

Consultant Request

Title: Regional Landscape and Network Analysis Research Consultants Empowering the Truth Tellers: Asia Investigative Reporting Network (AIR Network)

Date of Solicitation: November 17th, 2023

Period of Performance: December 11th 2023 – April 30th 2024 (exact dates to be finalized with selected candidate)

A. Introduction

Pact is an international development nonprofit that works on the ground in nearly 40 countries to end poverty and marginalization. We partner with local organizations, businesses, and governments to build lasting solutions for thriving, resilient communities. Our vision is a world where everyone owns their future.

Pact, together with consortium partner, the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), is implementing a five-year Asia Investigative Reporting Network (AIR Network) program funded by USAID. The AIR Network aims to strengthen collaboration between investigative journalists and civic actors to catalyze citizen engagement, promote accountability, and advance a common vision of a more-inclusive, transparent, and democratic society. To this end, the program will facilitate the formation of a locally led investigative journalism network operating in at least six Southeast Asian countries, starting in Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The AIR Network will build journalists' investigative journalism skills and knowledge, promote mutual collaboration between media and civil society, and strengthen the quality, reach and impact of investigative reporting.

B. Scope of Work

AIR is conducting an interrelated series of formative assessments, including a network and landscape analysis, a media assessment, an applied political economy analysis, and a gender equity and social inclusion assessment. Cognizant of the dynamism and diversity of Southeast Asia, each of these studies is regional in nature, and will examine media and civil society dynamics in Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Specifically, the Landscape and Network analysis will, through an *organizational network analysis*, examine existing investigative journalists' networks, analyze linkages among journalists and other actors, and identify individual journalists and media outlets to include in network-building efforts. This analysis will also include a *media assessment* and include a map of the media landscape throughout the target countries, including outlets, personalities, journalism schools, professors, and NGOs. The results of this study, in addition to the other assessments, will be shared with project stakeholders and will enable AIR to refine the Year 1 workplan and activities, provide critical inputs into the development of a Phase 1 strategy for the program, and support the team to identify prospective network members.

To ensure a focused research effort, the Landscape and Network Analysis will seek to answer a set of research questions tied to key decision points for the program, rather than a broader analysis for general consumption. This assignment will have either one lead consultant, or two co-leads leading on the organizational and network analysis and media assessment respectively,

and they will work in close coordination with members of the AIR team, alongside DC-based Pact and ICFJ colleagues, particularly the Pact Research Manager. With input from the extended AIR team, they will lead on the finalization of the research questions, methodology, data collection tools, and analysis plan and will determine the content of the final deliverable(s). The consultant(s) will also ensure that data is collected and organized appropriately, and lead on the drafting and revision of the final deliverables, integrating feedback from the AIR team. They are responsible for continuously engaging with the AIR team on the research process and responding to feedback as needed. The AIR team will facilitate joint planning, data collection, and analysis where appropriate to ensure that each individual assessment contributes to a cohesive inception report.

C. Eligibility

Individual consultants, research agencies, and teams of free-lance consultants are welcome to apply. They may be based anywhere and work remotely, however, the lead researchers are expected to travel to Southeast Asia to lead and participate in the primary research process. Individual consultants are required to propose a team of supporting researchers and enumerators in their application. Consultants are required to provide their own computers and phones for the assignment and will be reimbursed for travel and related expenses.

D. Qualifications

AIR is seeking consultant(s) who can lead both the organizational network analysis and the media assessment but is open to consultant(s) applying to lead either the organizational network analysis or the media assessment. Please indicate if you would only like to be considered for the organizational network analysis or media assessment component in your application.

- *Lead researcher*: Master's degree or higher in one of the following or related fields: political science, journalism, communication, anthropology, law, economics with 7-10 years of relevant experience.
Assistant researchers (if included in research team makeup): Bachelor's degree or higher in one of the following or related fields: political science, journalism, communication, anthropology, law, economics with 5+ years of experience.
Enumerators (if included with the research application): Bachelor's degree or higher in one of the following or related fields: political science, journalism, communication, anthropology, law, economics with 1+ years of experience.
- Strong social science and qualitative research skills
- A deep knowledge of the media landscape throughout Southeast Asia, especially the issues directly affecting investigative journalists
- A nuanced and robust understanding of the diverse political, economic, and legislative context of Southeast Asia
- A knowledge of transnational and regional priorities in the region, including transnational crime, corruption, and corrosive capital is preferred
- The proposed team must include researchers/enumerators fluent in written and spoken English, and a working proficiency in spoken Thai, Bahasa Indonesia, and Filipino. If applying as an individual consultant, please indicate how you will address this requirement in your application.

E. Application Instructions

Applications should be submitted to thailandprocurement@pactworld.org with

the subject line “AIR Landscape and Network Analysis Application” and must be received by December 8th, 2023. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Please include a single cover letter that explains how the proposed team is responsive to the listed qualifications, include CVs for all members of the research team indicating who is the lead researcher, assistant researchers, and enumerators, and indicate if you would like to be considered for the organizational and network analysis, media assessment, or both. A brief cost proposal, including daily rates for all team members, estimates for travel expenses (e.g. M&IE and transportation) and other research-related costs as appropriate, is also required. Selected applicants will be invited to an interview to further discuss the research framework and cost considerations.

F. Evaluation Criteria

Pact will evaluate applicants using the follow criteria:

Criteria	Score (Out of 100 total pts.)
Daily rate or total proposed cost	20
Qualifications	50
Past performance	15
Ability to meet project schedule	15
Total:	100

G. Terms and Conditions

A. Disclaimers

- Pact/AIR reserves the right to modify by written notice the terms of this solicitation at any time in its sole discretion. Pact may cancel the solicitation at any time.
- Pact/AIR may reject any or all proposals received.
- Issuance of solicitation does not constitute award commitment by Pact.
- Pact/AIR reserves the right to disqualify any quotation based on applicant’s failure to follow solicitation instructions.
- Pact/AIR will not compensate applicants for their response to the solicitation.
- Pact/AIR reserves the right to issue an award based on initial evaluation of applications without further discussion.
- Pact/AIR may choose to award only part of the scope of work in the solicitation or to issue multiple awards for the scope of work.
- Pact/AIR reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
- Pact/AIR may contact applicants to confirm information and that the proposal was submitted for this solicitation.
- Pact/AIR may contact listed past performance references without notice to the applicant. Pact/AIR also reserves the right to contact other past performance information sources that the applicant did not list in the proposal.
- By submitting a proposal, the applicant confirms they understand the terms and conditions.
- Information pertaining to and obtained from the applicant as a result of participation in this solicitation is confidential. The applicant consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the applicants to the reviewers involved in the selection process. Please note that all reviewers are bound by non-disclosure agreements.