

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Mongolia seeks a Resident Senior Advisor with specialization in areas of poverty measurement and analysis, including design and implementation of poverty reduction strategies and policies including employment policies; development planning and M&E for the “Poverty Research and Employment Facilitation for Policy Development” Phase II project. The project is implemented by the Government of Mongolia and funded by the UNDP.

Duration: 12 months;

Duty Station: Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour of Mongolia;

Deadline: 15 March 2010;

Start Date: as soon as possible (negotiable);

Where to apply: doljinsuren.jambal@undp.org; puntsagts@yahoo.com cc: otgontsetseg.zundui@undp.org;

Apply online. See detailed ToRs in the below:

Terms of Reference for
Resident Technical Advisor
Poverty Research and Employment Facilitation for Policy Development Project
Phase II, UNDP Mongolia

Background and Context

The Government of Mongolia started implementing the second phase of a UNDP-supported project Poverty Research and Employment Facilitation for Policy Development (PREF Phase II). The policy context for the project is set by Mongolia’s newly approved MDG-based National Development Strategy (2007-2021) which aims at halving poverty rate by 2015 using economic growth and employment generation as main strategies to achieve the objective. The implementation of the NDS calls for a much stronger data and information base of poverty reduction policies and a heightened capacity for policy analysis and policy and programme management.

PREF Phase II supports a continued building of the national capacity to use poverty, labour and disability data as well as the human development paradigm for an improved impact of poverty reduction policies and programmes. The project supported poverty mapping (Component 1); streamlining of the basic labour statistics system and update of labour force and time use data (Component 2); production of the National Human Development Report for 2010 and poverty policy studies (Component 3), and improvement of the policy and programme framework for better economic integration of persons with disabilities (Component 4). It aims to strengthen the university curricula on poverty measurement and Human Development paradigm, train development practitioners on poverty mapping techniques and use and interpretation of poverty and labour statistics, and increase the capacity of associations working for the disabled in programme management and advocacy.

The Mongolian economy had been growing rapidly, about 9% annually, for the last four years. The country has vast mineral wealth and is increasingly dependent on earnings from these resources. The per capita income was USD 1290, classifying it as a middle-income country and the total GDP had grown from USD 1.8 billion in 2004 to USD 5.2 billion by the end of 2008.

Despite the high economic growth experienced during last years, the poverty is rampant in Mongolia. The HSES 2007 – 2008 survey determined that the poverty incidence was 35.2%, implying that 0.93 million live below the official poverty line. The same data also indicates that in the five years between 2003 and 2008, poverty declined by only 1.1%, a very modest decrease considering that the economy was growing at a fast pace during this period. In other words, economic growth was not contributing significantly to poverty alleviation.

Recently, The Parliament of Mongolia has initiated developing National Poverty Reduction Programme and the Government will be drafting/designing the programme during spring of 2010.

An important output of the programme we expect to be ject will be a capacity development plan for the national anti-poverty machinery based on a functional review.

The highly technical nature and the scope of the above planned activities require the support of a Resident Technical Advisor (RTA) to ensure quality design and delivery of the proposed outputs and to provide policy and technical advice to the government partners within the scope of the thematic areas identified by the project and poverty reduction policymaking in general.

The implementation of the project isactivities are expected to involve a wide range of government agencies, non-state players as well as international organizations. Thus, an important role of the RTA will be that of honest broker acting to bring about cooperation and synergy among both individual players and relevant programmes and projects.

