

BANGLADESH REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT -1 (P154580)**Terms of Reference for Consulting Services****INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT EXPERT (BLPA-S9)****1. Introduction and Background**

The Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a USD 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) – a member of the World Bank Group – for financing the cost of the *Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1* (BRCP-1), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. Now the BLPA intends to apply part of the IDA Credit for procuring the services of an International Procurement Expert (IPE) for its Project Implementation Unit (PIU).

The Project Development Objective is to improve conditions for trade through improving connectivity, reducing logistics bottlenecks and supporting the adoption of modern approaches to border management and trade facilitation.

The Project consists of three (3) major components of which the below component will be implemented by BLPA:

Component 1: Invest in infrastructure, systems and procedures to modernize key selected land ports essential for trade with India, Bhutan and Nepal. The key activities under this component are:

- (i) Development and improvement works at four land ports along the Southwest to Northeast Corridor that are key to facilitating regional and transit trade. These include: Bhomra on the southwest border of Bangladesh, Sheola which would be a greenfield land port – It is currently a Land Customs Station with almost no infrastructure and third land port at Ramgarh on the border with Tripura State, Northeast India,
- (ii) The Project will also finance measures to improve physical security and manage access risks at the Benapole land port, Bangladesh's largest and busiest land port, which experiences significant security and leakage problems. Activities to be financed include a high-capacity perimeter fence, a CCTV system, and a gate pass system.

BLPA, an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Shipping is the implementing agency for the above component of the Project and is responsible for component's overall implementation, management and monitoring. BLPA was set up for development, maintenance and operation of land-ports with the neighboring countries of Bangladesh. Implementation of the project component involves, among other activities, procurement of goods, works and services of high and low values contracts through competitive process. It is necessary to build an adequate support structure from resources both within and outside BLPA to process these contracts and to carry out other project implementation activities.

2. Objective

The objective of the assignment is to: (i) provide expertise support BPLA for all procurement process starting from bidding document preparation to award the contract and (ii) closely monitor the contract management process of the large value signed contracts of BLPA on behalf Project Director for proper integration of the project.

3. Scope of Services

The IPE will provide expertise support and advice as an intermittent member of the procurement team in PIU, and will be responsible for guiding and advising BLPA so that the procurements are done as per the relevant guidelines. The IPE will have a significant role in assuring the integrity, fairness, and overall quality of procurement in conformance with the requirements of the guidelines of the World Bank and the procurement laws of Bangladesh. He should not have any conflict of interest while working and should keep all the project information confidential.

International Procurement Expert (IPE) will provide the below key expertise support:

- a) Monitor and advice to update the procurement plan for goods and services under the project through the Bank's Systematic Tracking of Procurement Exchanges system (STEP) as applicable. Upload and update the procurement transactions using STEP.

