managers a brief draft trip report of the trip events, evaluations made, recommendations for future actions, and copies of any assignment related products.

COSTS: DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, medical insurance, immunizations, per diem, etc.). Please note that travel expenses will **NOT** count against Bureau travel ceilings. ITAP travel does not require the use of a field office credit card.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Be a current or former DOI employee

- Have experience providing natural resources management assistance in developing countries. The ideal candidate will have experience in the Lower Mekong region.
- Have excellent inter-agency coordination, communication, and project planning skills
- Have advanced technical skills in one or more aspects of water resources and dam management, as listed in this announcement
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of professionals of different cultural groups

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness for duty.

HOW TO APPLY

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment must:

- Submit a resume and cover letter summarizing directly relevant work experience related to the skills listed under application requirements. Please submit electronically to **Jason Riley** with the subject: "SIM Assignment"
 - Cover letter and resume should be send as one document (preferably a PDF) with the file name "FULL NAME_BUREAU_JOB TITLE"
- Please confirm that you have supervisor approval to apply
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **March 7, 2014**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Please contact Jason Riley or Marc Weitzel with any questions regarding this assignment. Marc can be reached at Marc.Weitzel@ios.doi.gov and (805) 671-9746 and Jason can be reached at Jason.Riley@ios.doi.gov and (805) 225-1161.

All applicants must secure approval from their supervisors to apply for an ITAP assignment. Supervisors will then adhere to their Bureau requirements for any further approvals required by the Bureau. For Bureau requirements, applicants should contact their appropriate Bureau International Affairs Point of Contact. A complete list of those POCs follows. All NPS, BOR and BLM applicants must copy their International Affairs POCs when they submit their applications to ITAP.

Bureau	Contact	Email	Telephone	Fax
BIA	Eric Wilson International Affairs Coordinator	Eric.wilson@bia.gov	202-501-5944	202-208-4564
BLM	Olivia Sierra International Affairs Specialist	Olivia_sierra@blm.gov	202-513-0710	202-912-7181

BOR	Richard Ives and Kendra Russell Office of Native American and International Affairs	rives@usbr.gov krussell@usbr.gov	202-513-0550	202-513-0311
FWS	Bryan Arroyo Assistant Director for International Affairs	Bryan_arroyo@fws.gov	202-208-6394	202-208-5618
BSEE	Cheri Hunter Chief, Office of International Program	Cheri.hunter@bsee.gov	703-787-1681	202-208-7242
NPS	Stephen A. Morris Chief, Office of International Affairs	Stephen_morris@nps.gov	202-354-1803	202-371-1446
OSM	Al Whitehouse Director of International Programs	awhitehouse@osmre.gov	202-208-2868	202-408-4812
USGS	Vic Labson Director of International Programs	vlabson@usgs.gov	703-648-6206	703-648-4227
ONRR	Jennifer Goldblatt Chief of Staff, Office of Natural Resources and Revenues	Jennifer.goldblatt@onrr.gov v	202-513-0604	