

International Consultancy: Study on Housing for the B50% Income Group and the Challenges of Urbanization in Malaysia

Location : Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, Malaysia

Application Deadline : 24 January 2014

Type of Contract : IC

Post Level : International Consultant

Languages Required : English

Starting Date :

March 2014

Duration of Initial Contract : 1 year

Expected Duration of Assignment : 1 year

BACKGROUND

According to World Urbanization Prospects, Malaysia has 72.8% of its population living in urban areas in 2011. This is expected to increase to 77.9% (higher than the official target of 73.5%) by 2020 with an average urban growth rate of 2.08% between 2015 and 2020. National statistics shows that Peninsular Malaysia is estimated to have an average of 63.1% urban population in 2005, Sabah 53.2% and Sarawak 54.6% with an average rate of growth of 4.93% for the whole of Malaysia between 1991 and 2000.

One of the key challenges caused by rapid urbanization to improving the well-being of Malaysians, in particular the bottom 50% of income group (B50), living in urban and peri-urban areas across the country is housing. Urban land markets, housing construction and the provision of urban services have been swamped by the speed of urban growth. With the rapid expansion of cities and increases in the value of land, the lower-income groups are often compelled to live in inner-city slums or pushed to the peri-urban areas on the fringes of the cities where residents are more isolated. The central role played by land rights and the provision of secure tenure, particularly in increasing access to improved housing, is increasingly recognized.

In view of this, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the Government of Malaysia is implementing a project focusing on housing for the bottom 50% of income group in major urban centres of Malaysia, with clear linkages to relevant initiatives and projects in the 10th Malaysia Plan (10MP) and the National Housing Policy (NHP) with the aim of providing inputs to the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) and a larger study on the Urban Vulnerable Group (UVG) by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU). It emphasizes on multidimensionality and linkage to wider issues of urbanization in its analysis. Through a combination of primary research, socio-spatial mapping, international best practices, literature review, desk research and stakeholder consultation, a full report capturing key findings and implementable policy recommendations will be put forward.

Proposal should be submitted to:

United Nations Development Programme,
Wisma UN, Kompleks Pejabat Damansara,
Jalan Dungun, Damansara Heights,
50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Any request for clarification must be send in writing to procurement.my@undp.org

Please write the Project Code in your e-mail heading.

The deadline for submitting requests for clarification/questions is **20 January 2014.**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I. SCOPE OF WORK

The study consists of the following 4 outputs:

1. Output 1: Main Report on Housing for the B50 (incorporating findings from the other three Outputs)
2. Output 2: Report on Socio-Spatial Mapping Exercise Using GIS
3. Output 3: Report on Primary Research/Survey
4. Output 4: Report on International Best Practices

The research team is comprised of one lead researcher (team leader) and one principal researcher for Output 1; one researcher for Output 2, one researcher for Output 3 and one researcher for Output 4 who will work closely with UNDP, EPU, DOS and other relevant stakeholders to deliver the outputs listed above. Two research assistants will support the research team and will work mainly under the supervision of the lead researcher and principal researcher.

The international consultancy is for the research position for Output 4.

RESEARCHER (OUTPUT 4) – estimated 6 labor-months (International)

The researcher in this component will be responsible for the delivery of the Report on International Best Practices. The scope and analytical framework of the report will be done in consultation with the lead researcher and principal researcher, coordinated by the project manager. The researcher will also play an advisory role to the lead researcher and principal researcher in terms giving international perspectives to the management of the research process and framing of the research scope of the various components including the Main Report. Specifically, the researcher will perform the following tasks:

- Advice and participate in the design of the research methodology for the Main Report and Reports in the other components where applicable;
- Provide inputs and guidance from an international perspective to the lead researcher in managing the research process and the entire research team in their respective research components where applicable;
- Collate and review relevant case studies, data and documents;
- Conduct discussions with the research team and stakeholders in identifying relevant benchmarks and contextualizing best practices to Malaysia;
- Analyze the inputs and data collected and formulate recommendations based on the consultation and analysis;
- Conduct discussions with stakeholders and support the lead researcher in stakeholder consultation and engagement as well as present key findings in stakeholder workshops;
- Write and finalize the report for this component;
- Discuss findings with the lead researcher and principal researcher and provide inputs and contributions to the Main Report where applicable.

II. METHODOLOGY

The consultancy will employ a participatory research methodology through a combined process of desk reviews, dialogues/discussions with stakeholders, focus group discussions, and planned workshops.

III. DELIVERABLES & TIMELINE

The activities of the consultancy will be guided by the project document signed between UNDP and the Government of Malaysia and will involve the following deliverables:

Output 4

1. Interim Report
2. Final Report

IV. TERMS OF PAYMENT

Payments will be made to the consultant upon the delivery and acceptance of the outputs as identified as follows:

Output 4

2014/2015

Interim Report

Final Report

Payment Schedule

50%

50%

The payment will cover local travel and operational expenses for the deliverable of the outputs.

V. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

1. **Proposal/Letter of Interest (Explaining why they are the most suitable for the work)**
2. **Financial proposal – based on the deliverable and terms of payment, please download the Financial Proposal template at**
http://www.undp.org.my/files/editor_files/files/MyIC_2014_001_Financial%20Proposal%20Template%20%28B50%29%20%20International%20Consultant.doc
3. **Personal CV including past experience in similar projects and at least 3 references.**
4. **Completed UN Personal History Form (P11) available at:**
<http://www.undp.org.my/uploads/p11%20personal%20history%20form.doc>

IMPORTANT NOTE: All the documents above must be attached and uploaded as one document when you are asked to upload your CV/resume on the application website. UNDP Malaysia reserves the right to disqualify any incomplete submission.

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COMPETENCIES

The researchers should have:

- Substantive knowledge and extensive research experience in the analysis of housing issues. Knowledge in the socio-economic dimensions in Malaysia is an added advantage.
- Excellent analytical skills as demonstrated, for example, by prior experience in policy-oriented studies. An in-depth understanding of issues related to housing and wider development issues in Malaysia is an added advantage.
- Excellent computer skills (word processing and statistical data analysis) and demonstrated ability to analyze data using statistical and computer packages. Extensive knowledge in analyzing national statistics.
- Some experience participating in policy dialogues and presenting in academic seminars.
- Prior experience of liaising with government organizations, civil society, private sectors and local communities.
- Ability to work independently with a strong sense of leadership, initiative, discipline and self-motivation.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Researchers

Education

- An advanced degree, preferably a PhD or equivalent in Housing, Real Estate, Urban Development, Urban Economics or related disciplines.

Experience

- The researchers should have considerable credibility and experience in the areas housing and urban development and familiarity with the wider development issues in Malaysia. The researcher should have at least 7 years of relevant professional experience.

Language

- Demonstrated ability to speak and write professionally in English.