

Call for Proposals

Central Statistical Organization

Application before

20th May 2020

Description:

The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) has been implementing the Myanmar Enterprise Monitoring System (MEMS) with support from the Government of Denmark and technical cooperation from the International Research Partner (IRP), the United Nations University - World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) and the Development Economics Research Group at the University of Copenhagen (UCPH-DERG).

During programme implementation, the CSO and the IRP (UNU-WIDER and UCPH-DERG) have identified an important statistical data gap for carrying out economy-wide type studies and analyses, namely the lack of a Myanmar Social Accounting Matrix (SAM). The SAM component of the MEMS Engagement uses National Accounts data and a variety of assumptions at both the macro- and micro-level.

A SAM represents flows of all economic transactions that take place within an economy in a given year. At the core, the SAM is a matrix representation of the National Accounts, extended to include non-national and institutional accounting flows, providing a coherent overview picture of the economy. It is a useful database for conducting economy-wide impact assessments, including multiplier analysis and computable general equilibrium (CGE) modelling. The programme has identified a number of study topics of potential interest to economic policy makers in Myanmar while at the same time showing the usefulness of the SAM data framework and the models that can be constructed on them. The core of the analysis will be modelling to be undertaken by CSO and the IRP (UNU-WIDER and UCPH-DERG). However, the analyses need to be framed in the context of current debate and thinking of the relevant topics.

The aim of this post is to call for proposals to prepare reports with Myanmar background information in four specific fields and help frame and inform more in-depth work involving general equilibrium analysis (CGE) and structural multiplier analysis, which can strengthen evidence based policy-making and analysis to support the country's move through a challenging structural transformation and development process. The call for proposals is not to do SAM/CGE modelling, but will involve collecting relevant background and data. The call for proposals is an opportunity for local analysts to collaborate with CSO and the IRP in the area of economy-wide policy analysis. In doing so, the initiative hopes to transfer capacity in economy-wide policy thinking beyond CSO and the public sector agency it is part of.

Tasks:

- Submit a brief abstract of the proposed paper.

- The key questions and data needs that, ideally, will be required to answer the research question and complete the analysis outlined in the abstract.
- Propose timescale for discussion and delivery of the Report to complete deliverables by the end of the project.
- Prepare report with background information and data for more in-depth work. Information on any available technical parameters needed for the in-depth technical SAM/CGE studies must be included.

Start and duration:

- From 15 June to 15 August 2020 (altogether 2 months)

Duty Station:

- Home- or own-office based (might have a few meetings in Nay Pyi Taw for discussions on the paper and there will be need to have consultations via electronic means with international staff as needed including a mandatory initial inductive discussion with the individual team responsible for implementation of the individual SAM/CGE analysis).

Requirements:

- Post-graduate degree in social sciences, economics, statistics or a relevant field
- Ability to learn and understand at a high level SAM data and economy-wide modeling as this is the analysis to which the consultant will contribute.
- Excellent writing skill in English
- Experience with policy and development research
- Effective interpersonal communication skills including ability to work harmoniously as a team member
- Good network builder

Titles of Relevant Fields

- 1) Climate change and agricultural productivity in Myanmar (Case study for CGE Paper)
- 2) Labour market projections and time allocation (Case study for CGE Paper)
- 3) Taxation and Income Distribution in Myanmar (Case study for CGE Paper)
- 4) Potential Impacts of Electricity shortages and Price Increases (background work for a SAM Multiplier Analysis Paper)

