**Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB)**

*Terms of Reference for International Consultant (firm) for*

**Facilitation of the student research competition in Central Asia**

**Background**

The Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB) aims to enhance regionally coordinated access to improved climate change knowledge services for key stakeholders (e.g., policy makers, communities, and civil society) in participating Central Asian countries as well as to increased investments and capacity building that, combined, will address climate challenges common to these countries.

This assignment is to be carried under the Component 1 of the CAMP4ASB project, “Regional Climate Knowledge Services”, and refers to the following sub-activity of the project: 1.5. “Capacity building”[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Objective**

The main objective of these Consulting Services (firm) is to facilitate the student research competition in Central Asia for 2019-2020.

The facilitation will include the following tasks:

1. To ensure information dissemination/outreach for collection of research applications from students across key thematic topics listed in Annex A;
2. To facilitate selection process, including the organization of selecting committee;
3. To identify external supervisors for selected applications and facilitate supervising process through face-to-face meetings and online tools;
4. To arrange for and ensure presentation and discussion of the research findings, and their publication;
5. To provide assistance in participation of the students in the regional environmental meetings, youth’s and academic events in Central Asia;

**Scope of Work - Tasks, Deliverables and Schedule**

1. The consultant will organize (substantively, logistically and technically) the whole process of student research competition, starting from dissemination of information on the competition among state agencies of high education (Ministries of education) and universities through academic and student’s networks (incl., CALP alumni), mass-media (incl. social media), etc. Further, the Consultant will collect applications according to the competition requirements, and organize selection process, including determination of selection committee and criteria. Consultant will identify international and national supervisors for the selected applicants and facilitate the supervising process. The consultant will organize the regional workshops, including training on academic writing for the selected applicants, provide them payments of grants (1500 USD dollars) for the research and facilitate the publication of articles based on the research findings in regional peer reviewed journals. One of the team members has to be a local consultant and be based in Almaty. The local consultant will spend 2-3 working days per week at CAREC HQ (Almaty, Kazakhstan) for close work with CAREC specialists during the contracting period. The consultant will provide assistance in participation of the students – winners of the competition in the regional environmental meetings, youth’s and academic events in Central Asia and support students’ network for the period of the activity implementation. CAREC will provide a work place for the consultant during the contracting period.

Consultant will report on each task to RCU and also provide articles for news (at least 10 articles for the contracting period). Two events will be organized by the Consultant to present: (i)preliminary research results of the selected students; (ii) final outcomes of the research broader audience, including state agencies, universities, NGOs, and youth.

**Tasks**

* Arrange for information dissemination/outreach for collection of research applications on competition across key thematic topics among state agencies of high education and universities through academic and student’s networks (incl., CALP alumni), mass-media (incl. social media), etc.: *May 2019;*
* Establish the selection panel, including from (multidisciplinary and geographically diverse) network of academic society:  *30th May 2019;*
* Develop and agree on the selection criteria with members of selection committee and RCU: 31st May, 2019;
* Facilitate the selection of substantive number of applications ensuring a diverse representation across Central Asian countries and proposed research themes - 18 research applications selected based on the agreed criteria: *10th June 2019;*
* Identify and assign international and national supervisors[[2]](#footnote-2) for selected applications: *31stMay, 2019;*
* Facilitate regular supervising process: by *April 2020;*
* Facilitate selection of 18 research applications and provide grants (in USD) for research work: *from June 2019 until April 2020;*
* Organize and conduct training on academic writing for the selected applications during a possible regional event: *October 2019;*
* Organize the presentation and discussion of 18 research findings during a possible regional event: *April 2020;*
* Arrange for the publication of the 10 (at least) research outcomes in regional peer reviewed journals: *April 2020*
* Develop and share information on activities done on the student competition, including the meeting outcomes; regional events; the selected thesis topic; publication on a monthly basis in mass-media, including social media: *from June 2019 until May 2020*

**Qualification Requirements**

* At least three experts required to be involved in the process;
* Proven experience in working with international, regional and national academic networks on climate related issues;
* Extensive experience in the facilitation of the research competition, including organization of selection committee and supervising process;
* Excellent language skills in Russian and English

**Reporting Requirements**

* The Consultant should report to the RCU Coordinator
* The estimated duration of the consultancy will be 27 May 2019 – 27 May 2020

**Annex A**

**Main topics of the competition:**

* Water management and reforms: IWRM, international and national laws, policy development;
* Water management approaches for transboundary basins;
* Technologies and practices for sustainable water and land management on community and farm level;
* Water supply for rural areas: provision with drinking water, etc.;
* Economics of natural resources management, valuation of ecosystem services, the economic efficiency of water use;
* Economics of land degradation
* Climate modeling and climate risk assessment;
* Climate change and health
* Circular economy
* Forestry and other carbon sinks
* Assessment of climate vulnerability of households and sectors;
* Adaptation to climate change in agriculture and water sector;
* Low-carbon development, promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency;
* Water, food and energy nexus;
* Gender and gender policy in the management of natural resources.
1. For more details about the project and description of all components and subcomponents please, refer to the CAMP4ASB Project Appraisal Document [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *The supervisor will:*

	* *Provide an advice/idea for identification of research questions;*
	* *Provide an advice while choosing tools and approaches for thesis research;*
	* *Provide list of sources for information on the research topic.*
	* *Provide a regular support while student asks some advice during the research*
	* *Review pre-final and final versions of thesis* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)