

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consultant for Youth & Young Water Professionals Platform of South Asia

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Background of the Project:

Half of the population of South Asia, especially the youth in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh represents youth below the age of 24 (UNICEF 2020). Further, the region is having the highest youth labour force in the world that will remain until 2040. Unfortunately, given this, half population have failed to achieve their full potential due to several reasons including lack of awareness, minimum/no opportunities, cultural taboos and many more. Despite of alterations made at the school and university curricula by bringing practical and technical subjects to match with the need of the job market served to lessen youth unemployment to a certain level, most of them are underemployed and unhappy. Even though there are employment opportunities with substantially higher remunerations for young professionals with wider exposure who can bring new knowledge and energy to the institution from some of the specialised organisations/companies, the Asian Youth are not equally accessible to these openings due to certain drawbacks. It should be admitted that certain youth organisations are actively presence in the South Asian countries who produce remarkable outputs; still most of them work in isolations by focussing youth only in their country and certain sectors. With all these given obstacles, only few selected youth were capable to overcome the challenges, diversify and widen their knowledge to build expertise.

Global Water Partnership (GWP), in both the GWP [Youth Engagement Strategy](#) 2015 and the [GWP Strategy 2020 -2025](#) identified the importance of youth and their unique capabilities that can support decision-making in water resources management. Across the South Asian Region and through the Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) there have been many small-diverse projects conducted to engage youth in different aspects of water management and create opportunities for youth to build their capacities and employability. Although these activities have been ongoing for years, they are small-scale and ad-hoc in nature with minimal sustainability and impact without having a unified approach. However, it can be concluded that if these activities are properly organised and coordinated among the six countries within the region, they could lay a stronger foundation to build a cohesive and vibrant youth network and a platform for the region that can boost the interest in water resources management. It would also connect young people across the countries and share opportunities and experiences.

Therefore, Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SAS) Regional Office, a network linked through six CWPs, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with nearly more than 400 partners across the region, has identified the vitality of having a regional youth platform. The platform would facilitate youth interaction beyond their country of origin, extended to South Asia level and beyond. Through the platform, youth are encouraged to engage actively with various stakeholders, and to become pioneers for sharing of information, data and outputs to be widely accessible for youth networks as well

as the society. Youth would be encouraged to discuss ideas, issues and solutions related to sustainable water management and would be supported to continue to use their creativity, knowledge, innovation, technology, and potential to find solutions and drive changes to build resilience to disasters caused by water scarcity and climate change. The suggested platform seeks for a diverse group with various educational backgrounds, talents, ethnicity and age.

A Core Group governed by clearly defined roles and responsibilities, code of conduct and ethics, will manage the platform. It is the Core Group's responsibility to maintain the cohesiveness of the platform and to make it a reliable and a sustainable body where the youth of the six countries can interact freely. The Core Group would be consisted of a representative from GWP, RWP, Partner and two representatives at country level including the country youth focal point and another individual/organisation identified by the CWP. Altogether, the core group would consists of maximum 15 members. The partners who are interested on the platform can be registered through an accreditation process whom again abided by the code of conduct of the Platform, and are bounded to contribute to the platform optimally to ensure the viability of the programme.

With this background, the GWP South Asia has developed the concept of forming a Youth and Young Professional Platform of South Asia (YYP) and initiated a baseline survey in the six countries in order to understand the status of youth organisations, initiatives partners, collaborator and donors in the region. The six country reports will be available by end November 2020.

Objectives of the project

1. To formalise a cohesive youth platform/programme within South Asia across the six CWPs to foster youth engagement in their communities
2. Mobilise and empower the GWP water youth country ambassadors, young water professionals and wider youth networks in countries.
3. Strengthen collaboration with other regional youth organisations and other professional bodies and stablish more effective public communication of youth activities at all levels
4. Enhance the connection with decision making stakeholders through national governments and through multi-national organisations as well as with private sector and entrepreneurial organisations
5. Contribute to capacity building, knowledge and innovations in higher education in addressing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the programmatic areas of GWP

Target Audience

- Young professionals below 35 years
- Youth organisations
- Students at high schools, universities/institutions studying science, engineering, economics, management and social sciences

Objective and deliverables of the consultancy service:

In line with the overall objectives mentioned above, GWP SAS Secretariat in collaboration with Country Water Partnerships (CWPs), have identified a youth Focal Point in each country to carry out stocktaking survey on youth organisations active in the country, the nature of the activities, their partners, collaborator and donors. This task has been initiated in mid-September 2020 and the survey questionnaire and related documents are attached as annexes to this document. The country reports will be available by end of November 2020.

The deliverables:

1. The South Asia Regional Synthesis Survey Report based on the six country summery reports namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
2. Develop the governance of the Core Group including the guidelines for establishment, rules and regulations and bylaws
3. Design the accreditation process of the Partners
4. Development of the code of conduct for the youth platform including applications and agreements.
5. Produce a two-year Work Programme Plan consisted of the project implementation path, project budgets, resource mobilisation/partner engagement plan, communication and outreach plan with possible advocacy events and monitoring and evaluation plan aligned with the baseline survey.
6. Develop minimum of two web-based promotional/communication materials and two print media that can be used for Project Launch and establishment

All the documentations should be developed with the close observation of GWP SAS Regional Office in view of establishing a cohesive and sustainable “Youth & Young Water Professionals Platform of South Asia Programme Plan”. GWP’s core values including youth centric, gender inclusive approaches should be considered by the Consultant in all the spheres of the project as well as GWPs solidarity in the current pandemic crisis have to be highlighted in all the approaches in developing the platform.

Duration of the consultancy.

4 weeks from signing the contract.

NOTE: There will not be any mobilisation payment hence the duration of the consultancy is very short.

Payment Plan:

1. 50% of the consultancy payment (excluding mandatory tax payments) on completion of deliverable 1, 2 & 3 and acceptance by the project proponent,
2. 30% of the balance payment (excluding tax) of submission of deliverable 4 & 5
3. Balance payment (after deduction of tax) will be paid upon the acceptance of deliverable 6.

Qualifications of the successful bidder

The bidders (individual firm) should meet the below requirements:

- Minimum 3 years' experience in project management of development cooperation programmes, preferably youth-focused
- Good personal network in relation with the role of Youth in tackling the Water/SDG challenges an asset
- Knowledgeable on the concept of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and related topics.
- Relevant university degree in science or political sciences.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Proven track record of similar consultancy in the last 5 years.
- Proven track records for producing viable advocacy and communication/marketing materials
- Prior experience in working in South Asia region, on sustainable management of water resources and mobilising engagement of youth and marginalised/women in water management (all/any of the above topics) would be an added value to the assignment.
- Association with any regional and global youth platforms

Consultancy Budget

Euro 3,800 (inclusive of mandatory Withholding Tax applicable in Sri Lanka)

The Expression of Interest (EOI) should indicate the following information:

- Brief profile of you/organisation
- Names, qualifications and experience of the members of the team
- Experience of at least one member of the team in preparation of successful work programme
- agreement to adhere to the proposed terms of reference, timeframe, data policy and mechanism of releasing of funds

How to Apply: Expression of Interest (EOI) should be addressed to lal.induruwge@gwpsas.org.

**Female candidates encouraged to apply.