

Call for Consultancy

Consultancy on developing subject-specific quality standards in Asia and the Pacific

Terms of Reference

Type of Contract	: Contract for Individual Consultant
Organizational Unit	: Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Bangkok
Duration	: As soon as possible – 28 December 2018
Closing date	: 10 April 2018

Background

In Asia and the Pacific, many quality tools have been developed for domestic and cross-border purposes to facilitate mobility, employability and promote access to quality higher education for all. However, substantial differences at system, subject and programme levels exist. These barriers limit the potential to promote mobility and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including target SDG 4.3 on access to quality tertiary education, including university.

With generous support from the Republic of Korea Funds-In-Trust (KFIT), a four-year project was launched in 2015 on “**Developing Regional Quality Tools to Facilitate the Cross-Border Mobility of Students in Asia and the Pacific**” (KFIT Higher Education Project). The purpose of the KFIT Higher Education Project is to align regional quality tools for higher education, including through integration of learning outcomes at subject and programme levels and build capacity to effectively implement National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF) throughout Asia and the Pacific.

From 23-24 November 2017, UNESCO Bangkok hosted an experts meeting on *Implementing NQF at Subject Level*, with a focus on two fields of study: educational studies and cultural heritage management. As an outcome of this meeting, UNESCO and experts agreed to develop a research framework and country case studies to inform the development of a regional guide on quality standards in Asia-Pacific. The consultant will play a key role in the drafting process in coordination with UNESCO Bangkok and regional experts to prepare the research framework and regional guide.

Assignments

Under the direct supervision of the Chief of Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development at UNESCO Bangkok, and in line with the KFIT Higher Education Project, the individual consultant will be responsible for the following assignments:

- a) Prepare a research framework for case studies on subject-specific quality standards in Asia-Pacific (i.e. for educational studies and cultural heritage management);
- b) Provide technical support to an experts meeting in July 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand;
- c) Peer review 10 case studies from diverse countries in Asia-Pacific;
- d) Provide technical support to an experts meeting in October 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea (TBC);
- e) Submit draft guidelines on developing subject-specific quality standards in Asia-Pacific.

Deliverables

The Individual Consultant shall complete the following work assignment by the indicated tentative timeline for UNESCO’s review and approval:

Activity / Deliverable	Timeline
Draft research framework and concept note for an experts meeting on developing quality standards in Asia-Pacific	4 May 2018
Provide technical support to an experts meeting in Bangkok, Thailand; submit synthesis report	31 July 2018
Provide technical support to an experts meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea (TBC); submit synthesis report	31 October 2018
Submit draft guidelines on developing subject-specific quality standards in Asia-Pacific	28 December 2018

The service shall be completed by **28 December 2018** at the latest.

In line with UNESCO’s overall gender mainstreaming strategy, the consultant is expected to integrate a gender perspective and apply gender analysis and mainstreaming concepts whenever feasible.

Qualifications

The external expert should possess the following mandatory qualifications and experience:

- University degree at Ph.D., or masters level or equivalent in Education, Social Sciences, Political Sciences, or a related field;
- At least ten years of working experience acquired at the international level or in an international setting;
- Understanding and knowledge of UNESCO’s mandate and its programming in relation to higher education;
- Excellent analytical and drafting skills in English;
- Demonstrated experience with developing quality standards in higher education in Asia and the Pacific.

Verification of these qualifications will be based on the provided curriculum vitae.

Fees: \$10,000 USD

Application:

Interested individuals are invited to submit their updated CVs and a cover letter supporting their application to UNESCO Bangkok Office at the e-mail address below by 10 April 2018.

To the attention of:

Chief, Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development

UNESCO Bangkok Office

E-mail: eisd.bgk@unesco.org

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.