

APHR Consultancy Notice

Research Consultant

**International Parliamentary Inquiry - Southeast Asia: Inquiry
on the Adverse Impacts of Industry Activities on the Environment in Thailand**

A. Project Title

International Parliamentary Inquiry - Southeast Asia: Inquiry on the Adverse Impacts of Industry Activities on the Environment in Thailand.

B. Background

Industries across Southeast Asia significantly impact the environment, from resource generation, production, and waste management, they can affect conservation efforts and degradation of air quality, water, and land. In these, local communities bear the impact, positive or negative, of these activities. This region is particularly susceptible to economic decline if global temperatures continue to rise rapidly. Economic losses from the impacts of climate change in Southeast Asia could be [60% higher than previously estimated](#), reducing the region's gross domestic product (GDP) by up to 11% by 2100, according to a new Asian Development Bank (ADB) study.

Industries can lead the fight against climate change as there are an estimated 71 million micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Southeast Asia as reported by the Asian Development Bank in 2020. This number encapsulated [97% of all businesses in the region with 67% of the working population](#) being employed by these businesses. An analysis, [done in 2022](#), of the top 100 listed companies across six Southeast Asian countries - Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia examined that a majority of businesses (56%) identify climate-related opportunities, compared with less than half (47%) sharing plans on risk mitigation.

Deforestation is the permanent destruction of forests and trees to make land available for other uses, such as agriculture, mining, and urban development. According to data from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia lost over [6 million hectares](#) of forest cover from 2000 to 2012. This deforestation has caused significant environmental problems such as soil erosion, flooding, loss of wildlife habitats, and changes to the local climate. A just energy transition, crucial in light of the Asia Pacific Region's responsibility for [51% of global GHG emissions](#), demands a nuanced policy shift from a one-size-fits-all perspective.

Meanwhile, Rising temperatures and sea levels, and extreme weather events threaten to severely impact coastal and marine resources, and the industries and activities that rely on them. In [2005, the estimated population living within 100 km of the coast reached about 452 million people](#), equivalent to about 79% of the region's total. Rising temperatures also lead to a reduction in fish production, threatening the entire region's potential as the [world's largest producer of fish and marine products](#).

In addition, Water quality in Southeast Asia is [under threat](#) from many sectors including agriculture, manufacturing and waste management, due to insufficient wastewater treatment, chemical overuse and other factors. Climate change and the need for [adaptation](#) are of growing importance.

Given the above, APHR is undertaking a parliamentary inquiry to examine the environmental effects of various industries in Southeast Asia, the implications for local communities, and the recommendations needed to facilitate a sustainable transition to cleaner energy sources.

Specific emphasis will be placed on:

How various industries impact the environment and local communities. Specifically exploring how it affects their health, livelihoods, and social dynamics. This inquiry aims to uncover and propose recommendations for environmental impacts such as Large Scale Deforestation, Depletion and Degradation of Marine and Coastal Resources and Pollution of Natural Water Resources.

The Inquiry aims to identify industry activities that have the most detrimental impacts to the environment and understand; how these industry activities affect local communities, and even communities across borders. And analyze the results of the inquiry and present specific recommendations and action plans of what can be done by parliaments, governments, business industries, and other key holders to mitigate (or stop) further environmental degradation.

C. Scope of Work

APHR is looking for a research consultant to support the Inquiry through research, gathering of crucial information, and identifying key stakeholders for this parliamentary inquiry in Thailand.

The consultant will be responsible for:

Preliminary Research	
1	Developing a research plan outlining the objectives, methodology, and timeline for the inquiry.

