

NOTICE FOR VACANCY

Benchmarking of the Traditional and Complementary Medicines Regulatory System



World Health Organization

Representative Office
for the Philippines

1. Summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) is looking for an individual contractual partner to support the benchmarking of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) regulatory system of the Philippines using the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) modified for T&CM, under Short-Term Consultancy (STC) contract.

The submission of application is due by 20 October 2022.

2. Background

Regulatory systems play a key role in assuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of medical products. Effective, efficient, and transparent regulatory systems are consequently an essential component of overall health systems and contribute to desired public health outcomes and to innovation and investment. In contrast, inefficient regulatory systems can be a barrier to access to safe, effective, and quality medical products. WHO has played a pivotal role in supporting countries to strengthen their regulatory systems and developed the Global Benchmarking Tool as a primary means by which WHO and Member States can identify and address gaps to reach a level of regulatory oversight commensurate with a stable, well-functioning, and integrated regulatory system. The initial scope of GBT included medicines and vaccines and expanded to blood products and most recently to medical devices.

Meanwhile, despite the high use of T&CM in the Western Pacific Region, regulatory systems for T&CM that are appropriate for the unique situation in each Member State and that are functional enough to ensure the quality and safety of T&CM are lacking in a significant number of Member States. Although this situation calls for an objective evaluation of regulatory systems in the Member States, T&CM products have been outside the scope of GBT and unique features of T&CM such as the use of herbal medicines have complicated applying the current GBT to the evaluation of regulatory systems for T&CM. The lack of assessment on the level of development of the T&CM regulatory system in the Region, the absence of a reasonable tool for it, and the resultant fragmented information have caused challenges Member States in identifying strengths and areas for improvement and facilitating the formulation of plans to build upon strengths and address the identified gaps.

For this, WHO has recently developed the Global Benchmarking Tool modified for T&CM to support Member States in developing a comprehensive understanding of their current situations and regulatory system, based on which future policies for and regulations on T&CM should be established. The modified GBT for T&CM has 9 areas for the assessment including national regulatory system, registration and marketing authorization, vigilance, market surveillance and control, licensing establishment, regulatory inspection, laboratory testing, clinical trials oversight, and good agricultural and collection practice.

3. Timeline

The contract period is from **October 2022** to **January 2023**.

4. Place of Assignment

The incumbent will be based in Manila, Philippines.

5. Scope of Work

With strategic guidance and supervision from the Coordinator, Health Systems Strengthening, and direct supervision from the Technical Officer for Essential Medicines and Health Technologies, the Consultant shall have the following tasks/ responsibilities in close collaboration with the respective officers within the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC):

The STC holder is expected to:

- To support self-benchmarking of the T&CM regulatory system using GBT tool in the Philippines
- To conduct landscape review of the T&CM regulatory system of the Philippines using WHO indicators
- To facilitate the creation of a national road map aligned with the T&CM Regional Framework with relevant stakeholders

Output 1: Assessment of the Philippine regulatory systems for T&CM

Deliverable 1.1: Conduct landscape review of the T&CM regulatory systems.

Deliverable 1.2: Support self-benchmarking of T&CM regulatory system using WHO GBT.

Deliverable 1.3: Determine status of T&CM regulatory system using WHO indicators.

Deliverable 1.4: Present findings to DOH, PITAHC and other stakeholders.

Deliverable 1.5: Submit comprehensive technical report

Output 2: Creation of local T&CM road map with stepwise strategies

Deliverable 2.1: Facilitate the development road map and institutional development plans (IDPs) with relevant stakeholders.

Deliverables 2.2: Dissemination of roadmap and IDPs to relevant stakeholders.

Deliverables 2.3: Submit comprehensive technical report.

6. Qualifications and experience

The individual contractual partner must fulfil the following educational qualifications and work experience:

Education

- With a post-graduate degree in medicine, traditional and complementary medicine, pharmacy or public health.
- Post-graduate degree is Preferred.
- Knowledge and experience in the context of T&CM in the Philippines is desirable.

Work Experience

- Must have at least 5 years of experience in research, policy development, and strategic planning for health.
- Experience working with WHO or any relevant UN Agency is of great advantage.
- Sound experience consulting and engaging with a wide variety of organizations, such as UN agencies, INGOs, CSOs, government institutions, relevant NGAs, and LGUs.
- Experience working with WHO or any relevant UN Agency is of great advantage.

Language:

- Fluency in English and Filipino languages (Expert – read, write and speak).

Skills:

- Basic computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Windows applications.
- Interpersonal communication skills.
- Facilitation skills.
- Technical writing skills.

Competencies

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences.
- Producing results
- Building and promoting partnerships across the organization and beyond.

7. Other Requirements

The contractor has no direct or indirect involvement or interest, in any form, in arms dealing, drugs, alcohol industry, tobacco industry or human trafficking. The contractor shall have no conflicts of interest in relation to the work being undertaken.

8. Confidentiality and Property Rights

All technical documents, reports, tools, and prototype guides are to be treated as confidential and must not be handed over to third parties. These shall be submitted to the WHO and the Organization shall have sole ownership and rights to the completed products. Any reproduction, citation, reference, and use of the said documents and materials requires the permission of the WHO.

9. Ethical and Professional Standards

- WHO prides itself on a workforce that adheres to the highest ethical and professional standards and that is committed to put the WHO Values Charter into practice.

- WHO has zero tolerance towards sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment and other types of abusive conduct (i.e., discrimination, abuse of authority and harassment). All members of the WHO workforce have a role to play in promoting a safe and respectful workplace and should report to WHO any actual or suspected cases of SEA, sexual harassment, and other types of abusive conduct. To ensure that individuals with a substantiated history of SEA, sexual harassment or other types of abusive conduct are not hired by the Organization, WHO will conduct a background verification of final candidates.

10. Travel

The STC holder may be expected to travel to the identified project sites if necessary.

11. Submission Requirements

Interested individuals should submit electronic copies of the following:

- Cover letter
- Curriculum Vitae

Address all cover letters and applications to:

Dr Graham Perry Harrison

Officer-in-Charge

Office of the WHO Representative to the Philippines

Ground Floor, Building 3, Department of Health San Lazaro Compound

Rizal Avenue, Sta Cruz, Manila

Please submit the electronic copy of the applications with the title **Benchmarking of the Traditional and Complementary Medicines Regulatory System** to Mrs Ying Chen, (cheny@wno.int) and to wpplwr@who.int. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

Deadline of submission of applications is on **20 October 2022**.