



4 October 2020

Terms of Reference – SME Development Consultant

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A. INTRODUCTION

Business Center Corporation (BCC) is a state-owned enterprise (SOE) incorporated in 2017 to coordinate and oversee the management of regional business development service centers (BCs) established, by the Ministry of Economic Development, under the SME Act (6/2013).

The purpose of the Business Centers (BCs) is to contribute to the establishment of an enabling business environment to support inclusive economic growth by providing and building capacity for sustainable, demand-driven business development services and to facilitate market access which will serve the growth needs of the micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) sector in the Maldives.

B. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Economic Empowerment and Development for SMEs (SEEDS) project, with financial support of the Government of Japan, aims to provide economic rehabilitation in order to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in the Maldives. The project has the objective of increasing agriculture production and promoting food security through an approach of building entrepreneurship amongst farmers and creating a new generation of agri-businesses that are innovative, productive and practices environment-friendly agriculture. The project will also provide technical support and capacity to the Government of Maldives to conduct support services for MSMEs to adapt to the “new normal”.

The project will be implemented through partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Maldives, the Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture (MoFMRA), Agro National Corporation (AgroNat), Maldives Fund Management Corporation (MFMC), the Business Center Corporation (BCC) and Housing Development Corporation (HDC).

C. SCOPE OF WORK

Business Center Corporation seeks to engage a qualified and experienced individual to undertake the responsibilities of the SME Development Consultant with the key tasks and responsibilities as identified in section D.

Interested parties are invited to submit their expression of interest for this position as stated in the advertisement published on the National Gazette.



D. KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The precise balance of responsibilities is flexible and can be adapted to suit the selected candidate's preference provided that the scope of work and objectives of this assignment are met. The roles and responsibilities include the following:

I. RESEARCH AND POLICY DIRECTION

- Assist the Corporation and other relevant stakeholders in interpreting and making inferences on various data and statistics through economic modeling and advanced analytical methods.
- Gather, compile and analyse statistical data as required in support of SME development strategies.
- Produce relevant research on topics that are most related to SME development such as microfinancing, market access, accelerated innovation, digital solutions and talent retention.
- Drawing on own expertise to carry out original analyses that offer new perspectives on the relevant economic data to key policy decisions related to SME development.
- Offer technical inputs on Covid-19 impacts and possible recovery options for MSMEs based on quality research and analysis on policy changes brought by countries with similar economic environments.

II. CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

- Conduct training and mentoring related to business consultancy and other operational level training to staff in both Male' and regional Business Centers, in accordance with the workplan developed by BCC, and ensure the successful implementation with close follow through. The trainings include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Business Counselling
 - Entrepreneurship development
 - SME management and development
 - Vocational business skills development
- Design the annual training calendar for staff capacity development, and develop a management plan to ensure that the skills of the BCC staff are always upgraded.
- Identify and develop strategic business training plans based on the needs of the MSMEs and needs assessments conducted by the Corporation. This includes the development of training modules required by the clients. It is also the responsibility of the SME Development Consultant to liaise with other relevant training providers to obtain their services as necessary.



E. ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- A Bachelor's degree in economics or a major in economics, with four years of relevant work experience or a Master's degree in economics with two years of relevant work experience
- Experience in economic and SME development sector.
- Interest in frontier economic research and in SME policy matters.
- Experience collecting and analysing economic data.
- Experience in conducting training both in-house and remotely.
- Ability to work independently, develop ideas and work on them to completion.

F. DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- Basic programming skills or use of relevant statistics software (e.g. STATA, R, EViews, Python).
- Sound understanding of econometric modeling and structural economic models.
- Good knowledge of the business and economic environment of the Maldives.
- Ability to critique theoretical and empirical results and propose alternative perspectives.

G. REPORTING

The SME Development Consultant will report on a day to day basis to the Managing Director of Business Center Corporation.

H. LOCATION

The SME Development Consultant will be based in Male' City, Maldives.

I. REMUNERATION

An attractive remuneration package will be offered to the selected candidate.

J. CONTRACT DURATION

The duration of the assignment is six months (calendar).



K. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Job Application Form
- Curriculum Vitae
- Educational Certificates
- National Identity Card
- Police Certificate
- Reference letters

L. DEADLINE

Interested parties must submit their applications to hr@bcn.my by 11th October 2020, 1500 hrs.

M. EXPECTED DATE OF COMMENCEMENT

The selected candidate is expected to start work on 15th October 2020.