2	Conducting a comprehensive literature review on the area of focus for Thailand, focusing on previous studies, reports, and policies and identifying relevant data sources, including government publications, academic papers, and industry reports.
3	Identifying key stakeholders involved in activities impacting the environment, including government agencies, corporations, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous groups.
4	Assisting in drafting a Briefing Paper for the Committee based on the research conducted, to a set of key questions to be used during the Inquiry and/or interviews with respondents and other stakeholders.
Research During Inquiry	
1	Continuously monitoring and adjusting the research approach based on emerging findings and insights.
2	Assisting in engaging in stakeholder consultations to gather diverse perspectives and insights on the relevant issues.
3	Documenting findings and insights in a structured manner to inform the inquiry committee.
Post-Inquiry	
1	Synthesizing Inquiry findings into a country report based on guidelines that will be provided by the overall IPI Report Writer.
2	Support in any follow-up information that will be required by the Committee, providing additional information or clarifications as needed.
3	Conducting verification of the gathered data from the inquiry and carrying out follow-up research.

D. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

Expected Deliverables	Timeline
Preliminary Research	
Inception Meeting: presentation of the project, sharing of concept note and research brief, etc.	27 September 2024

Preliminary research draft submission with requested information.	14 October 2024
Follow-up questions, comments and clarifications.	16 October 2024
Submission of research in preparation for IPI.	25 October 2024
Submission of Draft Briefing Paper for the Committee	25 October 2024
Research During Inquiry	
Support and Attendance during the Inquiry	4 November 2024 (TBC)
Gathering evidence after the hearing.	5 November - 15 November 2024
Documenting findings and insights from stakeholders	5 November - 15 November 2024
Post Inquiry Research	
Conduct verification of the gathered data from the inquiry and also look at follow-up research.	5 November - 15 November 2024
Synthesize research findings into a country report.	15 November -29 November 2024
Submission of overall research report.	2 December 2024

E. Institutional Arrangement

The consultant will liaise closely with the Climate Change and Human Rights Program Coordinator. She will provide the consultant with guidance for desk research. They will decide with the consultant on the outline and structure of the research before he/she starts writing and remain available at all times for support and coordination. The consultant will report to the Programs Coordinator for Climate Change and Human Rights.

F. Duration of Work

27 September 2024 - 2 December 2024. The consultancy will be considered finished once a final report has been provided by the consultant and approved by the Programs Director.

G. Duty Station

Thailand

H. Qualification of the Successful Contractor

Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A relevant bachelor's or master's degree in environmental science, forestry, ecology, geography, natural resource management, or a related field. • Or a strong background in environmental research, sustainable development, and policy analysis.
Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated experience in conducting advocacy research on environmental issues. • Experience in working with governmental or non-governmental organizations involved in environmental policy and advocacy. • Familiarity with the socio-economic and political context of Thailand.
Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficiency in research methodologies, including qualitative data collection and analysis techniques. • Strong analytical skills to interpret complex data and draw meaningful conclusions. • Excellent written and verbal communication skills to effectively communicate research findings to diverse audiences. • Ability to work independently and as part of a team, managing multiple tasks and deadlines effectively.
Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of relevant policies, regulations, and international agreements related to environmental conservation. • Awareness of emerging trends and innovations in sustainable land-use practices and forest management.
Qualities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention to detail and a commitment to producing high-quality, accurate research outputs.

- Integrity and ethical conduct in handling sensitive information and interacting with stakeholders.
- Flexibility and adaptability to navigate complex and evolving research environments.
- Cultural sensitivity and respect for diverse perspectives, particularly when engaging with stakeholders from different backgrounds and communities.
- Dedication to the mission of promoting environmental sustainability and addressing environmental challenges in Thailand.

I. Recommended Presentation of Offer

Applicants may submit the following requirements to procurement@aseanmp.org, copy to savita@aseanmp.org with subject heading “ClimateChangeIPI@Researcher” by **24 September 2024**:

1. Cover letter (1 page max) including why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a methodology, if applicable, on how they will approach and complete the assignment.
2. Personal CV indicating all relevant past experience.
3. Writing sample of a briefer or report on a similar issue published for advocacy purposes or for a broad and wide audience (avoid academic publications).
4. A precise amount of the financial proposal (proposed fees) for the consultancy services.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

APHR is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified candidates of all genders from all nationalities, religious, and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply.
