

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Evaluation of AWP support to the Myanmar Young Water Professional Program

Activity Background

The Australian Water Partnership (AWP) is seeking an Australian Partner to undertake an evaluation of a Young Water Professional (YWP) capacity development program in Myanmar with the intention of informing the design of a proposed follow-on program.

The Myanmar YWP Program is the centrepiece of Australia's support for enhancing capacity development in the water sector in Myanmar. The Program, led by the Myanmar Hydro-Informatics Centre, is an 11-month professional development program for recent graduates and mid-level government officials. The Program is aimed at broadening understanding and expertise of YWPs to better appreciate the complex interplay of disciplines that make up water management and to help graduates become future water leaders. To date, AWP has supported three YWP batches.

Activity Objectives

Through this Activity a Partner/s will undertake a review of the effectiveness of the YWP Program. The review will focus on six key components: i) program coordination; ii) financial and administration; iii) curriculum; iv) delivery of short courses; v) ad-hoc seminars and study tours; and vi) YWP Alumni.

Further information on the Activity is outlined in the Activity Plan provided in Annex A.

Application Procedure

Interested Partner/s should submit a brief proposal outlining relevant experience of the Partner/s and proposed team members, proposed methodology and approach, and a detailed budget.

The proposal must be submitted via the following online form **by 5.30pm on 27 February 2019**: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/AustralianWaterPartnership/awpsubmissionform>

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by AWP and its Expert Review Panel based on four criteria:

- Demonstrated achievement of the Australian partner(s) capability requirements as outlined in Activity Plan in Annex A;
- Robust methods for achieving the objectives and tasks outlined in the Activity Plan;

- Demonstrated Value for Money; and
- Incorporation of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion approaches and outcomes.

Contact

Please contact AWP Senior Program Officer, Ashleigh Rhind (ashleigh.rhind@waterpartnership.org.au), for any questions or clarifications. All questions received will be compiled and presented with answers on the [AWP Partner Portal](#).

Note that AWP reserves the right to not proceed with the outlined Activity and is not liable for any costs incurred by Partners in preparing proposals.

Annex A: Activity Plan

Activity Title	Evaluation of the Myanmar Young Water Professional (YWP) Program
International Partners	National Water Resources Committee (NWRC) and Myanmar Hydro-Informatics Centre (HIC)
Expected Activity start / end date	18 February 2019 to 30 April 2019
Activity summary	<p>The Myanmar YWP Program is the centrepiece of Australia’s support for enhancing capacity development in the water sector in Myanmar. The YWP Program, led by the HIC, is an 11-month professional development program for recent graduates and mid-level government officials. The Program is aimed at broadening understanding and expertise of YWPs to better appreciate the complex interplay of disciplines that make up water management and to help graduates become future water leaders.</p> <p>The AWP and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) are currently supporting Batch 4 of the YWP Program which commenced in July 2018 and will be completed in June 2019. This is the fourth batch of YWPs and the third batch that Australia has supported. The emergence of the YWP Program is summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YWP Batch 1: The YWP Program was launched in April 2015 with support from the Government of the Netherlands. • YWP Batch 2: The second batch of YWPs was admitted in June 2016 with support from both the Governments of Netherlands and Australia. In addition to the YWP budget, during the second batch Australia provided the services of WaterAid Australia as a Financial Manager in order to facilitate disbursement and accounting of financial resources. • YWP Batch 3: The third batch of YWPs started in July 2017 and completed their training in June 2018. During the 3rd Batch, Australia expanded the support of the YWP Program to include: (i) Financial Management; (ii) Program Coordination; (iii) Curriculum Enrichment, including delivery of accredited short-courses provided by Australian partners IWC and ICEWaRM. • YWP Batch 4 (ongoing). <p>As part of the AWP Myanmar Investment Strategy (2018-23) the continuation of the YWP program was prioritised with the main tasks identified as: (i) Core program support; (ii) accounting and coordination support; (iii) ad-hoc opportunities (seminars, training); and (iv) certificated short-courses by Australian centres of learning. It was agreed by AWP, DFAT and HIC in December 2019 that an evaluation of the effectiveness of the YWP Program was needed prior to developing the Project Concept (or Terms of Reference) for YWP Batch 5 and 6.</p>

