

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Project Director**  
**Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development Project**  
**Under Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia**  
**(ACCESS) – Bangladesh Phase 1 Project**  
**Room No. 403, Custom House, Dhaka**  
**Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229.**  
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Reference No: 08.01.0000.104.14.041.24-416

Date: April 09, 2025

**Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)**

**(Consultancy Services for Time Release Study (TRS) at key Custom Houses  
(Baseline, Midline and End-line-Survey), Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity  
in Eastern South Asia – Bangladesh Phase 1 Project.)**

**Assignment Title:** Consultancy Services for Time Release Study at key Custom Houses (Baseline, Midline and End-line-Survey), Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia – Bangladesh Phase 1 Project.

**Reference Number:** SD-13

The National Board of Revenue (NBR), Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia - Bangladesh Phase 1 Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Consultancy Services (firm) will, in line with the WCO TRS guidelines, measure the average release time across various import clearance processes at the following locations:

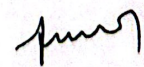
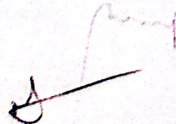
- Chittagong Seaport
- Benapole Land Port
- Dhaka Airport

TRS will be conducted on specific import and export commodities. In case of import TRS will be conducted on four key commodity sectors: (i) food items, (ii) pharmaceuticals raw materials, (iii) garments raw materials and (iv) capital machinery. On the other hand, TRS will be conducted on two key commodity sectors: (i) Green vegetables and (ii) Apparels.

The firm will calculate the average time taken for each step in the clearance process, which ranges from arrival, and/or cargo declaration, to clearance of goods (e.g., examination, assessment, unstuffing, obtaining permits/certificates/licenses, chemical testing etc.).

The firm will assess the current clearance process of four specific commodities under the TRS 2022 baseline study, identifying any progress made in clearance times, using WCO tools, since the baseline study as an impact of earlier TRS recommendations.

The firm will evaluate the implementation status of overall recommendations outlined in TRS 2022 baseline study.



In the process of the study, the firm will assess the impact of the National Single Window (NSW) system on the clearance process of the four commodities studied in 2022, with a specific focus on obtaining regulatory certificates, licenses, and permits through the NSW system – should the NSW be operationalized during the period of this study.

The firm will propose remedial measures, identify redundant steps, to expedite goods release and introduce practical policies, such as service standards or client charters, for Customs and other relevant agencies.

The study will be conducted in three phases:

- **Baseline Study:** To establish a benchmark for measuring the current performance of customs clearance. It provides a starting point for identifying bottlenecks, inefficiencies and areas for improvement with recommendations.
- **Midline Study:** To assess the impact of the interventions implemented after the baseline study. It aims to evaluate the progress made since the baseline study and identify any further areas for improvement.
- **End line - Final Study:** To evaluate overall impact of the interventions implemented after baseline and midline studies, develop a sustainability plan and identify lessons learned.

The assignment is expected to start from July 2025.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: ([www.nbr.gov.bd](http://www.nbr.gov.bd)).

NBR now invites eligible Consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The short-listing criteria are:

- General Experience of the Firm (core business and years in business),
- Experience and competence to carry out all activities referred to within this REOI and TOR.
- Working experience in development partner funded projects will be an added advantage.

The CV of experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

Consultants are requested to submit, but not limited to, the following supporting documents in support of the above-mentioned criteria:

- (i) The Firm's Incorporation/Trade/registration documents from the country of the firm
- (ii) Firm's brochures; and
- (iii) description of similar consultancy contracts, including the scope, contract amount, name of Client, period of the contract (date of contract signing to date of completion), location/country of the services, etc.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016 [Revised November 2017, August

2018, November 2020 and September 2023] ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

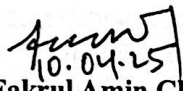
A consulting firm is allowed to submit the expression of interest alone if it considers itself to be fully qualified on its own for the assignment, as it is not mandatory for consultants to associate with any other firm(s), whether foreign or local. Alternatively, if consultants themselves choose to associate to enhance their qualifications and capability for the assignment, then such associations may be as a Joint Venture (i.e. all members of the joint venture shall be jointly and severally responsible). In case of an association, the Consultants must explain in the EOI submission (a) the rationale for forming the association and (b) the anticipated role and relevant qualifications of each member of the Joint Venture for carrying out the assignment, to justify the proposed inclusion of the JV members in the association. Failure to provide the above explanation in the Expression of Interest may risk the association not being shortlisted for the assignment.

If shortlisted, Consultants will still have opportunity at the subsequent proposal preparation stage to further enhance their expertise for the assignment by associating with non-shortlisted consultants in the form of a Joint Venture. In all such cases a shortlisted Consultant must obtain the written approval of the Client prior to the submission of the Proposal, for which the shortlisted Consultant will be required to justify the rationale for associating and specify the proposed role and relevant qualifications of the proposed associate(s) for carrying out the assignment. When associating with non-shortlisted firms in the form of a joint venture, the shortlisted Consultant shall be a lead member. However, Instruction to Consultant (ITC) clauses of RFP will prevail in regard to association with non-shortlisted firm during proposal preparation stage.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours. 09:00 to 17:00 hours (GMT+06:00).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address provided in the letterhead (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by May 05, 2025, 15:00 Hours Local Time (GMT+06:00).

  
10.04.25  
**Md Fakrul Amin Choudhury**  
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Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development (CMID) Project  
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E-mail: cmid.nbr@gmail.com  
On behalf of Project Director.

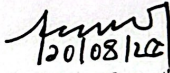
নথি নং-০৮.০১.০০০০.১০৪.০১৪.০৪১.২৪-৪১৮

তারিখ: ১০/০৪/২০২৫খ্রি:।

বিষয়: “Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Consulting Services of SD-13: Time Release Study at key Custom Houses (Baseline, Midline and End-line Survey)” শীর্ষক বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকায় প্রকাশকরণ প্রসঙ্গে।

উপর্যুক্ত বিষয়ে এ পত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত “Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Consulting Services of SD-13: Time Release Study at key Custom Houses (Baseline, Midline and End-line Survey)” বিজ্ঞপ্তি আপনার বহুল প্রচারিত দৈনিক পত্রিকায় ১৫/০৪/২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখে ০১(এক) দিনের জন্য প্রকাশের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করতে অনুরোধ করা হলো। প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি সম্বলিত পত্রিকার ০২(দুই)টি সৌজন্য সংখ্যা বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের দিন এ দপ্তরে প্রেরণের জন্যও আপনাকে অনুরোধ করা হলো। উল্লেখ্য যে, বিজ্ঞাপনের বিল বাজেট বরাদ্দ থেকে সরকারি নিয়ম অনুযায়ী পরিশোধ করা হবে।

সংযুক্তি : ২ (দুই) পাতা।

  
১০/০৪/২৫

মোঃ ফখরুল আমিন চৌধুরী  
উপ-প্রকল্প পরিচালক  
প্রকল্প পরিচালকের পক্ষে  
কাস্টমস আধুনিকায়ন ও অবকাঠামো উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প  
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, ঢাকা।

০১। সম্পাদক/বার্তা সম্পাদক  
প্রথম আলো,  
প্রথম আলো ভবন, ১৯,  
কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

০২। সম্পাদক/বার্তা সম্পাদক  
দি নিউ এইজ  
হামিদ প্রাজা, ৩০০/৫/এ/আই,  
বীর উত্তম সি.আর.দত্ত রোড, হাতিরপুল,  
ঢাকা-১২০৫।