Terms of Reference for Consultancy
AHEAD/RA3/RIC/SUSL/FOG/CON/TOR 5
Of Socio-Economic Base-Line Survey
AHEAD/RA3/RIC/SUSL/FOG/CON/5
Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD)
Operation Project RIC
InforBhoomi (Grant No: AHEAD/RIC/STEM/HEMS/No. 24)
Faculty of Geomatics- Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

1. BACKGROUND

The development of the higher education sector is of a central importance to enable Sri Lanka to make the transition from a Lower-Middle Income Country (LMIC) to an Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC). Recognizing this, the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the World Bank have agreed to support the higher education sector through a Bank Funded Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation.

2. THE OPERATION

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation is organized into two components. The first is a Program Component that supports the national Higher Education Development Program. The second is a systems strengthening, capacity building and technical assistance component that will assist GoSL to strengthen the higher education sector and achieve the objectives of the AHEAD program component. This second will also cover monitoring and evaluation, policy analyses, program coordination and communication.

The implementing agency is the Ministry of Higher Education and Highways (MHEH). The University Grants Commission (UGC) will coordinate the activities of the universities. There will be an Operations Monitoring and Support Team (OMST) which will coordinate and support all AHEAD activities between the MHEH, UGC, and the universities.

AHEAD has three Results Areas:
Results Area 1: Increasing Enrollment in Priority Disciplines for Economic Development
Results Area 2: Improving the Quality of Higher Education
Results Area 3: Promoting Research, Development and Innovation

The project InfoBhoomi, funded under AHEAD RIC grants, focuses on the development of localized Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for supporting local governance processes. Local Government Authorities (LAs) are the primary tier of the governance system of Sri Lanka. LAs are responsible for administration and regulation of matters relating to public health, utility services, thoroughfares, etc. Yet, efficient delivery of public services by LAs is hindered due to weak capacity and limited resource availability. National Policy on Local Government 1632/26, 2009 aims to facilitate the transformation of LAs to effectively lead local development contributing to achieving national goals. Local data management for evidence-based decision making is a core aspect of this transformation.

The Faculty of Geomatics, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL) in this context, plans to design a localized Spatial Data Infrastructure (InfoBhoomi) to integrate the local spatial databases into a single web-based environment and pilot it at the Municipality of Bandarawela.

Reliable data from local level will flow as inputs, as a result of increased capacities of data suppliers facilitated by the project to ensure effectiveness of the new data management system. A knowledge-hub set up at the SUSL with the project commercial partner, will identify options for cost-effective data service provision and service provision based on business models to be considered by the municipality and related local service providers. The GeoinfoBox will facilitate necessary linkages for solution development for the local problems identified, their nature and extent based on accurate data. Existing socially/environmentally viable solutions developed by the private sector and by NGOs/CBOs, especially those options that have track records of being used successfully elsewhere including internationally. Strengthened local data availability will also trigger R&D.

The project requires conducting a baseline survey prior to the start of project activities in Bandarawela and testing the InfoBhoomi, to capture starting socio economic and environmental status of the Bandarawela municipal area, so that improvements attributing to the project interventions can be monitored and better captured. The baseline study is also expected to further endorse already identified needs for the SDI and help to develop an appropriate project monitoring system to capture socio-economic and environmental improvement that will take place with the introduction of the SDI. Land resource improvement facilitated by the SDI is measured by the Sustainable Land Index (SLI). The SLI offers a comparable value of social and environmental sustainability, for a given land parcel. It is estimated based on selected parameters such as vegetation, water, soil, livelihood and land use, which helps determine the current status of a given land parcel objectively. The SLI, estimated based on reliable data, will be a convenient tool to determine and compare land sustainability across parcels.

3. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY

1. To conduct a baseline survey to capture the current socio-economic and environmental (SEE) status of the municipal area of the BMC.
    a. Need of spatial information for providing the public services at the EOI (Expression of Interest)
    b. Identify the parameters that require Indexing the present soil degradation conditions of the EOI and indexing the present soil degradation conditions c. Indexing the present Livelihood condition of the EOI
    d. Indexing the land use conditions of the EOI
    e. Indexing the water quality index of the EOI
    f. The efficiency of the present utilization of Spatial information

2. Assess the need for the development of a SDI (i.e. InfoBoomi) to guide the BMC to develop viable and socially and environmentally friendly local solutions to improve SEE in the area.
3. Identify key SEE issues both overall and specific ones pertaining especially to land and recommend areas that should be monitored on regular intervals by the project
4. Suggest project specific SEE indicators for including in the project monitoring framework

4. SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY

Selection of samples of 10% of the population and data collection and analysis in socio economic aspect

5. KEY TASKS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The main duties and responsibilities of the Consultant will be to:

Key Task	Required Deliverable*	Time frame (after signing the contract)
1. Developing the Survey Proposal in collaboration with the project team and submit the finalized version	Proposal presentation	At the end of 4thweek
2. Submission of the draft finding Stage 1	Progress Report	At the end of 8thweek
3. Submission of the draft finding Stage 2	Progress Report	At the end of 12th week
4. Submission of the final report	Database and final report	At the end of 16thweek

6. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The contract will be for 4 months from the date of signing the contract.

7. MODE OF PAYMENT

Based on	Share from the total amount	Time frame
Completion of Key Task 1	20%	End of the 4th week
Completion of Key Task 2	20%	End of the 8th week
Completion of Key Task 3	20%	End of the 12th week
Completion of Key Task 4	40%	End of the 16th week

$^{+}$In order to make payments, all the deliverable must be up to the satisfactory level of the project coordinator and team members of the InfoBhoomi project

8. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

● Postgraduate qualifications in the relevant area

● Over 10 years' experience as an academic and/or professional in the relevant field

9. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT

Interested candidates should send their EOI, Price Proposal along with a proposal and CV to the OTS director. Selection will be made based on an evaluation of the candidate's expertise in the subject area and the proposed methodology

10. REPORTING THE DELIVERABLE

The consultant shall closely coordinate and report to the Coordinator of the Project InfoBhoomi

11. REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

● ability to carry out the key tasks effectively and efficiently

● ability to interact with senior academic and administrative staff of the university

● ability to function effectively in a team environment inspiring trust and cooperation of other team members

● ability to work efficiently and to meet deadlines

● strong communication and negotiating skills, and good interpersonal relations

● ability to speak, read and write fluent English, and assist in the production of project reports in English.

12. OWNERSHIP OF THE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment is funded by the Ministry of Higher Education via AHEAD-OMST under the program component of AHEAD. As such, the University shall be the owner of the assignment and will reserves the Intellectual Property Rights for all deliverable of the assignment under the terms and conditions given in the IP policy of the University. The Consultant will have no right of claim to the assignment or its outputs once it is completed and no rights to use Data and Information gathered through the assignment for other purposes without written permission from the Vice Chancellor. Any Reports/ Data/ Information produced as a part of this assignment shall be handed over to the Client in soft and hard forms.

13. CONFIDENTIALITY

The consultant should strictly adhere to the Confidentiality of InfoBhoomi project details including but not limited to its designs, know-how, architecture, and any information related to the project and confidentiality of stakeholder information and data obtained during the assignment and not divulge the same either directly or indirectly to any person or party.