



U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF THE INTERIOR  
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# Short Term Assignment

## Watershed Outreach and Education Needs Assessment Developer Cambodia Fall/Winter 2014/15

**OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking an experienced outreach and education specialist to provide approximately 12 weeks of technical assistance in Cambodia.

**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) and the State Department. DOI-ITAP has managed short- and long-term multi-partner projects in over 50 countries since 1995.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has engaged DOI-ITAP to provide technical support under the Smart Infrastructure for the Mekong (SIM) program. The SIM overarching objective is to promote sound social and environmental safeguards for the development and operation of hydropower related infrastructure and associated activities and other land use projects that may impact the general Mekong River environment. SIM is a government-to-government project under the framework of the Lower Mekong Initiative, which encompasses the Lower Mekong Basin countries of Thailand, Burma, Lao, Vietnam, and Cambodia..

The concept of watershed management, and more broadly, the ecological value of watersheds and wetlands, and human impacts on them, is poorly understood by Cambodian rural and urban publics, as well as political decision-makers. Rapid industrialization, in particular commercial sand mining/dredging in river channels, is leading to morphological change, erosion, and bank failure on the Tonle Bessac, Tonle Sap, and main stem Mekong rivers in and near PhnomPenh (where more than 10% of Cambodia's 15 million citizens reside). Similar effects are being noted in rural areas, especially along the shore of the Great Lake –Tonle Sap. In addition to commercial impacts, the effects of individuals, through site-specific bank manipulation, removal of riparian cover, filling of wetlands, and release of toxic materials, is becoming more apparent.

DOI-ITAP has been asked by the Cambodian Ministry of Public Works, Waterways Department, to provide technical assistance on multiple projects, all related to watersheds and watershed management. This announcement pertains to completion of a watershed-related outreach and education needs assessment and development of associated tools to build community awareness of watershed values and the effects of human actions on water quality, river morphology, bank erosion, and fish and wildlife habitat.

**ASSIGNMENT:** The Information and Education Specialist will provide direct technical assistance to the Cambodia Ministry of Public Works, Waterways Division, and will mentor a Ministry staff member. The expert will work with Ministry staff (and potentially with staff from sister Ministries) to conduct an outreach needs assessment for urban Phnom Penh (and potentially for rural-based populations). This assessment will identify high priority messages related to watershed values and human impact to be transmitted to various publics and evaluate the relative merit of a variety of delivery mechanisms (television, radio, Web, social media, print, displays, billboards, school curricula, public events, etc.). Upon completion of the assessment, and with concurrence from the Ministry, the expert will pilot test at least one of the identified delivery mechanisms in an operational fashion.

**SCHEDULE:** This assignment is expected to cover a 10-12 week period in late 2014 or early 2015. The technical assistance will be provided in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia.

**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 individual prior to departure. The selected individual will be expected to work in collaboration with DOI-ITAP project managers and U.S. Embassy staff on the preparation and follow-up over phone and email to discuss technical aspects of the project.

Within three weeks of the completion of the trip, the individual will provide the DOI-ITAP managers a draft trip report of the trip events, evaluations made, and recommendations for future actions. NPS travelers will also submit this report to their Office of International Affairs.

**COSTS:** DOI-ITAP will cover all salary reimbursement and 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.

#### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Have demonstrated experience in development of environmental outreach and education programs and materials,
- Have experience working in international development, with preference given to candidates with the demonstrated cross-cultural communication skills and the ability to adapt to varying levels of capacity in partner agencies
- Have extensive experience in the full range of traditional and social media approaches to public education and outreach, and the ability to adapt these approaches to a low income and low education public;
- Be willing to work independently in a program-development role, and to adapt to changing conditions as necessary;
- Be capable of evaluating information from multiple governmental and non-governmental sources and incorporating that information into prioritized needs;
- Khmer language proficiency is not required, but would be extremely valuable.

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

**If you are selected for this assignment you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor's approval to participate in this program, as well as additional approvals up your supervisory chain of command as necessary (see below).**

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment must:

- Send a resume and cover letter summarizing directly relevant work experience. Submit electronically to Sean Lawlor Program Contact at [sean\\_lawlor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:sean_lawlor@ios.doi.gov) with the subject: Cambodia: Watershed Outreach and Education.
  - Cover letter and resume should be sent as one document (preferably a PDF) with the file name "FULL NAME\_BUREAU\_JOB TITLE"
- If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **October 24, 2014**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to SIM project manager Jason Riley ([Jason\\_riley@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Jason_riley@ios.doi.gov)) or Asia program manager Marc Weitzel ([marc\\_weitzel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov)).

**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
BIA	Eric Wilson, International Affairs Coordinator	<a href="mailto:eric.wilson@bia.gov">eric.wilson@bia.gov</a>	202-501-5944
BLM	Olivia Sierra, International Affairs Specialist	<a href="mailto:Olivia_sierra@blm.gov">Olivia_sierra@blm.gov</a>	202-912-4294
BOR	Mary Mascarenhas, Director of Native American and International Affairs	<a href="mailto:mmascarenhas@usbr.gov">mmascarenhas@usbr.gov</a>	202-513-0552
BOR	Barbara Blackman	<a href="mailto:bblackman@usbr.gov">bblackman@usbr.gov</a>	202-513-0624
FWS	Nakia Brown, Deputy Assistant Director for International Affairs	<a href="mailto:nakia_brown@fws.gov">nakia_brown@fws.gov</a>	703-358-1904
BSEE	Carolyn Beamer, Acting Chief, Office of International Program	<a href="mailto:carolyn.beamer@bsee.gov">carolyn.beamer@bsee.gov</a>	703-787-1699
NPS	April Brooks, Chief, Office of International Affairs	<a href="mailto:april_brooks@nps.gov">april_brooks@nps.gov</a>	202-354-1808
OSM	Al Whitehouse, Director of International Programs	<a href="mailto:awhitehouse@osmre.gov">awhitehouse@osmre.gov</a>	202-208-2868
USGS	Scott Hall, Director of International Programs	<a href="mailto:shall@usgs.gov">shall@usgs.gov</a>	703-648-6043
ONRR	Jennifer Goldblatt, Chief of Staff, Office of Natural Resources and Revenues	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.goldblatt@onrr.gov">Jennifer.goldblatt@onrr.gov</a>	202-513-0604

**Please note that ITAP travel does not require the use of a field office credit card and travel will not count towards ‘travel caps’.**

**Application Process**

The entire selection process may take several weeks. A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process. **The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements. If applicants do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of their application, please inquire with the Project Managers listed above.**