

Terms of Reference for the post of ‘Economic Regulation Expert’

Background – Assam Inland Water Transport Regulatory Authority has been constituted by the Government of Assam as per AIWTRA Act 2018 to promote the development of safe, efficient, reliable, environmentally sound and economically viable inland water transport and terminal services for the benefit of ferry users, freight consignors and water tourism in the state of Assam.

Objectives of the assignment:

1. Strategic support:
 1. Ensure preparation, revisions (based on stakeholder consultations), and finalization of economic regulation guidelines under the designated premises and ensure compliance of all Rules and Regulation regarding economic regulation of AIWTRA Act/Rules.
 2. Support dissemination of economic regulation guidelines via stakeholder meetings/ workshops.
 3. Develop economic regulation manual as per provisions of AIWTRA Act and Rules and other relevant Acts/Rules.
2. Regulatory compliance:
 1. Support the regulatory enforcement of RA Rules and Policies.
 2. Conduct economic regulation briefings and meetings regarding economic regulation issues.
3. Promotion of excellence in economic and regulatory analysis:
 1. Develop best practices in fare setting for Assam IWT based on: (i) study of fare setting mechanisms of other similar public transit in India and outside, (ii) assessment of feasibility and scenario building for fare change, (iii) assessment of customer behaviour change to various pricing models (iv) developing recommendations for Assam IWT.

Educational Qualification:

Master’s Degree in Management /Economics /Urban Transport /Public Policy /Business Law with Graduation in Engineering in any field.

Experience:

Overall a minimum of 20 years of experience with minimum 10 years of professional experience in role/organization dealing with economic regulations and transportation demand and supply analysis.

Experience with transportation pricing, tariff rationalization (preferably in transportation sector) with demonstrated expertise in public policy principles, fixed and variable costs, negative and positive externalities.

Knowledge/understanding of sociological impacts of projects that have fare or user fee-based revenue generation; associated mitigation measures; and community consultations.

Experience in Inland Waterways/ Ports / Harbours is desirable.

Skills/Competencies Required:

1. Source and systematically manage large amount of data
2. Ability to combine economic and regulatory analysis with inputs from other disciplines to develop a broader vision
3. Strong conceptual, analytical skills with clarity of thought process and problem-solving skills.
4. Ability to work under tight deadlines.
5. Excellent organizational skills.
6. Ability to work independently as well as in a team.
7. Strong communication skills with the ability to clearly and concisely convey necessary information, explain reasoning, and support conclusions using data and facts.

Deliverables / Scope of work/Time to complete

Reporting to the Chairman, AIWTRA and the State Project Director, AIWTD Society, the expert shall lead the work on scoping, preparation, stakeholder consultations / dissemination, revision and finalisation of economic regulations for IWT sector in Assam. The expert shall provide relevant strategic input to support the broader activities of RA, including through the drafting of high – quality documents, analytical reports, strategy briefs and other material on a wide range of issues related to economic regulations, transport pricing, tariff analysis and strategy. The expert shall conduct study on Inland water transport (IWT) fare rationalization to make IWT fares more competitive with the other modes of transportation.

Specific deliverables to include

1. Final Economic regulation based on feedback received from stakeholders. (T1=T0* + 2 months)
 1. Plan and hold at least three stakeholder consultations (one in each division) as part of preparation of draft economic regulation and dissemination of the findings from the best practice documentation.
2. Market Analysis Reports: (T2=T1 + 2 months)
 1. Generate reports on market trends, competition, and economic dynamics in the inland water transport sector.
 2. Provide recommendations based on the analysis to improve market conditions.
3. Tariff Structures and Guidelines: (T3=T2 + 1 month)
 1. Formulate and propose tariff structures and guidelines for inland water transport services.
 2. Ensure that tariff structures are fair, transparent, and in compliance with regulatory standards.
4. Stakeholder Engagement and Communication: (T4=T3 + 1 month)
 1. Engage with stakeholders, including government agencies, industry participants, and the public.
 2. Communicate economic policies, regulations, and their implications to stakeholders effectively.

5. Economic regulation manual as per provisions of AIWTRA Act and Rules and other relevant Acts/Rules (T5=T4 + 2 months)
6. Draft amendments to existing regulations to enhance economic efficiency. (as and when required)

* T0: date of Contract Signing

In addition, the consultant would be expected to provide support that would include but not be limited to review of reports concerned with regulatory aspects, preparation of economic regulation briefings Data Analysis and Reporting, Capacity Building, Policy Recommendations, Legal & Regulatory Research, Compliance Monitoring Reports and participation in meetings regarding economic regulation issues.

Period of Service:

The contract shall be initially for a period of 6 (six) month and extendable up to 2 years, subject to the satisfactory performance as assessed jointly by the Chairman, AIWTRA and the SPD, AIWTD Society.

Remuneration:

Consolidated Remuneration will be as per the market standards depending on qualification, experience and competency of the candidate, the salary is negotiable. Remuneration payable will be determined as per HR Policy of AIWTDS.