



British Embassy
Manila

Prosperity Fund Strategy and Guidance for the Philippines FY2014-15

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Introduction

The South East Asia Prosperity Fund is the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office's (FCO) technical cooperation programme that aims to create the conditions for global growth. Working closely with project implementers and FCO's network of overseas missions, the Programme has supported over 90 policy projects (at a value of £3.4 million in the region) with projects in Indonesia, Malaysia, Burma, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam & the Philippines - providing technical assistance, building capacity, encouraging stakeholder discussions and sharing the UK experience.

We are now calling for project concept proposals, for funding in our financial year 2015/2016. The deadline for submission is the **12 December 2014**.

Priority Areas

Project concepts in the following areas will be considered for funding and can be bilateral (working in one country) or regional. We expect the earliest possible start for projects to be in **April 2015**.

We are keen to fund projects that work in the following areas:

Supporting Openness and Creation of Economic Opportunities

1. Projects that lead to increased cross border trade and investment either by reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, by liberalisation of key sectors, improved trade facilitation or enhanced investment protection.
2. Projects that supports financial sector reform and integration, in the areas of international financial standards and regulations, capital markets, banking, insurance, Islamic Finance standards and development, anti-money laundering frameworks.
3. Projects that lead to the development and adoption of effective public private partnership frameworks, as a means to infrastructure financing as well as promoting sector expertise and packaging projects that are viable and attractive to both the private and government institutions.
4. Projects that encourage improvements to the business environment for domestic and foreign firms, through a rules-based economic system and closer engagement with global economic policy institutions and fora. This will include projects that level the playing field for all firms by
 - Promoting transparency in government and businesses, focusing on public procurement, facilitation payments and business licensing; engaging with international transparency initiatives including Open Government Partnership (OGP) and Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and promoting best practices in procurement for public organizations.
 - Enabling a non-discriminatory and transparent intellectual property regime; adoption of key international IP agreements
 - Encouraging greater adoption of international product standards
 - Strengthening national competition policy regimes
 - Encouraging the implementation of international tax agreements

Ensuring Climate Sustainability of Growth

We are keen to fund projects that help government authorities plan, implement and finance the transformation to a low carbon economy, in key sectors like energy, waste, transport, agriculture and land use. Some being:

1. Projects that help government engage progressively in international and multilateral climate change fora, in particular to achieve the ambitious new global agreement all UNFCCC parties have agreed to secure by 2015.
2. Projects that help government and cities plan, implement, and build support for the policy frameworks required to achieve low carbon economic growth, reducing carbon emissions in key sectors like agriculture, transport, waste and land use.
3. Projects that help government plan and implement the policy frameworks required to reduce the carbon intensity of its energy supply, in a way that builds energy security.
4. Projects that help government put in place the policy framework required to unlock finance for energy efficiency investments, in the residential and commercial building sector.
5. Projects that promote the sustainable management of natural resources, in a way that builds resource security.

Regional bids:

The Embassy in Manila is part of a regional network of Posts including all ASEAN countries. We are hoping that a portion of our projects will include regional, in particular, ASEAN participation.

A regional or global bid must have an impact potential in all of the countries involved and explain how this will be realised. The bid must have the support of all the relevant British Embassies or High Commissions. The bid should make clear the strategic importance of tackling that issue regionally or of the important influencing role that action in and with the Philippines could have. It should be clear what contribution each of the countries involved has to make.

The bid should consider how the different conditions in each country could be met within the same project and the union of the different project elements. A regional proposal is not just a composite of similar activities in nearby countries. The project outputs and purpose should achieve something more than the sum of the individual country projects. The implementing organisation(s) should have the relevant expertise and contacts in each country.

Indicative Timetable

Bidding and Project Timeline FY 2014-2015	
Dates	Activity
19 November 2014	Communication of priorities and briefing of project partners
12 December 2014	Deadline for the Concept Bid submission
5 January 2015	Deadline for Full Bid submission
5-9 January 2015	Manila Programme Board meets to assess bids
10-16 January 2015	Revision of approved bids
2-26 March 2015	Southeast Asia Prosperity Board meets to assess bids
31 March 2015	Approved & revised bids are signed
1 April 2015	Project commences
October 2015	Manila Programme Board meets to review projects
15 March 2015	Project Ends

Programme and Project Partners

Partners can include government, business and NGOs, but **working with governments and official bodies is more likely to result in high impact, transformational outcomes which outlive the duration of the project.** An inclusive and collaborative engagement amongst various stakeholders are also likely to deliver sustained project outcomes buttressed by stronger project ownership and real partnership.

We are looking for practical interventions that will lead to a real and timely difference to decision-making and implementation changes. Proposals focusing purely on research, analysis, seminars or workshops will not be relevant unless they lead to **specific and measurable action.** Projects can be at regional or state level within a country, provided that replicability is built into the proposal and sufficient impact is likely.

Projects which focus on **creating champions** for important issues and policies, enabling departments to **make better use of resources, generate / attract additional resources,** or which **increase transparency, important knowledge and** information or are vehicles for important **advocacy** will be particularly attractive.

Potential partners should also be able to map out **why they are the best, most appropriate and effective partner for the work** they envisage, including **access to decision makers, a wide and senior network of contacts and a fully evolved theory of change and implementation plan.**

Proposals must make clear that they are adding value to, and not duplicating other donor activities. **Project purpose must be specific, measurable, ambitious but achievable, realistic and time bound (S.M.A.R.T).** The project purpose must be supported with clear outputs and measurable milestones, and project activities must be directly linked to the specific outputs. Budget proposal must show reasonable activity costs and demonstrate value for money practice.

Our partner in 2014-15 is a recurring partner from the previous year. Bantay Kita hopes to achieve full candidacy to the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) by year 2015 and have majority of the sample mining companies in the country adhere to the EITI principles. They are releasing a full report by December 2014 on industry data and other mining findings that will identify target areas for improvement on the sector.

Our partners in 2013-14 include government agencies or NGOs dealing directly with government. The Ombudsman's Office is providing capacity building on evidence gathering, case building and legal writing to its staff and its government partners that it usually works with to file corruption cases. GLOBE international supports climate resilience by convening legislators who will be involved in legislating laws that support national climate change strategies and UNFCCC negotiation outcomes.

Our partners in 2013 is a step change from our 2012-2013 partners as the projects focused on support discussions for changes in policy. Our work with NGOs will be limited to those directly involved in policy discussions or those providing alternatives to the current theme and tone of policy discussions.

Given the priority areas of the fund, the embassy will not be funding livelihood projects; and building energy infrastructure for local governments unless very innovative, not involving subsidies, and clearly replicable.

Previous and Ongoing Project Work

SE Asia Prosperity Programme FY 14-15

- a. Implementing EITI in the Philippines

SE Asia Prosperity Programme FY 13-14

- a. RASCALD project with the Ombudsman to help reach their 8-point agenda targets by 2018
- b. Implementing EITI in the Philippines
- c. Creating a GLOBE (Global Legislators Organisation for Climate Change) chapter in the Philippines