Organizational Setting

1. The main government counterpart for the RTA will be working with is National Development and Innovation Agency (NDIC) and Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour (MSWL). project is the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour (MSWL) as the Implementing Partner with the National Statistics Office (NSO) and National Development Innovation Committee (NDIC) playing key roles in the delivery of the outputs. The Advisor also will be working closely with Cabinet Secretariat and Standing Committees in the Parliament. The project implementation unit (PIU) based at the MSWL, have 3 core staff members: National Project Manager, Administrative and Finance Assistant, a Secretary. The project will recruit three more staff members including international UNV, national UNV and national NHDR consultant.
2. Resident Technical Advisor shall be contracted by UNDP project of PREF II and will be providing technical support in implementation of project activities. as requested by the NDIC and MSWL. S/he will be based at the NDIC/MSWL work closely with NSO and MoF.
3. The Advisor will report to the NDIC/MSWL Officer in charge of the project as her/his Principal, and be accountable to the UNDP designated officials as her/his Employer. First line supervision will be provided by UNDP Programme Officer.

Job Content

1. Policy and technical advice to NDIC and MSWL will include assistance to these agencies in formulating poverty reduction strategies and specific programmes with a particular focus on establishing a poverty reduction monitoring and evaluation framework for the MDG-based National Development Strategy (NDS), providing them with comparative analyses of international experience and best practice, supporting preparation of policy position papers for discussion/presentation at high level international/regional meetings.
2. Advice and assist in the design, organization and implementation of poverty reduction strategy or programmes in line to achieve MDG 1.
 - Assist in drafting “Poverty Reduction National Programme”
 - Assist in estimating cost for Poverty Reduction National Programme implementation
 - Advise in identifying ways/options to eliminate poverty
 - Develop policy recommendation based on findings relationship between economic growth and poverty by using of macro economic model

- Advise and assist in design methodology for monitoring and evaluation, making analysis of MDGs based National Development Strategy implementation
3. Liaison and networking with donor organizations for the purposes of promoting collaboration with relevant programmes and identifying opportunities for resource mobilization by MSWL and UNDP.
 4. Support to UNDP poverty reduction programming and learning activities.
 5. Perform other tasks as required.
 6. Detailed Work Plan will be developed with close consultation with concerned parties of the government and NDIC.

Expected outputs:

- Functional review of poverty reduction machinery in Mongolia
- Design tools which would enable the implementation, cost estimation, analysis and policy recommendations within the Poverty Reduction National Programme
- Assessment of Monitoring and Evaluation System for MDGs based National Development Strategy (NDS) implementation and policy recommendations;

Job Conditions

1. The post is full time, for 12 months and contractual modality will be set and agreed based on qualifications, experiences and competences of the Selected Advisor.
2. , on the basis of a standard UNDP Activities of a Limited Duration (ALD) contract with expectation of renewal. Remuneration is set at the equivalent of L4/5 level (UN common system scale), but may be amended in the light of the incumbent's particular experiences and competences.
3. The post attracts an annual leave entitlement of 30 days per year, plus 10 UN official holidays, along with pension benefits and a mobilisation allowance (pro-rata to contractual period).
4. Start date is as soon as possible.

Qualifications and Experience

- Post-graduate degree (preferably Ph.D. or D.Phil.) in economics, social science, statistics or related fields.
- At least 10 years of working experience in areas of poverty measurement and analysis, including design and implementation of socio-economic surveys (participatory where desired), formulation and implementation of poverty reduction strategies and policies including employment policies; development planning and M&E; experience in policy oriented social development and rural development research will be an asset.
- In-depth knowledge of poverty reduction and employment policies and programmes of the developing countries; knowledge of the experiences of transitional economies will be an asset;
- Familiarity with equitable growth and pro-poor policymaking paradigms.
- Extensive experience in working at a senior level with Governments and familiarity with project management operations and procedures of various donor agencies/multi-lateral institutions and UNDP project management operations and procedures.
- Candidates should have very strong analytical, communication and advocacy skills;
- Specific knowledge and preferably experience in at least the majority of the following specific areas:
- Strong analytical and writing skills with proven skills in problem identification/solving;
- Knowledge of teamwork and participatory techniques with excellent advocacy and communication skills;
- Ability to work well in multidisciplinary teams and adapt to a multicultural environment;
- Fluent English (spoken and written)
- PC-word processing and Internet communication skills