

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

ADVISOR (FUTURE OF EDUCATION) FOR THE ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLATFORMS

A. BACKGROUND

The ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on *A Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN* on 26 June 2020 called for concerted efforts to identify emerging challenges and opportunities to better formulate initiatives to ensure ASEAN is better positioned for the new Normal, and as we work toward developing the ASEAN Community Vision Post 2025, while taking into account ASEAN's COVID-19 exit strategy. The ASEAN Chairman's Statement of the 36th ASEAN Summit in June 2020 likewise emphasised the need to look beyond the progress and achievements, and to assess the changes on the strategic landscape of ASEAN community building efforts and identify emerging issues that need to be taken into considerations towards 2025 and beyond.

A robust repository of information and research through proposed ASCC Research and Development Platform is expected to enable the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community to develop and implement holistic solutions will be required against the backdrop of the fast-changing and emerging challenges confronting the region. These challenges also lend greater urgency to intensify collaborative research, and embrace a greater diversity of perspectives and ideas, so that decision makers can fully understand the fault lines and underlying causes of socio-economic problems, and develop the relevant solutions.

The ASCC Research and Development Platform (Future of Education) is a newly developed project aimed at addressing the concerns raised at the above-mentioned high-level regional fora. The outputs of this ASCC Research and Development Platform will contribute meaningfully to more informed decisions that ASCC sectoral bodies could take in developing and implementing initiatives. The specific researches will be anchored in respective post-2020 work plans of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED).

For this purpose, the ASEAN Secretariat invites applications from ASEAN and Republic of Korea (ROK) nationals to undertake the assignment of Advisor (Future of Education) as part of the ASCC Research and Development Platforms Project. ROK nationals with strong knowledge and experience in ASEAN affairs are strongly encouraged to apply.

B. OBJECTIVE AND OUTPUTS

The project aims to put in place an effective research and development framework for ASCC Sectoral Bodies that would produce deliverables in the form of (i) quarterly trend reports, (ii) bi-monthly policy briefs, and (iii) events such as webinars and forums, to inform policy-making as well as explore solutions. Through the ASCC Research and Development Platform, the project seeks to hire a high-calibre education expert advisor for ASEAN who will guide and be involved in the

development of the above-mentioned series of research outputs and forums. The Advisor is also expected to share expertise and experience in the key areas prioritised by the sector/s under the purview of the Education, Youth and Sports (EYSD) and provide advice through coaching or mentoring of this division and other ASCC divisions. The Advisor is also expected to be involved closely in the production process of the deliverables. Please refer to Section F for the duration of work.

C. SCOPE OF WORK AND ACTIVITIES

The Advisor will develop and produce the following broad outputs of the ASCC Research and Development Platform on education sector:

1. Organise and conduct Online Forums for effective sharing of knowledge, case studies and best-practices

The Advisor will facilitate and guide the platform to organise three (3) online/hybrid (modality to be confirmed) events to provide a venue for stakeholders to share knowledge, experience and best practices on the platform topic. The platform will comprise of relevant thematic sessions with the participation of stakeholders including but not limited to policy-makers from the relevant ASCC Sectors, subject matter experts and thought leaders from all professional backgrounds, and policy practitioners to inform policy decisions from the ground perspective.

2. Produce Flagship Reports which are targeted at assessing current trends and identifying emerging ones within the education sector in ASEAN

The platform will produce 3 flagship reports, focusing on major issues or current trends and gaps, within the short-to-medium- and long-term, and offer the SOM-ED a different perspective on the outlook of the education sector. The flagship reports will assess and monitor the current issues pertaining to the respective sectors to call for the attention of and inform the respective ASCC Sectoral Bodies of critical developments in ASEAN. the Advisor is expected to draft the reports in close consultation with AMD and EYSD divisions

3. Produce the Policy Briefs which serve as “think-pieces” for the ASCC Sectoral Bodies information and consideration

The platform will produce 6 policy briefs on issues of significance towards the implementation of the ASEAN Vision 2025, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 and the ASEAN Workplan on Education 2021-2025. The policy briefs, serving as “think-pieces”, will introduce fresh perspectives on strategic long-term challenges and offer an additional layer of system thinking and analysis that complements and enhances the work of the SOM-ED., the Advisor is expected to draft the Policy Briefs in close consultation with AMD and EYSD divisions.

4. Provide Advice to the ASCC Division on the Strategic Direction for the Sector

- a. Work with the concerned ASCC Divisions to identify specific technical and strategic programme management capacity gaps or needs that may have to be enhanced, where required;
- b. Provide value-added and innovative technical inputs to a specific programme priority or development concern of the sector related to cross-cutting concerns or engagements of high-value, or relevant to future programming of the sector;
- c. Advice on strategic directions in managing or addressing emerging social development trends or agreements that have current or future implications to the programme priorities or cross-cutting concerns;
- d. Provide support or advice to advocacy initiatives on social development priorities with cross-cutting themes based on the identified capacity needs or gaps; and,
- e. Develop and conduct the production of the Policy Briefs, Trend Reports and online forums as outlined in the Project Proposal for the ASCC Research and Development Platforms.

