

Call for Expressions of Interest

#021 - Job Title: The International Consultant on Air Pollution

1. Background:

Air pollution is one of the leading causes of disease and premature death in the world. Around the world an average of 6.5 million deaths per year related to air pollution, of which 3 million from outdoor air pollution, 2/3 of the deaths are in Southeast Asia and In the Western Pacific, 94% of air pollution deaths are related to cardiovascular disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pneumonia, and lung cancer. PM_{2.5} is considered the most dangerous air pollutant to health.

Ambient air pollution has become a major threat to public health in Viet Nam. Public awareness of the detrimental effects of air pollution on health is increasing. WHO estimated that air pollution is accountable to around 60,000 deaths each year are air pollution-related in Viet Nam. Dust pollution level in urban areas remains high. The concentration of NO₂, CO tends to increase in some traffic hot spots.

The Government of Viet Nam approved the national action plan on controlling air quality in 2016. Further to this national action plan, in early 2021, the Government of Viet Nam issued the Directive No 03 for controlling air pollution which assigned the Ministry of Health (MoH) to conduct assessment of health impact of air pollution and propose solutions.

In March 2021, the WHO Country Office in Viet Nam received a letter from the Health Environment Management Agency (VIHEMA) of MoH seeking WHO's technical and financial supports to develop (1) a set of advisories/alerts on health preventive measures during peaks of air pollution for communities and (2) mechanisms to disseminate advisories/alerts through appropriate channels.

Currently Vietnamese people have access to daily weather forecast programs and air quality news on mass medial channels, social media network Zalo and the website of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) with a brief explanation on the value of AQI and possible health impacts. However, these messages are too general. Sensitive groups may need to know more details on what they should do to actively prevent health impacts during air pollution peaks.

As part of its technical assistance responding to this request, WHO is recruiting an international consultant to conduct a study for analysing experience and practice on health preventive measures against air pollution and a delivery system to disseminate advisories/alerts messages during peaks of air pollution to the public from selected countries in the world and in the region and draw lessons learnt and recommendations for Viet Nam.

2. **Planned timelines** Part time for 3 months (14 non-consecutive days/month x 3 months = 42 days)

Start date: 10 June 2021

End date: 10 September 2021

3. **Work to be performed**

Purpose of the consultancy

To conduct a study for analysing experience and practice on health preventive measures against air pollution and a delivery system to disseminate advisories/alerts messages during peaks of air pollution to the public from selected countries in the world and in the region and draw lessons learnt and recommendations for Viet Nam

Method(s) to carry out the activity

The contractor is expected to work in his/her home country.

Though most of the work of the consultant will be conducted independently, it is recommended to keep close communication channel with WHO responsible officers at WHO Country Office in Viet Nam based in Hanoi, Viet Nam as well as WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific based in Manila, Philippines.

Output/s

Output 1: A desk review on experience and practice on health preventive measures against air pollution and a delivery system to disseminate advisories/alerts messages during peaks of air pollution to the public in from selected countries in the world and in the region

- Horizon scan of countries in the world and in the region
- Select a few countries for further in-depth study (including China and the Republic of Korea) in consultation with WHO responsible officers
- Scope of desk review should include the followings but not limited: (1) existing guidelines and advisory messages, (2) systems and methodologies for developing guidelines advisory messages, (3) the target groups/audiences of these guidelines, (4) systems and mechanisms in delivering advisory/alert messages to intended, (5) data base for health impacts from air pollution and linkage with the guidelines and advisory messages, (6) studies showing the impact of advisory messages.

Deliverable 1.1: Interim report of desk review (by 5 August 2021)

Output 2: Drawing lessons learnt and recommendations for Viet Nam

- At this stage, the contractor is expected to participate in several rounds of virtual consultation meetings with WHO responsible officers, responsible officers at VIHEMA and Vietnamese experts recommended by VIHEMA.

- WHO Country Office in Viet Nam and VIHEMA will organize these consultation meetings

Deliverable 2.1: Final consultancy report (by 5 September 2021)

Deliverable 2.2: A set of accompanying materials helpful for Viet Nam to follow / adopt (by 5 September 2021)

4. Specific requirements

Qualifications required:

- A postgraduate degree in public health, environmental health, environmental science, communication or other relevant areas from a recognized university

Experience required:

- Minimum 7 of years' experience in research in relevant areas including public health, environmental health, air pollution management or policy, communication for health etc
- Research experience on air pollution in developing countries is an asset

Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

- Research and analysis skills on environmental health issues, air pollution and health impacts.
- Knowledge on air pollution aspects, air quality in the countries in the world or in the region.
- Experience and skills in multi-country comparison study
- Communication skills.

Language requirements:

- Fluent in English

Competencies

- Technical Expertise
- Producing Results
- Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences
- Communication

5. Place of assignment

The contractor is expected to work in his/her home country.

6. Medical clearance

Not applicable

7. Travel

Not applicable

8. Budget

Please take note of the following when submitting application:

- The contractor will be responsible for paying taxes, if any.

Application letters and updated CVs in English should be received **on/or before 31 May 2021** and should be addressed to:

Administrative Officer
World Health Organization
UN Building, 304 Kim Ma Street,
Hanoi, Viet Nam

OR

wpvnmapplicants@who.int

For further information on this Call for Expressions of Interest, please contact:
wpvnmwr@who.int