

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

### **Individual Consultant to Review Rsif Doctoral Programs at the Rsif African Host Universities**

**Project Name:** Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund for Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (RSIF)

**Reference No:** KE-ICIPE-005/2023-CS-INDV

**Grant No.:** D347-3A

**Expected duration:** 30 days

**Expected start date:** 01/10/2023

**Application deadline:** 11/08/2023

#### **A. Background**

The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (Rsif)<sup>1</sup> is the flagship program of the Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) established by African governments to address systemic gaps in knowledge and skills necessary for long-term, sustained economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

The Rsif aims to (a) support competitively selected African host universities (AHUs) to establish high-quality PhD training, promote research excellence and improve innovation environments in the universities; (b) provide a model for inter-Africa student exchange and international collaboration in training and research; (c) develop transformative technologies to tackle the continent's most pressing challenges; and (d) build a critical mass of highly skilled leaders in science and engineering, and (e) support more women in science. The priority sectors for Rsif are ICTs including big data and artificial intelligence; food security and agribusiness; minerals, mining, and materials engineering; energy including renewables; and climate change.

Rsif is funded by African governments. Other key partners and contributors are the World Bank and the Government of South Korea. The International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) located in Nairobi, Kenya is the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) of the Rsif.

*icipe* as the Rsif RCU is seeking the services of an individual consultant to support its efforts in strengthening the institutional capacity and improving the quality of its doctoral training programs at the AHUs.

#### **B. Objective of Assignment**

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on PASET and the Rsif please visit <https://www.rsif-paset.org/>

The objective of the consultancy assignment is to assist the Rsif supported doctoral programs at the Rsif AHUs align with international accreditation standards and best practices in doctoral training.

### **C. Scope of Assignment**

The scope of the assignment is restricted to the doctoral programs at the 15 Rsif AHUs offering PhD training to the Rsif scholars. The consultant will review the programs and advise on their quality and standard with reference to international best practice and standards in doctoral training. The consultant will also review existing and emerging regional and continental accreditation programs for doctoral studies such as efforts by the Inter-University Council of East Africa, the Association of African Universities through African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA) and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA); and the relevance of these instruments in supporting Rsif AHUs to obtain international accreditation for their programs. The assignment should assist the AHUs who have either started or completed the international accreditation process to fill missing gaps or links and enable the AHUs that have not yet started to take steps towards an international accreditation of their PhD programs.

### **D. Roles of the Consultant**

The consultant is expected to undertake the following tasks:

- i. Conduct a desk review of the Rsif doctoral programs at the AHUs based on the information available at the RCU and online.
- ii. Conduct interviews (virtual) with the AHU coordinators and selected Rsif Scholars and Alumni.
- iii. Using existing international, continental, and regional accreditation standards and guidelines for PhD programs, develop a tool (or manual) with indicators that AHUs can use to conduct a self-assessment of the quality and standard of their PhD programs.
- iv. Using the developed tool, coordinate the AHU self-assessment exercise.
- v. Prepare a comprehensive report of the self-assessments of Rsif PhD programs.
- vi. Based on findings from i - iv, prepare an estimate of the relative cost of delivering a high-quality doctoral training program.

### **E. Responsibilities of the RCU**

- i. The RCU will be the liaison between the consultant and the AHU coordinator and university leadership.
- ii. The RCU will provide the consultant with project documents related to the consultancy as may be required.

## F. Deliverables and Timelines

The assignment will be spread over a 3-month period as follows:

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Person days</b>
1. An inception report with a workplan for the assignment.	2 Days
2. A report of the review of the Rsif doctoral programs at the AHUs.	10 Days
3. A self-assessment tool for AHUs.	3 Days
4. A consolidated AHUs self-assessment report of the standard and quality of their doctoral programs.	12 Days
5. An estimated cost of delivering a high-quality PhD program using the Rsif model.	3 Days

## G. Qualifications and experience

### Academic Qualification

The consultant should have a PhD degree in a relevant field.

### Experience and desirable attributes

- i. At least 10 years of experience in a higher education related work.
- ii. Experience with higher education standards and quality assurance, including accreditation is desirable.
- iii. Familiarity with international accreditation standards for PhD programs and the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA).
- iv. Excellent research and analytical skills.
- v. Excellent writing skills.
- vi. Ability to work independently and deliver high-quality work within deadlines.

## H. Reporting & Supervision

The consultant will report to the Manager, Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) of the RSIF and his designate RCU-*icipe* staff.

## I. Time Frame

The estimated effort to undertake the assignment is **30 days** spread over 3 months from the date of contract signing.

## J. Application guidelines

Interested applicants should submit the following documents to [rsiftenders@icipe.org](mailto:rsiftenders@icipe.org) by **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023** at 11.00 hrs East Africa time:

A. Technical proposal

- i. Detailed cover letter expressing interest in this assignment, including full contact details (name, tel. e-mail), and physical address.
- ii. Consultant's detailed CV including the following:
  - Evidence of undertaking similar consultancy work during the last 10 years attach at least three (3) for reference.
  - A brief methodology to be used during the assignment.
  - Clear understanding of the assignment/interpretation of the TORs and methodology to be used during the assignment.
  - Work plan clearly indicating the maximum time and duration required for the assignment.
  - Email and telephone contacts of at least three (3) relevant references.
  - Should be in English language.

**K. Criteria for selection of the best offer**

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in "Selection Based on qualification and experience as stated above in paragraph G, as set out in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers November 2020, which can be found at the following website: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)