



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

Short Term Assignments

Smart Infrastructure for the Mekong Watershed Ecology and Management Training Team 2014/2015

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking 3 experts with strong professional backgrounds in watershed planning and management, river ecology, fish biology, water quality, or biodiversity/wildlife conservation and conservation planning —see “Application Requirements” for a complete list. These specialists will jointly develop and present two watershed-related classes for agency personnel 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), 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.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has engaged DOI-ITAP to provide technical support under the Smart Infrastructure for the Mekong (SIM) program. SIM is an implementation tool of the long-term Lower Mekong Initiative, which encompasses the Lower Mekong Basin countries of Thailand, Burma, Lao, Vietnam, and Cambodia. The SIM overarching objective is to promote sound social and environmental safeguards relative to the development and operation of hydropower related infrastructure and associated activities and other land use projects that may impact the general Mekong River environment. Projects/studies in support of SIM can occur in any of the Lower Mekong countries.

The concept of watershed management, and more broadly, the ecological value of watersheds 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 Phnom Penh (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 toxics, is an increasing problem.

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 one area of interest: watershed ecology and

management technical training. Other activities related to development of in-river mining standards and guidelines, public education and information, and assessment of site-specific riverbank failures, will be announced separately.

ASSIGNMENT: The Watershed Ecology and Management Training Team will provide direct technical assistance to Ministry of Public Works by developing and presenting two training events for Ministry staff. A “Watershed Academy” will be presented for Ministry of Public Works professional staff from headquarters in Phnom Penh and from provincial offices. The Academy will likely be presented in English, over a 4 day period (30 hours of instruction). Topics introduced during the first two days of the session will include river ecology, morphology, hydrology, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitats. The remaining two days of the academy will examine the range of human impacts on watersheds, and introduce basic approaches to watershed assessment, planning, and on-going management. The intent of the Academy is to raise the baseline organizational level of understanding so that Ministry personnel recognize the value and functions of watersheds and integrate that awareness into the fundamental situational backdrop that informs their day to day professional activities.

The second component of this task, to be conducted during the same trip, will be a shorter, management and policy oriented, “Watersheds for Managers” workshop (2 days; 16 hours of instruction) for senior decision-makers in multiple Ministries. The intent of the workshop is to nurture an awareness of watershed concepts and values within the policy-maker ranks of the Ministries. The multi-disciplinary team will work under the guidance/supervision of the DOI-ITAP SIM Project Manager and the DOI-ITAP SIM Senior Technical Advisor.

SCHEDULE: This assignment is expected to cover a 2 week period in late 2014 or early 2015. The technical assistance will be provided in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Substantial pre-trip curriculum development will be required.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP and/or our in-country counterpart. Background material and briefings will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The selected individuals 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 brief 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 travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, medical insurance, immunizations, per diem, etc.). The **salaries of the team members, however, will be paid by their employing DOI agency** for the duration of the international assignment, including pre- and post-trip obligation. Stipends, or other forms of compensation, are **NOT** available for retiree candidates. Please note that travel expenses will **NOT** count against Bureau travel ceilings.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive applicants for the team described in this assignment will:

- Be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Have graduate-level training and demonstrated mastery in at least one of the following disciplines: Watershed planning, hydrology and sedimentation, riverine ecology, fisheries/wildlife ecology and management, wetlands or riparian management, and/or related fields.
- Previous experience as a natural resource trainer for professional audiences and/or managers.
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups.
- Previous international experience is desirable, particularly experience in tropical or subtropical natural systems.

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:

- Send a resume and cover letter summarizing direct, relevant work experience, related to the skills listed under application requirements. Please submit electronically to Drew Levey, Drew_Levey@ios.doi.gov; office: (202) 208-1480; with the subject: Cambodia: Watershed Training Team—XX Specialty.
- Cover letter and resume should be sent as one document (preferably a PDF) with the file name "LAST NAME FIRST 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 **July 29**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to Jason Riley (Jason_riley@ios.doi.gov ; (805) 225-1161 or Asia Program Manager Marc Weitzel (marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov; (805)671-9746.

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	Eric.wikson@bia.gov	202-501-5944
BLM	Olivia Sierra, International Affairs Specialist	Olivia_sierra@blm.gov	202-513-0710
BOR	Richard H. Ives, Director of Native American and International Affairs	rives@usbr.gov	202-513-0550
FWS	Gloria Bell, Deputy Assistant Director for International Affairs	gloria_bell@fws.gov	202-208-6394
BSEE	Julie Fleming, Acting Chief, Office of International Program	julie.fleming@bsee.gov	703-787-1681
NPS	Stephen A. Morris, Chief, Office of International Affairs	Stephen_morris@nps.gov	202-354-1803
OSM	Jay Bautista, Director of International Programs	jbautista@osmre.gov	202-208-2868
USGS	Vic Labson, Director of International Programs	vlabson@usgs.gov	703-648-6206
ONRR	Jennifer Goldblatt, Chief of Staff, Office of Natural Resources and Revenues	Jennifer.goldblatt@onrr.gov	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 by telephone, email or letter. **The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements. If you do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of your application, please inquire with the Project Managers listed above.**