Limited Solicitation

Part-Time Consultancy: Tracking COVID-19 Regulatory Measures in South Asia and Southeast Asia

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) seeks individuals or organizational research consultants for two 6-month, part-time consultancies (beginning mid-February 2021 and ending summer 2021). Consultants will provide regular updates, following established methodology, to either South Asian or Southeast Asian countries included in the COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker, as well as to the Asia & Pacific COVID-19 regulatory trends page. Total payment for each part-time consultancy is $1,400 USD. Applications are due February 5, 2021. For more details and application instructions, please see below.

The Tracker

In March 2020, ICNL and its alliance partner, the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) launched the COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker to consolidate information on governments’ responses to the pandemic that affect core rights and freedoms. ICNL & ECNL’s COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker aims to keep civic space healthy by monitoring government responses to the coronavirus pandemic, with a focus on emergency laws. The Tracker is based on publicly-available information, collected by ICNL, ECNL, our global network of civil society partners, and members of the public. It has been a go-to source for data on the rights implications of COVID-19, cited by a number of media outlets, as well as by the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression in his report to the UN Human Rights Council.

Scope of Work

As state responses to COVID-19 continue to evolve, the consultant will be responsible for updating the Tracker with measures that restrict fundamental freedoms in either South Asia, or Southeast Asia, drawing on publicly-available and verifiable information.

Specifically, the consultant will assist the ICNL Asia team with:

1. Monitoring the introduction, extension or withdrawal of measures, obtaining corresponding primary source documents, and summarizing the key implications of these measures for inclusion in the Tracker;
2. Obtaining primary source documents for some measures that are already recorded in the Tracker;
3. Assisting in updating the Asia regional COVID regulatory trends page with information relevant to countries in the assigned sub-region.

These are separate consultancies for either the South Asian region, or the Southeast Asian regions - please indicate which region you intend to cover in your application. While monitoring will generally cover the entire sub-region, the Consultant may be asked to focus more attention on certain countries within the sub-region. The Consultant will also be asked to coordinate with ICNL’s lead Asia tracking consultant on updating the global tracker and Asia trends page.

The Consultant will pay special attention to the following: (i) Emergency laws or policies; (ii) Assembly & gathering restrictions; (iii) Regulations affecting free expression; (iv) New surveillance measures; and (v) News reports of abuse/violence in the enforcement of COVID restrictions.

Application Instructions

To apply for the Research Consultancy, applicants must submit the following items by February 5, 2021:

- Cover letter / Statement of Interest (one-page), stating which sub-region the applicant intends to cover;
- Resume, Curriculum Vitae (CV), or other statement of work history and education; and
- A writing sample.

Applications should be emailed to asia@icnl.org, with reference made to “COVID Tracker Consultancy 2021” in the subject line. All application materials should be submitted in English. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis through February 5, 2021. Questions related to this consultancy can be emailed to asia@icnl.org.

Please do not include cost information, as the compensation rate is fixed at $1,400 for the consultancy.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures;
- Experience working with and analyzing the legal environment for civil society and civic freedom in Asia-Pacific countries/sub-regions;
- Quality of the Cover Letter / Statement of Interest and writing sample; and
- Commitment to producing high quality work in a timely manner.