Vacancy Announcement

Issued on: 28 September 2020

Position: Junior Urban Climate Change and Risk Researcher

Project: Cities and Climate Change Initiative in Asia and the Pacific; here: Urban climate change resilience in cities along the Greater Mekong Sub-region East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) in Lao PDR

Location: Vientiane, Lao PDR (should, in light of the COVID-19 crisis, the onboarding not be immediately possible, a homebased period may be agreed upon).

Duration: 3 months; initial contract up till 31 December 2020, extendable

Type of Contract: UNOPS ICA

* IMPORTANT Note: Actual work starting date and duty station may be changed based on the situation of COVID-19 at the time of recruitment.

1. ORGANIZATIONAL SETTING, UN–HABITAT

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN–Habitat, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

In October 2016, at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III – member states signed the New Urban Agenda. This is an action-oriented document which sets global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities. Through drawing together cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders, and urban actors, including at all levels of government as well as the private sector, UN–Habitat is applying its technical expertise, normative work and capacity development to implement the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11 – to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1978 to address the issues of urban growth, UN–Habitat is a knowledge institution on urban development processes and understands the aspirations of cities and their residents. For forty years, UN–Habitat has been working in human settlements throughout the world, focusing on building a brighter future for villages, towns, and cities of all sizes. Because of these four decades of extensive experience, from the highest levels of policy to a range of specific technical issues, UN–Habitat has gained unique and universally acknowledged expertise in all things urban. This has placed UN–Habitat in the best position to develop achievable solutions to the current challenges faced by our cities. UN–Habitat is capitalizing on its experience and position to work with partners to formulate urban visions of tomorrow. It strives to ensure that cities become affordable living spaces of inclusive economic growth and social development for all citizens.

UN–Habitat is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, with regional offices for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in Fukuoka, Japan, for Latin America and the Caribbean in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (ROLAC), and regional office for Africa and the Arab States in Nairobi, Kenya (ROAAS). The regional office for Eastern Europe and Transition Countries is also based in Nairobi, Kenya.

The position is based in Vientiane, Lao PDR. UN–Habitat has been actively supporting the Government of Lao PDR with technical assistance on issues related to urbanization, disaster mitigation, climate change, and WASH infrastructure.

The Junior Researcher will report to the CTA based in Vientiane with the Programme Manager, based in Fukuoka as Second Reporting Officer.
2. PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The Cities and Climate Change Initiative

UN-Habitat’s Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) in Asia and the Pacific helps governments and urban stakeholders to comprehensively respond to climate change including through the support to accessing climate finance. The initiative helps assessing urban and community vulnerability and greenhouse gas emissions, planning for and implement comprehensive climate action. The initiative further supports national and local policy development.

In Lao PDR several projects comprise the Climate Change portfolio of the country Programme. Most notably two projects supported by the Climate Change Adaptation Fund are under implementation supporting district level as well as community level resilience building through enhanced infrastructure. Other projects support Urban Low Emission Development Strategies and a programme to develop local and provincial climate change action plans is under preparation.

The Urban climate change resilience in cities along the Greater Mekong Sub-region East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) in Lao PDR project considers the adaptation and mitigation potential of investments along the East West Economic Corridor (EWEC) project. The EWEC runs through Savannakhet Province and is characterised by increasing levels of investment, cross-border trade and as a result, faces higher rates of urbanisation than the rest of the country. Concurrently, settlements in this area are increasingly being impacted by hazards associated with Climate Change: in recent years floods have affected at least 750,000 people, while at least 100,000 people were affected by severe storms. However, there is limited understanding of the linkage between investments, infrastructure development, population growth and changing settlements in the EWEC and how these are currently being impacted by climate change. The towns along the EWEC have great potential for economic green growth, alleviating poverty and improving the living standards for some of the most vulnerable people in Lao PDR. However, the economic growth is being put at risk because of limited capacity and activities to incorporate climate change resilient investment at the sub-national level. The project aims to strengthen the local and institutional capacity for stimulating resilient investment flows along the EWEC in Laos.

2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Overall
The Junior Researcher will support the implementation of the Urban climate change resilience in cities along the Greater Mekong Sub-region East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) project and the Cities and Climate Change Initiative as outlined above.

Specific Roles and Responsibilities
The Junior Researcher will:

- Analyse the capacity through consultations involving sub-national EWEC policy makers, local government authorities and community level stakeholders in Laos to assess EWEC development projects, recent settlement changes, and perceptions of climate change.
- Contribute research for the development of a proposal for low emission & climate change resilient policy for the EWEC in Laos.
- Contribute research on the integration of COVID-19 in project design with emphasis on community and shelter rehabilitation.
Deliverables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 Document summarizing the existing information about EWEC area and stakeholders’ capacity.</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Research report: Opportunities for low emission &amp; climate change resilient policy for the EWEC in Laos</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Research Report from COVID-19 SEIA to CCA (in line with CCA framework).</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 months</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Payments are made against the submission of a Certificate of Payment, normally against one or several of the outputs above.

5. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Relevant Master’s Degree in the fields of architecture, urban planning, urban management or similar field or climate change, resilience with a minimum of 2 years of relevant working experience is required.
- Background in urban planning/management and relevant experience is desirable.
- Background in urban climate change planning is an added advantage.
- Strong written and verbal skills (in English)
- English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this consultancy, fluency in oral and written English is required.
- Demonstrated computer skills, in particular MS Office, GIS, database management, Adobe Suite Applications are an advantage.

Competencies:

- Professionalism: Shows pride in work and in achievements; demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; remains calm in stressful situations.
- Communication: Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.
- Teamwork: Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others’ ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; places team agenda before personal agenda; supports and acts in accordance with final group
decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; shares credit for

team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings.

• Client Orientation: Considers all those to whom services are provided to be “clients” and
seeks to see things from clients’ point of view; establishes and maintains productive
partnerships with clients by gaining their trust and respect; identifies clients’ needs and
matches them to appropriate solutions; monitors ongoing developments inside and outside
the clients’ environment to keep informed and anticipate problems; keeps clients informed of
progress or setbacks in projects; meets timeline for delivery of products or services to client.

• Technological Awareness: Keeps abreast of available technology; understands applicability
and limitation of technology to the work of the office; actively seeks to apply technology to
appropriate tasks; shows willingness to learn new technology.

### Submission of Applications

Application should include:
1. Cover memo (maximum 1 page) including expectations regarding remunerations based on
the final output of the consultancy;
2. A completed UN Personal History Form (P-11)
   Please download the form (MS-Word) from UN-Habitat ROAP web site:
   http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/vacancy/index_en.html;

All applications should be addressed to: UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,
ACROS Fukuoka, 8th Floor, Tenjin Chuo-ku, Fukuoka 810-0001 Japan, and sent electronically
via e-mail to: habitat.fukuoka@un.org

Please indicate the VA Title in your e-mail subject:

“Junior Urban Climate Change and Risk Researcher, Vientiane”

**Deadline for Applications: 11 October 2020**

Please note that applications received after the closing date stated above will not be given
consideration. Only short-listed candidates whose applications respond to the above criteria will
be contacted. The salary will be determined according to the qualifications, skills and relevant
experience of the selected candidate. Details and conditions of the contract will be communicated
at the interview.

In line with UN-HABITAT policy on gender equity, applications from female candidates
are particularly encouraged.

*UN-Habitat does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process. If you have any
questions concerning persons or companies claiming to be recruiting on behalf of these offices
and requesting the payment of a fee, please contact: habitat.fukuoka@un.org*