



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

# Short Term Assignment

## Smart Infrastructure for the Mekong Mekong Delta Study Science Advisor Vietnam Late 2014/Early 2015

**OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking an expert with a strong professional background in at least one of a number of technical fields, including fisheries/aquatic biology/ecology, hydrology/geomorphology, engineering; hydropower project management, and general biodiversity conservation—see “Application Requirements” for a complete list. The expert will serve as a science advisor to the Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources, Mekong Delta Study Project Management Team, for a 2-3 month period.

**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.

This SIM project will provide technical support to the Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRAE) to assist it in completing the Study of the Impacts of Mainstream Hydropower on the Mekong River. Funded by the Governments of Vietnam and Australia, and being implemented by a large team of U.S. and Danish consultants, this 2 year study is currently in an early data gathering stage. Areas of focus include fisheries, hydrology and sedimentation, biodiversity, economics, agriculture, and navigation. The data gathering stage will be followed by substantial interdisciplinary modeling, impact assessment, and mitigation identification phases. The study will be completed in December, 2015.

In addition to this 2-3 month scientific advisor project, SIM will also support the MDS by providing a multidisciplinary team to conduct periodic reviews of draft technical documents generated by the MDS consultant team. This opportunity has been announced previously.

**ASSIGNMENT:** The expert will provide day to day science support and advice to the Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment's Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU does not have adequate technical staff to effectively review some elements of the study, or to identify and fill any information gaps that may be identified during the review process. The advisor will provide science support during PMU review of Baseline Assessment, Impact Assessment, and Mitigation documents developed by the consultants. The advisor will not offer U.S. Government policy endorsement of any PMU decisions related to the MDS, and will not participate in any policy discussions or decisions by the three sponsoring governments related to the Final Report. To date, PMU has identified particular need for expertise in fisheries, biodiversity, and sediments. Up to 3 months residency in Vietnam will be required. The expert will work under the guidance/supervision of the DOI-ITAP SIM Project Manager and the DOI-ITAP SIM Senior Technical Advisor. All interactions with MONRAE officials, as well as the consultants, will be in English.

**SCHEDULE:** This assignment is expected to cover a 2-3 month period in late 2014/early 2015. The technical assistance will be provided in Hanoi, Vietnam.

**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 salary and travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, medical insurance, immunizations, per diem, etc.). Stipends, or other forms of compensation, may be available for retiree candidates. 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 an MS (PhD preferred) and demonstrated mastery in at least one of the following disciplines, and broad understanding of multiple disciplines: River ecology, fisheries management, sediment transport, nutrient transport, hydrology/fluvial geomorphology/riverine, delta, or estuarine biology/ ecology, terrestrial biology/biodiversity assessment, natural resource economics, hydroelectric facility licensing/re-licensing/assessment, river engineering, biological/hydrological/economic modeling.
- Demonstrated experience in development of or review of large infrastructure projects and/or landscape scale land or water management plans.

- Ability to travel to Vietnam for a period of up to 3 months, as noted under “Assignment.”
- Ability to work in a cross-disciplinary team environment.
- Ability to generate work products under short time frames.
- Familiarity with or work experience in Lower Mekong Basin countries preferred.
- Experience in tropical/subtropical natural systems preferred.

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](mailto:Drew_Levey@ios.doi.gov); office: (202) 208-1480; with the subject: Vietnam: Mekong Delta Science Advisor. Cover letter and resume should be sent as one document (preferably a PDF) with the file name “LAST NAME FIRST NAME\_BUREAU\_JOB TITLE”
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **July 29, 2014**. Applications may 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); office: (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
BIA	Eric Wilson, International Affairs Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Eric.wikson@bia.gov">Eric.wikson@bia.gov</a>	202-501-5944
BLM	Olivia Sierra, International Affairs Specialist	<a href="mailto:Olivia_sierra@blm.gov">Olivia_sierra@blm.gov</a>	202-513-0710
BOR	Richard H. Ives, Director of Native American and International Affairs	<a href="mailto:rives@usbr.gov">rives@usbr.gov</a>	202-513-0550
FWS	Jay Bautista, Deputy Assistant Director for International Affairs	<a href="mailto:jbautista@fws.gov">jbautista@fws.gov</a>	202-208-6394
BSEE	Julie Fleming, Acting Chief, Office of International Program	<a href="mailto:julie.fleming@bsee.gov">julie.fleming@bsee.gov</a>	703-787-1681
NPS	Stephen A. Morris, Chief, Office of International Affairs	<a href="mailto:Stephen_morris@nps.gov">Stephen_morris@nps.gov</a>	202-354-1803
OSM	Gloria Bell, Director of International Programs	<a href="mailto:gloria_bell@osmre.gov">gloria_bell@osmre.gov</a>	202-208-2868
USGS	Vic Labson, Director of International Programs	<a href="mailto:vlabson@usgs.gov">vlabson@usgs.gov</a>	703-648-6206
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 by telephone, email or letter. **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.**