

BAHAMAS
INFORMATION AS A TOOL FOR NEGOTIATING EFFECTIVENESS
Consulting Services
GREATER TRADE AND REGIONAL LEVEL NEGOTIATION ANALYZES AND MANAGEMENT
PROJECT NO. ATN/CC-9614-BH

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Canada Trade Fund to improve the country's ability to negotiate market access in services, understand and implement multilateral trade obligations arising from accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), address negotiated rules and obligations pertaining to international investments, and facilitate required adjustments to the operation of the Freeport Free Trade Zone (FTZ) that will arise from trade liberalization agreements.

The main objective of this project is to assist the government of the Bahamas in analyzing and successfully managing the most important and complex disciplines it faces as it negotiates greater trade and regional level. Specifically, the project seeks to improve the country's ability to negotiate market access in services, understand and implement multilateral trade obligations arising from accession to the WTO, address negotiated rules and obligations pertaining to international investment, and facilitate required adjustments to the operation of the FTZ that will arise from trade liberalization agreements.

Component 1 –Expert Advise in Services: The consultant will be hired for a total of 40 working days and will undertake two main tasks. First, the consultant will provide training on international trade in services to the public and private sectors. Second, the consultant will assist the country in preparing a market access offer in services.

Component 2 – WTO Awareness and Compliance: Two consultants will be hired, one international consultant who is an expert on WTO rules and disciplines, and one who is an expert on Bahamian laws and regulations. Both consultants will be hired for 30 working days. This component therefore is designed to provide the government of the Bahamas with a basic understanding of WTO rules and disciplines as well as the policy and regulatory changes that would be required by WTO membership.

Component 3 – Review of Investment Policy: The consultant will be hired for ten working days and will be responsible for preparing a report of the possible legal and policy implications of acceding to the WTO trade-related investment measures.

Component 4 – Free Trade Zones and Freeport: An international consultant who is an expert of FTZ will be hired for 15 working days. The principle task would be to help Bahamian policymakers understand how WTO accession and regional trade agreements such as FTAA and the Post-Cotonou Agreement will affect the current operational practices of the Freeport FTZ.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs now invites eligible individuals from the Bahamas or any IDB member country to submit their expressions of interest, which must include a detailed curriculum vitae or resumé giving details of work in similar disciplines within the last three years.

Selection will be based in qualifications, relevant experience and availability. Electronic or hard copies of the terms of references can be obtained on request from the Project Executing Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nassau, Bahamas.

Expressions of interest must be enclosed in sealed envelopes bearing no identity of the applicant and addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (address below). The envelope should be clearly marked at the top left hand corner "Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Information as a Tool for Negotiating Effectiveness. Do not open before 0900 hours, Monday, 9 October 2006.

All expressions of interest are to be deposited in the tender box located at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs building at the address below on or before Monday, 9 October 2006.

Further information may be obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the address below.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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PO Box N476
Nassau, Bahamas