Abstracts of the Relevant Fields where SAM/CGE analyses are planned

- 1) **Climate change and agricultural productivity:** A top goal of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan is to ensure that expansion of the private sector leads to environmentally conscious and socially responsible economic growth (goal 3). In addition, the recent 2018/19–2022/23 Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) sets out a vision of achieving an inclusive, competitive, food and nutrition secure, climate change resilient, and sustainable agricultural system by 2030. In this paper, we will focus on the productivity pillar of the ADS strategy. More specifically, we aim to (1) focus on how climate change, and related mitigation, may impact on the size of arable areas and the productivity of various types of Myanmar agricultural crops and the potential for rebuilding the historical comparative advantage in the critical rice crop sector, and (2) analyze how this affects the scope for agricultural development and crop diversification, and how it impacts on economic welfare and food security across Myanmar households. A situation and background analysis by local Myanmar based analysts who have experience with climate change and impact on agriculture in Myanmar would be very helpful for the CSO team to promote local use of SAM based analysis.
- 2) **Labour market projections and time allocation:** A top priority of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan is to foster human capital development (policy 3). In this paper, we aim to (1) focus on the construction of a demographic model and on linking it with our macroeconomic CGE model, and (2) use this comprehensive model framework to analyse how Myanmar households' time allocation for their young and adolescent school-age members, including school attendance, affects schooling attainment and the emergence of new skilled generations for the future labour market (objective 3), and how this affects future household welfare across Myanmar households (objective 2). The paper will build on the 2014-2050 demographic projections of the Myanmar population and the 2015 and 2017 Myanmar Labour Force Surveys. A situation and background analysis by local Myanmar based analysts who have experience with analysing labour force surveys in Myanmar would be very helpful for the CSO team to promote local use of SAM based analysis.
- 3) **Taxation and income distribution:** A top priority of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan is to establish a fair and efficient tax system to increase government revenues (policy 10), and to ensure effective public financial management (policy 1). In this context, it is vital that fiscal policies are effective, efficient and properly targeted. In this paper, we aim to (1) analyse government revenue collection from direct taxes (on households and enterprises) and indirect

taxes (domestic sales taxes and trade-related import tariffs), and (2) analyse how changes in revenue collection affect poverty and income distribution among Myanmar households. A situation and background analysis by local Myanmar based analysts who have first-hand experience with recent tax system reforms in Myanmar would be very helpful for the CSO team to promote local use of SAM based analysis.

- 4) **Potential Impacts of Electricity shortages and Price Increases, a SAM Multiplier Analysis:** For various reasons, Myanmar has to deal with electricity shortages and sharp price increases have been considered by policy makers. Electricity shortages and/or price increases can have a negative impact on its own or on other policy interventions. For example, an export drive of a particular kind, for example, to tap into regional value chains, may be curtailed if there is not enough supply of electricity. Not only will this impact the relevant export activities directly but also those that supply these activities. Price increases may have differential impacts across households, potentially hurting household groups (urban – rural, low – high income) in different ways. The impact of both electricity shortages and price increases can be investigated in a SAM multiplier framework. This analysis builds on the SAM Multiplier workshops that were conducted in May and August 2018 under the programme and can be seen as part of the capacity building component of the programme. A situation analysis by local Myanmar based economic analysts who have macro-economic and/or energy sector experience would be very helpful for the CSO team to promote local use of SAM based analysis.

Format of Report

- 1) The reports need to be written in English
- 2) 25-30 pages
- 3) 6,000 words (excluding Table of Contents, List of Tables, List of Figures, List of Acronyms, Executive Summary, Tables, figures, References and Appendices)
- 4) Required sections: Table of Contents, List of Tables, List of Figures, List of Acronyms, Executive Summary, Main Body text, References, Appendices (if need be)
- 5) Tables, Figures, References and Appendices should be used, appropriately, to relay important information and provide available evidence to support the discussion in the Main Body text.

Selection process

To be eligible for selection, each applicant must submit the proposed abstract to the Central Statistical Organization first. After reviewing the abstracts, the selected persons will be informed and the contract process will follow.

Evaluation and Fee payment

The work and performance of the individual analyst should be monitored by the Hiring Office. Payment for services rendered by the individual analyst is made in arrears on completion of service or submission of pre-agreed deliverables.

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***Applicants can apply via email or in person.**