

# ASIA EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES (AEO)

## SCOPE:

The AEO contract is a demand-driven task order mechanism that provides evaluations, assessments, and other analytical services to USAID Asia Bureau and Asia Bureau Missions. The scope covers all technical sectors covered by the Asia Bureau and can respond to a variety of development challenges, including those arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Task orders under the mechanism so far have included Democracy, Governance, Peace and Security (DGPS), wildlife trafficking and crime, migration, biodiversity, sustainable landscapes, health, human rights, energy, economic policy, local governance, and information and communication technologies (ICT), supporting research, policy analysis, strategy, program development, and technical advisory services. Within this context, the contract supports USAID's efforts to shape a more stable and prosperous Asia Region with a focus on the following three strategic objectives: 1) Fostering inclusive and equitable growth, especially important in light of the region's concerns around youth employment; 2) Promoting and strengthening democratic institutions, including judicial and legislative; and 3) Improving natural resource management and resilience to disasters and other environmental challenges that frequently arise in the region.

## IMPACT:

Program evaluation and data analysis has been a key underlying component of the activities delivered to the Asia Bureau and Missions under this contract. Equally relevant and important is the emphasis and requirements for learning, knowledge management, and dissemination of evaluation and research results. Beyond analysis, Integra has been

entrusted with capacity building and disseminating knowledge and evidence through learning initiatives across the Bureau and several Missions. Integra provides a diversity of technical skills and exceptional project management, emphasizing transparency and responsiveness to client needs. Task orders developed at the activity level are staffed with experienced technical experts, logistics coordinators, and facilitators as needed. Integra also provides outstanding project schedule, financial, and logistical management and support (e.g. virtual solutions responding to COVID-19 restrictions, procurement, data management, and travel coordination), demonstrated through consistent successful service delivery. Teams can be assembled on short timeframes and across all sectors engaged by the Asia Bureau and its Missions.

*"Integra was exceptional in its response time to requests for new analytic products and was able to maintain high-quality while delivering consistently on time. They were consistently able to juggle multiple tasks simultaneously."*

**Georgia Fuller, CO**

<b>Client:</b>	USAID, Asia Bureau and Missions
<b>Location of Work:</b>	Washington DC/Worldwide
<b>Period of Performance:</b>	09/30/2018 - 09/29/2023
<b>Total Dollar Value:</b>	\$8,000,000
<b>Competition Type:</b>	Small Business Full and Open Competition
<b>Contract Type:</b>	Time and Materials, GSA Professional Services Schedule
<b>Contract Number:</b>	7200AA18M00015
<b>Contracting Office:</b>	USAID M/OAA
<b>Contracting Officer:</b>	Artaveya Carter - acarter@usaid.gov
<b>Partner:</b>	Nathan Associates

## 14 Activities to date:

- 6 Assessments
- 6 CLA Activities
- 1 Project Design/Procurement
- 1 Technical Advisory to Local Government

## 20 Countries:

Bangladesh, Philippines, Thailand, Laos, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Maldives, and 12 Pacific Island Countries

## 4 Sectors:

Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance; Environment and Global Climate Change; Economic Growth and Trade; Global Health

## ACTIVITIES:

### USAID Maldives

**Rule of Law Assessment** - Conducted rapid assessment (desk research, literature reviews, and field work) on the constraints and opportunities for advancing the rule of law in the Republic of the Maldives. Connected Maldivian reformers with unbiased international expertise for informing deliberations on the form, content, and sequencing of a coherent justice reform agenda.

### USAID Asia Bureau

**Central Asia Assessment** - Developed desk assessment on Central Asia synthesizing U.S. strategic goals, opportunities for advancing regional interests, and the geopolitical role of each of the five Central Asian countries. Identified four fundamental changes that will allow USAID to serve as a region-wide facilitator and catalyst for initiatives that promote democracy and improve cooperation and coordination in sovereign states.

**Health Migration Assessment** - Conducted a study of internal migration in Asia to better understand the driving factors and determine if systems can be put in place to both track and anticipate internal migration movements. Discovered important vulnerabilities of rural-to-urban migrants and insufficient statistical profiles, thereby recommending expanding the evidence basis, optimal for planning future development interventions.

**Critical Elections Roundtables** - Supported a series of 'Critical Elections Roundtables' on countries facing critical elections in Asia. The first focused on the Philippines Senatorial Elections and was held on February 26, 2019 in Washington DC, featuring David Timberman as the keynote speaker.

**Environment Officers Learning Event in Bangkok** - Implemented a KM and learning workshop based on the findings from the 2020 Asia Environment Officer (EO) Planning Survey in preparation for the 2020 Asia EO Learning Event in Bangkok, Thailand. Offered logistics and facilitation support, as well as assistance in identifying suitable external environment experts from the region to participate in the workshops.

**Strategy Retreat in Burma** - Began identifying and contracting with technical experts (conflict resolution and peace building) to participate in a USAID strategy retreat to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, but was postponed due to COVID-19. Required rapid delivery for recruiting, contract preparation, and logistics planning.

**Knowledge Sharing Event "How to Save a Tiger"** - Requested by Mary Melnyk (Sr. Advisor for Natural Resource Management in USAID's Asia Bureau) to conduct logistical support services for the "How to Save a Tiger" Knowledge Sharing Event in collaboration with UNDP on March 4, 2020 in New York (venue and catering, advertising, and outreach such as invitations, agenda, and speaker coordination).

**Big Cat Conservation Dialogue Series** - Supported a virtual series aimed at building awareness and innovative responses to the ongoing and emergent threats to big cat species including wildlife trafficking, lack of effective infrastructure safeguards, strengthening community livelihoods, and the impacts of COVID-19.

**Analysis of Impact of COVID-19 on Democracy, Governance, Peace, and Security in the Asia-Pacific Region** - Reviewed and analyzed at a macro-level how COVID-19 is affecting governments, civil society, and individuals, particularly vulnerable populations within Asia and the Pacific, including attention to differences among the subregions of Central Asia, East Asia, the Pacific Islands, and South Asia.

**Asia Bureau Analytical Services - Migration and COVID-19** - Assessed by the migration dynamics (drivers, responses, and systems) and impacts on resources (e.g., natural, economic, health) related to COVID-19 within Asia to develop programs and interventions that boost resilience and create responsive environments for migrants and their families, while protecting local natural resources.

**Pacific Islands Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Assessment** - Provided an analysis of the current status of democracy, human rights, and governance (DRG) in twelve Pacific Island countries to identify critical gaps and needs, and ultimately to support developing strategies to improve DRG in the region. Country profiles were developed and include information on governance, human rights, political history, and donor engagement.

**Technical Advisory in Timor-Leste** - Provided technical advisory services to the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs (MCAE), that supports the Prime Minister's Office in coordinating and supervising members of government responsible for implementing policies in economic governance. Advisors are providing policy advice and support to promote a more diversified economy on the country's path to recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

**Strengthening the Capacity of the Provincial Assembly (SOPA) in Laos** - Prepared Concept Note, Activity Description, and other procurement package materials for the USAID/Laos Strengthening the Oversight Capacity of Provincial Assemblies (SOPA) activity. This included organizing and facilitating stakeholder consultations as part of the design process.

**Glaciers and Hydroelectricity in Central Asia** - Data and modeling from the Contribution to High Asia Runoff from Ice & Snow (CHARIS) project can inform the reasons for low water supplies in 2020 and illustrate how sensitive water availability in Central Asia is to climate change. The activity includes designing capacity building and training materials, updating models and research to understand the current situation of glacier and snow melt, working with stakeholders, and developing presentations for wider dissemination of the results and findings of the CHARIS project.