ARISE PLUS MYANMAR PROGRAM
Terms of Reference and Scope of Services
for
INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY EXPERT
(full-time capacity to be based in MoC, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar)

I. Background:

The Government of the Union of Myanmar (GoM) has received the support from the European Union (EU) through the project "ASEAN Regional Integration Support – Myanmar Trade Related Assistance (ARISE Plus Myanmar)" which is implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC). The ARISE Plus Myanmar project is expected to promote inclusive and sustainable growth in Myanmar, specifically to increase trade diversification and integration both regionally and internationally. The ITC, as the implementing entity, will jointly work with the Ministry of Commerce (MOC), which is the government counterpart for the project.

Within the project scope, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business (TFPB) section in ITC will lead the implementation of Output 3, which emphasis in strengthening trade policy formulation and implementation through fulfilling with regional and international commitments and addressing non-tariff barriers along value chain.

As per prior discussions during the project formulation stage, the objectives of the three sub-outputs are:

Output 3.1) to address NTBs through Business Process Analysis, formulation of trade policy recommendation and validation, and business advocacy skills;

Output 3.2) to address the ATIGA gaps through strategic action plan, awareness raising and proper monitoring system;

Output 3.3) to increase capacity of trade institutions

The details for the output will cite the Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs) and indicative log-frame enclosed with the Project Financing Agreement. These project outputs will cover both goods and services sector (in complement and coordination with the EIF Tier 2 project and in conjunction with other implementing partners).

In order to ensure maximum benefits from this component, ITC, in consultation with DoT, will recruit an international trade policy expert (Hereinafter the Expert) to support or coordinate with the MOC, particularly the Department of Trade (DoT).

II. Description of services:

The main purpose of consultancy services is to support Myanmar to meet its regional and international commitments on the trade sector and to advise in addressing non-tariff barriers along the value chain, while mainstreaming trade policy in the country’s development agenda, as described in the DTIS 2016 and MTP 2017, through the implementation of MSDP (2018 – 2030), with a focus on the professional quality and timeliness of activities, so as to generate the program’s strategic results. It encompasses the attention to consultation and collaboration with the Business and Trade Promotion Task Force and the Job Creation Sector Working
Group. The incumbent is expected to show initiative and support DoT officials to enable them to achieve the trade policy’s objectives.

It is expected that the incumbent would observe at all times in the highest standard of professional ethics and integrity and promote results-oriented approach in the area of his/her responsibility and accountability.

The Expert will be based in the facilities of the MoC in Nay Pyi Taw. He/she, under the overall supervision of the Senior Trade Policy Officer, TFPB of ITC and jointly with the Associate Programme Adviser, TFPB of ITC, will work, under the guidance of the Director General of the Department of Trade, together with the dedicated officials from designated division of the MoC in order to achieve the outputs. This work would also be done with a good understanding of the issues and technical options open to the GoM in particular under the GoM Economic Policy priorities.

**In playing his/her role, the Expert would make contributions under four broad areas:**

A. Identifying and addressing NTBs through business advocacy with trade-related public and private organizations

   His/her role in identifying and addressing NTBs through business advocacy with trade-related public and private organizations (Output 3.1) would include the following technical functions:
   - Coordinate with the International Expert on BPA studies and provide guidance to the National Consultants drafting the BPAs as and when required
   - Provide policy recommendations in support of the expansion of upgrading the productive capacities and structural transformation to integrate the regional and international market
   - Provide guidance and assist the MoC in mainstreaming trade policy recommendations by means of building business advocacy skills and increasing capacity and awareness of key business organizations (including woman organization) through formal channels

B. Providing operational implementation guidance to address the ATIGA gaps

   His/her role in providing operational implementation guidance to address the ATIGA gaps (Output 3.2) would include the following technical functions:
   - Provide inputs to develop the action plan/strategic roadmap outlining the roles and responsibilities of trade-related ministries, based on the ATIGA gap assessment,
   - Support MoC in setting up a monitoring mechanism to ensure the compliance of the regional commitments in mainstreaming rules and regulations in trade development agenda

C. Advising the DoT on the country’s trade policy formulation and implementation aiming to achieve the SDGs

   His/her role in advising the DoT on the country’s trade policy formulation and implementation (Output 3.3) would include the following technical functions:
   - Provide advisory support to the MoC in externally-oriented trade policy formulation and implementation, being linked with the selected sectoral policies
Identify the area to be improved in trade policy backbone the regional and international commitments, through the concrete research on the framework of trade/investment policy formulation and implementation

Draft and discuss trade policy position papers on trade policy priority issues, including the areas fall under the MoC’s responsibilities

Provide guidance and assist the MoC in drafting laws, regulations and policy framework, in coordination with the respective experts from different programs

Identify the problems arising in inter-ministerial coordination and propose the Action Plan for better domestic policy coordination and consultation mechanism at policy making level

Assist MoC in updating or expanding the Trade Portal and in developing the guidelines on trade and customs procedures/regulations in the ASEAN National Trade Repository (ATR)

Provide support for enhancing capacity building of trade-related institutions

Provide guidance in reviewing and updating the legislative and regulatory framework for enhancing E-commerce ecosystem, and in improving the regional and multilateral e-commerce negotiations and the local digital market and consumer rights, by working together with national and international E-commerce experts.

Provide support to the MoC in regional trade negotiation, trade rules and liberalization commitments

Support human resource development and capacity building of the trade-related ministry’s understanding of the country’s negotiation position and implementation of the outcomes

Support the MOC team formulating Myanmar’s Trade Policy Review 2020

D. Other contributions will include:

Participate in the key Public – Private Dialogues either organized by ITC (or other organizations, if agreed on a case-by-case basis), when the topics relates to Output 3, and provide on the spot support and assistance to senior officials from MoC.

Coordinate with other ITC experts involved in the related activities implementation as and when required.

Facilitate the dialogue events between decision-makers in the EU and Myanmar, both on the political level and among the private sectors, through formal channels.

Reporting:

- Monthly report will be submitted to the ITC and DoT, detailing tasks done by the Expert, including achievements, output, bottlenecks, constraints and next activities, together with expert opinion in dealing with those constraints.
- Semi-annual report and annual report on performance consolidating key achievements and outputs and recommendations to ensure sustainability of project results to be submitted to the ITC and DoT, in preparation for the regular national project steering committee meetings.
V. Experience

Skills:
- Recent experience in advising Governments in trade policy issues, especially LDCs and countries in Asia
- Capacity to adapt to local work procedures, to work effectively with the MOC and the ITC team
- Strong analytical and drafting skills
- Fluency in written and spoken English

Knowledge:
- Familiarity with regional integration policies, agreements on trade in goods, trade in services and connectivity

Education:
- Advanced degree (M.A/M.Sc or other) in International relations, economics, business administration, law or related fields

Experience:
- At least 15 years of practical work experience in trade policy. In particular, areas such as regional integration and trade policy formulation for countries in Asia or Pacific
- Experience in managing teams in the framework of trade-related technical assistance projects
- Experience in the formulation of trade policy and/or trade strategy assessments and diagnostics

Note: The timeline for the above-mentioned activities will be finalized following agreement with the DoT