The main activities of the project that will involve the advisor include:

1. Initiation Meeting with ASEAN Secretariat to discuss detailed work plan;
2. Conduct three (3) Online Forums for effective sharing of knowledge, case studies and best-practices.;
3. Develop/Produce three (3) Flagship Reports which are targeted at assessing current trends within the education sector in ASEAN;
4. Develop/Produce six (6) Policy Briefs which serve as “think-pieces” for the ASCC Sectoral Bodies information and consideration; and
5. Finalisation of project outputs.

D. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

The advisor shall report directly to the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department with assistance from ASCC Monitoring Division (coordination division) and Education, Youth and Sports Division.

The Advisor will be supported by the Project Officer, who will also be contracted to support the ASCC Research and Development platform. He/She will work closely in coordination with ASCC Analysis and Monitoring Division (AMD), as the lead coordinating division, and the Education Youth and Sports (LCSD) of the ASEAN Secretariat.

E. QUALIFICATIONS

The expert should be **ASEAN or Republic of Korea (ROK)** nationals, who ideally satisfy the following criteria:

- a. Advanced degree in the relevant area of expertise for ASEAN education sector with at least 15 years of experience in the specific field of expertise at the global or regional levels. (*please provide evidence of academic qualifications*)

- b. Extensive body of recognised research work, publications, or consultancy work utilised by international or regional institutions or national governments. *(please provide list of experience/work/research/publication)*
- c. Demonstrable experience and good understanding of the specific social development concerns or issues, either cross-cutting or not, in reference to the specific identified needs of the ASCC division. *(please provide list of experience/work/research/publication)*
- d. Demonstrated leadership role in his/her field of expertise at regional or global levels; *(please provide list of leadership experience)*
- e. Demonstrable experience of advising on his/her expertise relevant to social development matters. *(please provide list of working experience)*
- f. Extensive experience working with development management teams/organisations at national, regional or international levels/national governments in a senior management position, and experience in public policy development and negotiation. *(please provide list of working experience)*
- g. Currently having an active role in his/her field of expertise at the regional or international levels. *(please provide information on current active role)*
- h. Ability to work harmoniously in a team environment and with diverse groups of individuals in cross-cultural environment and international settings. *(please provide list of working experience)*
- i. Demonstrated sound oral and written communication skills and sound interpersonal skills, including experience in cross-cultural environment and international settings. *(please provide list of working experience)*
- j. Demonstrated commitment to collaborative work practices. *(please provide list of working experience)*
- k. Proven skills in problem solving in a complex organisational environment and in work planning. *(please provide list of working experience)*
- l. Demonstrated ability to work harmoniously in a team environment and with diverse groups of individuals in cross-cultural environment and international settings. *(please provide list of working experience)*

F. DURATION OF SERVICES

The expert will be engaged in the main activities as indicated which will take place until end of May 2023. The proposed indicative timeline of the project, which can be further discussed with the reporting parties, is specified as follows:

No.	Activities	Indicative Timeline
1.	1 st Online/Hybrid Forum	July/August 2022
2.	2 nd Online/Hybrid Forum	January/February 2022
3.	3 rd Online/Hybrid Forum	May/June 2023
4.	3 Flagship Reports	May 2022 – May 2023
5.	6 Policy Briefs	May 2022 – May 2023

The funding for the advisory project shall be obtained from the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund. Advisor service funds will be released based on the following schedule:

No.	Upon Submission to the ASEAN Secretariat of the following work	Latest date of submission	Amount
1.	One online/hybrid forum synthesis report (1st), one flagship reports and two policy briefs	The 1st flagship report and 1st and 2nd policy briefs, upon concurrence of ASEAN Secretariat, Mission of ROK to ASEAN and the ASEAN-ROK Programme Management Team (AKPMT)	30%
2.	One online/hybrid forum synthesis report (2nd), one flagship report and two policy briefs	The 2nd flagship report and 3rd and 4th policy briefs, upon concurrence of ASEAN Secretariat, Mission of ROK to ASEAN and AKPMT	30%
3.	One online/hybrid forum synthesis report (3rd), one flagship report, and two policy briefs	The 3rd flagship report and 5th and 6th policy briefs, upon concurrence of ASEAN Secretariat, Mission of ROK to ASEAN and AKPMT	40%

The location of the assignment will be in the country of the specialist. All meetings will be held virtually for the following:

1. Initiation Meeting with ASEAN Secretariat to discuss detailed work plan;
2. Consultation with relevant ASCC Sectoral Divisions;
3. Three (3) online forums; and
4. Dissemination of flagship reports and policy briefs.
