



Mekong River Commission

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TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Consultancy Summary:

- **Title:** Facilitate and coordinate implementation of the cross-border projects derived from the Master Plan
- **Consultancy type:** International Planning Consultant
- **Division:** Technical support Division (TD)
- **Duration:** 1 February – 31 December 2017
- **Duty station:** Home based and possible travel to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam
- **Reporting to:** TD Director and the Navigation Operation Specialist
- **Total number of days for this consultancy:** 30 working days
- **Required deliverables for this consultancy:** see Chapter 5

2. Background

The Mekong River is a source of valuable natural resources and has extensive natural navigation potential. Waterborne transport along the Mekong River has served as one of the main modes of transportation between communities in the riparian countries since they first settled along its embankments, many centuries ago. As river traffic is comparatively cheap, reliable and an ideal natural facility, navigation along the Mekong River has been significant for travelling, trading and gaining access to natural resources and social facilities such as schooling and health.

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) continues to stress the importance of investing in the waterborne transport sector to create a better livelihood for future generations. In 2014 the MRC Navigation programme along with the MCs formulated a “Master Plan for Regional Waterborne Transport in the Mekong River Basin”. The main objective of the project was “To design a short-term and long-term development programme which will rehabilitate and improve the national and international transport network using the Mekong River Basin in the MRC Member Countries”. In view of the multi-modal transport situations, opportunities and prospects, and the importance of including the whole transport network into the strategy. The Final Master Plan has been approved in principle by the MRC Joint Committee in its 44th meeting. The Master Plan and all Actions can then be used by all relevant counterparts, including Member Countries, Developments Partners, Dialogue partners, investment banks, etc. to plan and implement national and regional navigation-related initiatives.

3. Objective of the Consultancy:

The International Planning Consultant will assist the MRCS in reviewing and updating the Master Plan. He/she will also support in preparing the arrangements for the implementation of the Master Plan. The Investment Plan is one part of the job including the fund raising part and promoting the Master Plan to relevant investors.

The International Planning Consultant will need, when required, provide his comprehensive advise on topics that may range from the Navigation part in the MRC Council study to the cooperation on waterborne transportation with Myanmar and PR China, etc.

4. Responsibilities and tasks:

The International Planning Consultant will provide the following services under the supervision of the TD Director (who is assisted by the Navigation Specialist):

1. Prepare concept of the institutional and logistical arrangements to coordinate the implementation of the Master Plan
2. Review the concept and begin to conduct the institutional and logistical arrangements to coordinate the implementation of the Master Plan
3. Prepare the content for the campaign to introduce the MP and look for funds to implement the Master Plan (donors, private sector, governments, etc.)
4. Review the Portfolio of Actions from Master Plan formulated during the Design Phase and select the Actions which are directly relevant for implementation by MRC
5. Prepare a detailed Project activities of the selected Actions to fit the implementations means by MRC Assist countries to implement National Projects with Cross- Border Impact
6. Prepare the ideas on relevant regional issues (such as how to address certain issues at a national level, exchange of expertise, provision of specific support, discussion of possible solutions of and options to pertinent national problems with regional or cross-border impact)
7. Study the need for and scope of a regional “Mekong River Navigation Commission” for the future

The Navigation Operation Specialist will discuss the plan of activities with the International Consultant according to the priorities and possible urgencies. The list above can be altered in view of the requirements by the Navigation Operation Specialist, but with consent by the International Consultant.

5. Deliverables and timelines:

Deliverables	Number of days	Deadline
1. Prepare concept of the institutional and logistical arrangements to coordinate the implementation of the Master Plan (paper) and begin to conduct the institutional and logistical arrangements to coordinate the implementation of the Master Plan	8 days	March 2017
2. Review the Portfolio of Actions from Master Plan formulated during the Design Phase and select the Actions which are directly relevant for implementation by MRC (paper), prepare detailed project activities of the selected actions to fit the implementations means by MRC and assist countries to implement National Projects with Cross- Border Impact	6 days.	April 2017
3. Prepare the content for the campaign (paper) to introduce the MP and look for funds to implement the Master Plan (donors, private sector, governments, etc.) and support the fund mobilization to implement national actions (including 2 regional workshops)	10 days	April 2017
4. Study the need for and scope of a regional “Mekong River Navigation Commission” for the future (paper)	3 days	September 2017
5. Prepare the ideas on relevant regional issues (such as how to address certain issues at a national level, exchange of expertise, provision of specific support, discussion of possible solutions of and options to pertinent national problems with regional or cross-border impact) (paper)	3 days	November 2017
6. Travel to attend regional meetings	(included in 3)	

6. Working Arrangement:

- a. Reporting line: TD Director
- b. Communication line: Navigation Operation Specialist
- c. Work station: Home based and possible travel to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam

7. Qualifications and Requirements:

- 1. Master degree in water resource or environment management
- 2. High level knowledge and experience on qualified in transport planning
- 3. Good knowledge of Inland waterway transport on the Mekong River.
- 4. Demonstrated ability to write technical reports which can be readily understood by decision makers and the general public.
- 5. Experience with implementation of projects/programs financed by international financing institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, bilateral donor aid agencies etc.
- 6. Experience with MRC and Mekong work and networks in the region is a very important advantage
- 7. Fluency in spoken and written English
- 8. Excellent writing, presentation, and reporting skills

8. Condition of payment (select below and provide justification for the selection)

- 1. Payment will be made based on the number of actual working days with time sheet provided by the consultant and upon receipt of request from MRCS;
- 2. Last payment will be made upon satisfactory completion of the assignment and upon receipt of satisfactory evaluation report from MRCS against the deliverables

9. **Intellectual property rights:** Intellectual property rights - IPR: Information, data, database, knowledge resources in the forms of briefings, reports, proceedings, articles, essays, etc. issued by and for the MRCS will be the MRCS property. Any utility, announcement and disclosure that are without MRCS highest levels of authority' permission is considered illegal and will be charged by relevant local and international legal procedures.

10. Signature Block

TD Director

Consultant

Name:.....

Name:.....

Date:

Date: