



ARTNeT Phase IV Research Programme

"Supporting Equitable Economic development in ASEAN: Impact of regional integration (AEC) on Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV countries)"

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Research Programme Focus

A. Context

Existing literature points towards the substantial gap in economic development between Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam to a lesser extent (CLMV countries) and the other members of the Association of the Southeast Nations (ASEAN) as one of the key challenges for the region and its ability to fully realize the benefits from the regional integration. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) will be implemented by the end of December 2015. One of the pillars of AEC directly addresses the need to narrow these development gaps, based on the understanding that more equitable community will allow faster growth for all parts of the community. As the CLMV countries mature and embrace graduation out of LDCs group (for CLM countries) and Viet Nam start to move on the path towards a middle-income developing country, they face a different global environment from then one that was faced by the ASEAN-6 when they were at the similar level of development.

For instance, the ability of developing countries to benefit from market access for exports depends increasingly on compliance with trade regulatory measures such as sanitary and phytosanitary requirements and goods standards, and many other standard-like measures and behind-the-border measures. The CLMV countries face this problem on both sides of their border which increases their trade costs and reduces their ability to follow ASEAN-6 in exploiting the trade and regional integration effectively for their development. Thus, they will need to better prepare for the adoption of traditional trade liberalization and trade facilitation. Reducing trade costs for CLMVs requires a sustained effort to improve trade facilitating infrastructures and reduce other implications such as unnecessary border procedures. In order to curb the adverse impact of diverse own non-tariff measures, such as undue regulatory barriers, CLMVs should learn more effectively from other ASEAN and Asian countries, or EU countries having faced the same problems.

B. The ARTNeT CLMV Project

With support from [Agence Française de Développement](#) (AFD), ARTNeT is launching a new project entitled "Supporting Equitable Economic Development in ASEAN: Impact of regional integration (AEC) on Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV countries)." Reflecting the challenges

posed by the AEC, the objective of the project is to strengthen the technical and analytical skills of researchers and officials from CLMV countries to manage and assess the impact of:

(a) non-tariff measures, and

(b) protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) (e.g., through geographical indications for food products exports).

The project comprises a research element, alongside capacity-building and knowledge dissemination events and will run through until December 2016.

The objective is to strengthen the technical and analytical skills of officials and researchers from CLMV countries to manage use and assessment of the impact of 1) non-tariff measures, and 2) protection of intellectual property rights (in the wider context of quality management of goods and services and credible certification processes); a special focus on geographical indications (GI) covering impacts, difficulties, opportunities, and relevance would be appreciated. The intended impact is the development of effective responses in CLMV countries in these policy areas. The expected outcome is improved technical and analytical capability of CLMV officials in managing NTMs, including through higher readiness to share information on own NTMs through WTO notifications and AEC Trade Repository. Likewise, better understanding of the GI and issues related to quality management and certification processes for promoting subregional employment and trade will be among the expected impacts.

The **research component** of this project will emphasize thematic regional research projects. The programme is expected to comprise up to two such regional studies related to each of the two topics explained: NTMs and Protection of IPRs. These studies are expected to result in professional publications either as bound volumes or as individual working papers, as appropriate. In addition, four national policy briefs are also expected to be published.

For each of the thematic studies, a team leader, to the extent possible from the region, will be appointed by the ARTNeT Secretariat in consultation with AFD following a competitive selection process which may include a call for expression of interest by early January 2016. Team leaders will be hired mainly in their individual capacity and may not necessarily be associated with an ARTNeT member institution – although they are expected to be from developing countries in the region. The overall objective of the team leader is to coordinate work of individual (national) researchers and contribute to a delivery of a high-standard and relevant policy regional study.

Call for Research Proposals

ARTNeT invites researchers who wish to contribute to the ARTNeT Phase IV research programme to submit a proposal related to the above-mentioned two themes to the ARTNeT Secretariat by 18 January 2016.

Research proposals should be less than 5 pages. The proposal should include the following:

1. Title
2. Research problem [1/2 page]
3. Brief literature review [1/2 to 1 page]
4. Research question(s) and Scope of study [1/2 page]
5. Methodology and data [1 page]
6. Expected research outcome and policy relevance [1/2 page]
7. Proposed research team (include CVs) and timeline (7 months maximum)
8. Budget (depending on scope of work and extent of primary data collection up to €9,000 payable in US\$, following UN rules and regulations in this area)
9. Expression of interest to be appointed as a team leader (fee to be determined at a later stage).

Selection criteria

The proposals will be reviewed by the Secretariat with help from external advisors and collaborating institutions. The following criteria will be used for the evaluation:

- Relevance of the proposal
- Relevance of the expected results to policy makers in the Asia-Pacific region
- Technical quality and clarity of the proposal
- Research experience of the research team
- Potential contribution to trade research capacity building in the region.

Eligibility

All ARTNeT member institutions, researchers affiliated with them as well as other researchers, especially from the CLMV countries, are eligible to submit proposals. Female researchers are particularly encouraged to submit their papers for consideration. Submissions from researchers in least developed countries will be given special consideration.

Selected proposals will be awarded a research grant ranging for up to €9,000 (payable in US\$ following UN rules and regulations), depending on the scope of the research envisaged. Fees for team leaders will be paid separately.

Timeline

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| 1. Deadline for proposal submission | 18 Jan 2016 |
| 2. Notification of selection | No later than 30 Jan 2016 |
| 3. Delivery of final versions of papers | 30 Aug 2016 |
| 4. Dissemination events (TBA) | 4 th quarter of 2016 |

Submission of Proposals

Interested researchers are encouraged to submit their proposals as early as possible, and no later than **18 January 2016** by email to the ARTNeT Secretariat at artnetontrade@un.org.

Please email the ARTNeT Secretariat at artnetontrade@un.org with any questions on this Call for Proposals. We look forward to reading your submissions!

ARTNeT Secretariat