<p>Aims of the Activity</p>	<p>Through this Activity a Partner/s will undertake a review of the effectiveness of the YWP Program which will focus on six key components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Program coordination: The program is administered by HIC with support from WaterAid and the AWP Myanmar Coordinator. 2. Financial and administration: Currently the AWP engages WaterAid Australia to disburse funds to the HIC and to prepare financial acquittals. The HIC recently requested that the funds for YWP Batch 5 be provided directly from AWP to HIC. The review will need to assess options for financial management and administration of YWP Batch 5 & 6. 3. Curriculum: The curriculum is designed to improve YWPs understanding of IWRM concepts so that after the program they can apply these in their employment, including government departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and universities. It will be necessary to obtain insights from YWP Batch Four and the broader YWP alumni. The results of a curriculum roundtable held in August 2018 will provide useful insights on foundation units and also technical core competencies around the key issues facing the water sector in Myanmar – hydropower, agriculture, navigation and flooding. 4. Delivery of short courses: Australian Partners have delivered certificated short courses to Batch 3 & 4 on key concepts of IWRM through a combination of direct delivery and online learning. Recently, the Netherlands has also provided short courses as in-kind contribution to the YWP Program. The role of short courses in YWP Batch 5 & 6 needs to be evaluated. 5. Ad-hoc (seminars, study tours): The YWPs also are encouraged to participate in ad-hoc training events. In 2018, AWP supported YWP Batch 4 to join the Emerging Water Professional Program (EWP) in Sydney, and the Greater Mekong Forum on Water Food and Energy in Yangon. 6. YWP Alumni: The alumni from YWP Batches 1–3 use a Facebook group to connect following completion of the YWP Program. Members of the alumni should be consulted as part of the review and recommendations for improving the alumni network should be included.
<p>Outputs</p>	<p>The Partner/s will be required to prepare a YWP Program Evaluation Report that includes key findings and recommendations that will inform the design of YWP Batch 5 & 6.</p>
<p>Main tasks</p>	<p>The Partner/s will be responsible for undertaking an evaluation of the YWP Program, including the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with AWP Management and AWP Myanmar Coordinator during implementation of the YWP evaluation. • Review the AWP Myanmar Investment Strategy, Project Proposals/Activity Completion Reports for YWP Batch 2–3 and YWP Batch 4 (ongoing). • Consult with AWP Partners involved in delivery of short courses, e.g. IWC, ICE WaRM • Prepare stakeholder analysis and interview schedule in consultation with AWP Myanmar Coordinator and HIC • Conduct interviews with HIC, WaterAid and AWP Myanmar Coordinator in relation to program coordination and financial management.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct interviews and/or facilitate a roundtable meeting with YWPs in Batch 4 and a selection of YWP Alumni. • Conduct interviews with Myanmar Partners involved in the delivery of short courses to YWP Batch 4, e.g. Yangon Technical University (YTU). • Prepare draft findings on the effectiveness of the YWP Program to AWP Management to include in Project Concept for YWP Batch 5 & 6. • Finalise YWP Evaluation Report including recommendations for YWP Batch 5 & 6.
Peer-review process	Not applicable.
Resources & expertise	The Consultant will have experience carrying out Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of AWP or DFAT investments in the water and/or education sector. Experience in the delivery and design of university curriculum or training modules in IWRM would also be an advantage. Direct experience working with HIC and an understanding of Australia's strategy for development assistance in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) water sector is also highly desirable.
Upper budget for submissions	Up to AU\$30,000 (excl. GST) including remuneration and expenses for at least one trip to Myanmar.
Working arrangements	This activity will report to AWP Management.
Expected work location	15 days home based and 5 days in Yangon, Myanmar
Method of engagement	Open
Australian partner(s) capability requirements	<p>The Partner/s should have demonstrated experience in the following core areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and evaluation of aid investments in the water, natural resources or education sector. • Training and capacity development on water resources issues, particularly in the development context. • The Partner/s must be able to travel to Myanmar to conduct interviews with key stakeholders.