

– Request for Proposals –

**Community Participation Framework in Thailand**

**SOLICITATION FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES**

Under the Environmental Cooperation-Asia (ECO-Asia) contract, AECOM International Development. (AECOM) is providing technical assistance to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Development Mission/Asia (RDM/A) to improve environmental governance in Asia. To promote improved environmental compliance and enforcement in Asia, ECO-Asia serves as the secretariat for the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN).

AECOM is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide technical assistance in developing a community participation framework per the following scope of work. Please submit proposals (no more than 10 pages) to [info@eco-asia.org](mailto:info@eco-asia.org) by 19 January 2012. Proposals should include technical approach, proposed budget and firm qualifications. Only short-listed firms will be contacted for additional information.

**SCOPE OF WORK**

**1. Background**

Established in 2005, AECEN is a network of national and sub-national environmental agencies from 16 Asian countries, including Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. AECEN promotes improved environmental compliance and enforcement in Asia by facilitating the replication and scale-up of innovation and good practices through member twinning partnerships, demonstration activities and information dissemination.

As the AECEN Secretariat, ECO-Asia works with national and sub-national environmental agencies to strengthen implementation and enforcement of environmental policies, laws, regulations; build agency capacity through specialized training and skills development; and facilitate regional sharing of best practices and information.

**2. Thailand – New Zealand Twinning Partnership**

In 2005 Thailand and New Zealand signed a bilateral Environment Arrangement in the context of the New Zealand – Thailand Closer Economic Partnership. Bilateral cooperation is the key element of the Arrangement (herein referred to an Environmental Cooperation Agreement or ‘ECA’), and is coordinated by the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and Thailand’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) respectively. Since 2005 a number of cooperative activities have taken place, covering a range of environmental issues including air quality, hazardous substances, climate change and water management. These project have significantly strengthened bilateral links between the two countries, however to-date most projects have been one-off activities.

To further strengthen cooperation under the ECA and establish a more programmatic approach to cooperation, MfE and MoNRE have established an AECEN twinning partnership with funding and coordination support from the USAID ECO-Asia project. Through technical exchange and targeted training, the partnership will enable the transfer of knowledge and expertise to effectively promote community participation in management and rehabilitation of the Tha Chin river basin, and share to Thai experience and expertise with New Zealand counterparts. MfE will select an appropriate Regional Council to partner with Regional Environment Office 5 (REO5) as part of the partnership.

New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) also could provide information and expertise to support the partnership.

To help guide the partnership, REO 5 will also establish and chair Working Group in Thailand composed of representatives from key stakeholders, including relevant governmental agencies at the national, provincial and local levels, community representatives, environmental groups, universities and private sector associations from the Tha Chin River basin.

The main objectives of the partnership are as follows:

- Develop a new community participation framework which includes mechanisms and tools to protect and restore water quality in the Tha Chin river basin, including creating mechanisms to foster effective stakeholder involvement;
- Promote the transfer of best practices and experience between New Zealand and Thailand related to community participation to protect and restore the Thai Chin river basin;
- Identify best practices and evaluate community participation policies, tools and practices implemented by REO 5;
- Develop recommendations to streamline and strengthen REO5 practices on community participation;
- Build the capacity of REO 5 and stakeholders in the Tha Chin River basin to effectively implement the community participation framework ;
- Identify opportunities to replicate the community participation framework to other REOs; and
- Build on on-going efforts and action plans to protect and restore the Tha Chin River basin, including projects with development partners such as UNDP and GTZ.
- Facilitate linkages with Asian counterparts.

The community participation framework will address four main areas where community groups, citizens and non-profit organizations can support governmental efforts to protect and restore the natural environment and water quality:

- (1) Community awareness raising;
- (2) Community and citizen monitoring;
- (3) Community participation in policy formulation; and
- (4) Eco-system restoration through community clean-up initiatives;

Expected outputs include:

- (1) Draft community participation framework to protect and restore the Tha Chin river basin;
- (2) Compendium of community participation tools in the Tha Chin river basin; and
- (3) Assessment report and recommendations to strengthen REO 5 policies, tools and practices on community participation.

### **3. Tasks and Deliverables**

The firm will provide technical support to develop a community participation framework, including gathering information, conduct evaluation and assessment of tools and mechanisms adopted and implemented by REO 5 to promote community participation and involvement to protect and restore the Tha Chin River basin.

#### **Task 1 – Information Gathering and Assessment**

1. Gather all relevant information from REO 5 and other line agencies related to best practices, tools, and mechanisms for promoting community participation to protect and restore the Tha Chin River basin

2. Gather relevant information from We Love Thai Chin group in 4 provinces regarding establishment of the organizations, operations and sustainability, community participation activities related to policy and planning, awareness raising, monitoring and restoration

Deliverables:

- Executive summary in English and a compendium in Thai of best practices, tools and mechanisms for community participation to protect and restore the Thai Chin River basin

**Task 2 – Community Participation Framework**

1. With guidance from the Working Group and REO 5, prepare a draft community participation framework based on the four main areas: (1) community awareness raising; (2) community and citizen monitoring; (3) community participation in policy formulation; and (4) eco-system restoration through community clean-up initiatives;

Deliverables:

- Draft Community Participation Framework in English and Thai
- Presentation on REO 5 Community Participation Framework

**Task 3: Support Consultation Workshop**

1. Coordinate with REO 5 and prepare a presentation to present at the Consultation Workshop (tentatively scheduled for end of March)
2. Present draft community participation framework for discussions with stakeholders during consultation workshop in Nakohn Prathom;
3. Based on findings from the consultation workshop, refine the draft framework and submit to REO 5 for further consideration and action.

Deliverables:

- Presentation
- Revised draft community participation in English and Thai