

Activity:	Workforce for an Innovation and Start-up Ecosystem in Vietnam (WISE)
Consultants:	Legal Consultant
Period of Performance:	March 1, 2023 - May 31, 2023

ACTIVITY BACKGROUND

The USAID Workforce for an Innovation and Start-up Ecosystem (WISE) Activity is USAID Vietnam's effort to support innovative ways to develop the workforce readiness sector by supporting the country's burgeoning market for training workers in Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) skill sets. The goal of the WISE activity is to pilot solutions that can improve Vietnam's 4IR workforce readiness status. WISE seeks to collaborate with its government partner the National Innovation Center (NIC), the private sector, not-for-profit training institutions, employers, and other relevant stakeholders to innovate, test, and expand market-driven, sustainable models for a more competitive workforce to facilitate Vietnam's transition to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

As part of the NIC's strategy for supporting Vietnam's innovation ecosystem, it developed the Hoa Lac National Innovation Center, located in the Hoa Lac Hi-Tech Park outside Hanoi. With an initial focus on smart factories, digital content, network security, smart urban areas, and environmental technology, the Center hopes to attract 40 large technology companies, 150 start-ups and SMEs, 15 venture investment funds and create more than 5,000 jobs – developing an innovation ecosystem to support the national economic reform agenda and sustain the impressive economic growth of the country and the region.

The project will develop a plan for private sector engagement to effectively use Hoa Lac National Innovation Center space and services to become the center of excellence in promoting innovation and digital human resources. To achieve the above goals, USAID WISE is looking for qualified consultant with the following scope of work.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

WISE seeks to hire a legal consultant to work with a private sector engagement consultant and the NIC/WISE team to develop a plan for engaging private partners to effectively use the Hoa Lac Innovation Center. The consultant will report directly to the USAID WISE Team Leader in close collaboration with the NIC. S/he will perform the following activities:

- Work with private sector engagement consultant to understand the goals, needs, and constraints surrounding the use of Hoa Lac Innovation Center;
- Review the laws and regulations governing the use of public sector facilities and public-private partnerships as they apply to the Hoa Lac Innovation Center and provide ongoing support to private sector engagement consultant to ensure recommendations are compliant;

- Work with private sector engagement consultant and NIC and MPI leaders to discuss options, solutions and challenges of engaging private sectors and other stakeholders, providing advice and recommendations for legal compliance;
- Review the Draft private sector engagement plan to ensure its compliance with Vietnamese Law and Regulations (e.g., Law on the Management and Use of Public Property; Bidding; Accounting; etc.) for discussion with private sector partners and NIC;
- Provide legal consultation and work with private sector engagement consultant to finalize the plan based on input and comments and the private sector partners and NIC.

The consultants will work closely with the private sector engagement consultant under the supervision of NIC and WISE, and report to the WISE Team Leader, Quang Phan, and NIC's Deputy Director, Mr. Do Tien Thinh. All deliverables will be subject to approval by the US-SEGA team; including WISE Activity Director, Taunya Atwood, Deputy Chief of Party, Amanda Saville, and/or Chief of Party, Ann Katsiak or their designee.

ACTIVITY DELIVERABLES

The Consultant will deliver the following:

- Participate in meetings and briefing as requested by WISE and NIC, in agreement with the private sector engagement consultant. **Meetings are likely to be held in Vietnamese;*
- Review the draft and final copy of the Private Sector Engagement Plan for compliance, including provision of recommendations for compliance. **The plan will be delivered in English and Vietnamese. The consultant is expected to review the written Vietnamese version;*
- Participate in review sessions with NIC and other stakeholders to provide compliance recommendations. **These sessions are likely to be conducted in Vietnamese;*
- The plan will be in Vietnamese with a presentation and summary in English.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The individual must conform to the following qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Law/Public Policy or related fields (or equivalent degrees) or Bachelor's Degree and additional years of experience;
- Minimum five years of legal experience or relevant public policy experience; experience working in public-private partnerships preferred;
- Minimum of five years of experience working in Innovation and Start-up field preferred.
- Ability to think strategically and establish trusted advisor relationships with clients.
- Well-established results orientation and client/partner focus.
- Extensive client counseling experience with track record of effectively helping clients identify strategic goals, prioritize key issues, and find (and document) pragmatic and solutions to fulfill project needs.

- Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to interact with and build strong relationships with colleagues and partners and provide creative solutions in a professional manner.
- Strong analytical skills;
- Fluent Vietnamese with excellent written and verbal communication skills; excellent English preferred.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

DURATION, BUDGET, AND TIMELINES

The consultant will work for 40 days during the next 3 months and complete the report by May 31, 2023. We anticipate it will take approximately 40 days, but applicant should suggest your estimate, inclusive of all time and resources required to meet the deliverables.

Interested candidates can send their application to vananh@mbi.net.vn not later than February 25, 2023.