

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
The Asia Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)
Sustainable Development Goals Creation in ASEM Countries

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| Title: | Consultant/Researcher |
| Programme: | ENVforum |
| Department: | Intellectual Exchange |

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 450 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

The Asia Europe Environment Forum

The ENVforum is a flagship programme of ASEF organised in partnership with leading organisations and institutions:

- the ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center – ASEIC (Korea)
- the Swedish International Development Aid Agency – Sida (Sweden)
- the Hanns Seidel Stiftung – HSF (Germany); and
- the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies – IGES (Japan).

The ENVforum sustains a wide network connecting environmental governance and green growth experts working on sustainable development issues, including officials, activists, researchers, academics and industry professionals. The ENVforum aims to contribute to the agenda of international policy fora such as ASEM in the area of sustainable development and environment, and serves in ASEM countries as an interface between governments and other stakeholders including civil society, industry and research. Past fora included topics such as climate change, energy security and sustainability, chemicals and hazardous waste, urban sustainability, biodiversity and renewable energy. For more information please visit <http://env.asef.org>

Institutional background

This research project builds on the outcomes of the Rio+20 conference and of the last ASEM summit:

* **ASEM** (the Asia-Europe Meeting) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation. It brings together 51 member states (Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org

Rio+20:

The Rio+20 conference decided the establishment of several working groups in charge of elaborating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will complement, substitute or prolong the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) due to be met by 2015. These proposed SDGs will be global in nature and universal in application therefore covering both developing and developed countries).

ASEM Summit:

The Chair Statement of the last ASEM Summit that took place in Laos in November 2012

"... underlined the importance of finalisation of the UN SDGs through a transparent and inclusive intergovernmental process..."

Programme Background

The ENVforum conducted a series of informal consultations on International Framework for Sustainable Development with a focus on International Environmental Governance in 2012.

Responding to the perceived need for a platform that is able to consolidate different points of view and serve as an interface between Asia and Europe, the ENVforum was in a good position to provide a neutral and informal meeting point for top-level, expert discussion. An informal process that brought a small and select group of key institutions/governments, opinion leaders and civil society experts contributed to the analysis of options that the Rio+20 discussions drew from.

This process was supported by research, based on needs identified during 2 scenario building workshops. As a follow up of the study "Global Architectures for Sustainable Development Delivery" the ENVforum will engage into post-Rio+20 consultations to elaborate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in connection to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) process.

Research Objectives

The objective of the research is to identify existing best practices on sustainable development; and propose the possible options for further creation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and possible Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) based on the experiences at the national level.

The specific objectives are:

- 1) To examine national (in select ASEM countries) strategies for (sustainable) development / green growth and its monitoring and evaluation tools:
- 2) To propose a set of SDGs and associated indicators based on country realities
- 3) To identify implementation challenges at a country level.

Research Components

Based on the inputs from the outcomes of the ENVforum research and consultation process, compiled in "Global Architectures for Sustainable Development Delivery" (attached as Annex 1 to the call) and recent discussions on creation of Sustainable Development Goals, the following areas for further research were identified:

Component A: Examination of national strategies for (sustainable) development / green growth and its monitoring and evaluation tools

- Preselecting of 12 ASEM countries (representative significant ASEM countries for sustainable development issues) for detailed analysis of sustainable development color-

coding according to the performance in the given area (the final scope of the research to be agreed on a later stage)

- Mapping of existing goals and objectives of national strategies (sustainable development strategies, biodiversity strategies, poverty eradication and MDGs related programmes) and the interlinkages
- Assessing how specific indicators that are already in place (eg. green growth related) could supplement the SDGs/SDIs process

Component B: Proposal for a set of SDGs and associated indicators based on country realities

- To identify the various proposals/initiatives made by international organizations, research centers, NGOs on this new set of SDGs
- To identify the factors which take into account different national realities or regional capacities as well as their levels of development. These factors (eg. such as culture, population, urbanisation, development level, fiscal policies, etc.) also need to be deemed acceptable by Asian and European leaders as well as civil society
- To propose values that Asia and Europe could share to form the substratum of the SDGs

Component C: Assessment of implementation capacity for SDGs at the national level

- To identify the challenges of implementation of Global Sustainable Development Goals based on research findings
- If feasible, to assess the resources required to reach the goals and make a comparative cost-benefit analysis of the various SDGs
- To identify how the SDGs could build on the MDGs and be integrated into the post-2015 agenda;

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

With regard to reports and documentation, the consultants should note that ASEF will retain the intellectual property rights and copyrights over all materials produced for the project.

The selected consultants will:

- In coordination with ASEF, prepare the required research and documentation following agreed research plan;
- Conduct the research and document cited references;
- Prepare draft report;
- Prepare the summary of findings;
- Submit draft reports by February 2013 and a final report by May 2013.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Funding available for the Consultants is up to SGD 50,000 for the entire project. Please note that the organisers can divide the components between different vendors.

All the details and amount allocated for the each component will be clarified with specific terms of reference with the selected researchers.

All the necessary costs related with the project should be borne by the researchers within the agreed funding (eg. research and writing, data, software).

SELECTION CRITERIA

The following requirements shall be met.

- The organisation is from an ASEM country;

- Europe - and/or Asia - related experience with intergovernmental organisations, international agencies, public authorities and civil society;
- Expertise in sustainable development;
- Demonstrated experience in analysis and international research .

Proposals will be assessed on both financial (30%) and quality (70%) criteria.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals should include the following documents

- Completed application form
- Curriculum Vitae of the consultant and (any) associates
- Four page facilitation and reporting plan
- Detailed budget

Proposals should be received before 15 January 2013

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