The World Bank Group’s Vision and Strategy

The global development community is at an auspicious turning point in history. Thanks to the success of the past few decades and favorable economic growth, developing countries now have an unprecedented opportunity to end extreme poverty within a generation. This is the vision of the WBG: to eradicate extreme poverty by reducing the number of people living on less than $1.25 a day to 3 percent by 2030 and promote shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40 percent in every country.

To achieve this vision, the WBG Board of Governors has approved a strategy for the organization. This strategy leverages, for the first time, the combined strength of the WBG institutions and their unique ability to partner with the public and private sectors to deliver customized development solutions backed by finance, world class knowledge and convening services. The strategy has three components: (1) maximizing development impact by engaging country clients in identifying and tackling the most difficult development challenges; (2) promoting scaled-up partnerships that are strategically aligned with the goals; and (3) crowding in public and private resources, expertise and ideas. The architecture underpinning the strategy and instrumental to its success is the establishment of fourteen Global Practices and five Cross-Cutting Solution Areas that, in concert with the WBG Regions, will design solutions that address clients’ most pressing developmental challenges, and ultimately, enable the WBG to meet its twin goals of eliminating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

The Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice (GPURL)

Urbanization is occurring at an unprecedented pace. Cities generate 80% of global GDP and are key to job creation and the pursuit of shared prosperity. Yet one billion city residents live in slums today, and by 2030 one billion new migrants will arrive in cities. This concentration of people and assets will exacerbate risk exposure to adverse natural events and climate change, which affects the poor disproportionately. The absence of secure land tenure underpins deprivation and is a major source of conflict in the urban and rural space. One and a half billion people live in countries affected by repeated cycles of violence. In the absence of services, participative planning and responsive institutions, these trends will result in increased poverty, social exclusion, vulnerability and violence. Finally, avoiding a 4-degree warmer world requires drastically reducing the carbon footprint of cities.

The WBG is in a unique position to support national and sub-national clients to: harness urbanization and enable effective land management in support of both growth and poverty reduction; foster social inclusion of marginalized groups; support the responsiveness and fiscal, financial, and management capacities of local governments – cities, municipalities, and rural districts – to deliver local infrastructure and decentralized services; strengthen resilience
and risk management related to natural disasters; reduce conflict and violence; scale-up access to finance for sub-national governments; and reduce the carbon footprint of cities. The WBG brings a combination of lending ($7-8 billion in annual lending to cities), analytical and advisory services (e.g., urbanization reviews, Sendai dialogue), its growing portfolio of reimbursable advisory services, its convening power (e.g., understanding risk and the land conferences), its leveraging capacity (e.g., guarantees and risk mitigation), and its ability to work with the private sector to tackle the challenges at scale and to effect.

Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice (GPURL) covers a wide gamut: (i) developing green, inclusive, competitive and resilient cities; (ii) enhancing urban and rural development through supporting and managing the urban-rural transition, assisting local development through developing land tenure, management and information systems; (iii) assisting in disaster risk management through issues of risk assessment, risk reduction (including flood management, urban drainage, coastal management, and retrofitting of infrastructure), disaster preparedness (including hydro-met services, early warning systems, and civil defense), risk financing (including CAT-DDO), and resilient reconstruction (including post-disaster damage and loss assessment). GPURL covers territorial development, geospatial and results-based-financing issues, has a portfolio of close to $30bn in commitments in investment project, program-for-results and development policy lending.

**Regional/ Country/ Global Unit Context**

The Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC) program is a partnership between Japan and the World Bank launched in June 2004. The program is managed by the Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice (GPURL) under the oversight of a Steering Committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Japan (MoF) and the World Bank. Day-to-day operations of the program are conducted by the TDLC team in Tokyo under the management of the Global Programs unit of GPURL with the guidance of the World Bank’s Special Representative, Japan with respect to partnerships and relationships with the Government of Japan.

The Program to Connect Knowledge, Expertise and Technology includes activities to link developing and middle-income countries with Japanese knowledge, expertise and technology through (i) knowledge exchange and analytical work, (ii) capacity building, (iii) outreach and networking activities with internal World Bank audiences, Japanese public and private sectors, academia and civil society. It also works to identify and unpack innovations and development solutions from Japan of relevance to developing countries. The thematic area of focus includes (i) urban planning - compact city development, land readjustment, land use planning, public space management, transit-oriented development, (ii) urban service provision - solid waste management, water supply management, sewage management, street lighting, (iii) urban management - metropolitan planning, ICT for municipal management, municipal organization structures, legal frameworks for urban/municipal management, project planning and management, (iv) accessibility, aging population, (v) municipal finance - financial management, revenue management, intergovernmental finance, local tax system, and (vi) disaster risk management (DRM) collaborating with Tokyo DRM Hub - flood risk management, seismic risk management.
TDLC offers both internal and external stakeholders a “one-stop” window for identifying, accessing, and making effective use of knowledge and experience from Japan and other countries. With its mix of information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, connectivity, and expertise, coupled with a strong partner network, TDLC is well positioned for the global dissemination of just-in-time development solutions. Key features of the Phase 3 program include broadened geographic coverage, closer links to and integration with operational programs, and introduction of a new City Partnership component focused on working with selected Japanese cities and institutions to document and share knowledge on successful approaches and solutions to various development challenges facing Bank client countries. The program aims to continue its activities in Phase 4, with similar functionalities with scaling up activities around operationalizing Japanese urban development stories.

TDLC is seeking to contract with a Consultant to serve as a Student Assistant of the TDLC team. The Consultant will be based in Tokyo and will work under the supervision of the TDLC Senior Officer of the GPURL Global Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Unit.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

The research intern will undertake the following duties and responsibilities.

1. Review literature and data relevant to the program with strong emphasis on urban related subjects
2. Conduct desk reviews of documents in Japanese and English
3. Assist in drafting research reports, briefing notes, knowledge products and other materials as required;
4. Preparing session summaries, city-profiles, summary on background on topic, other pre-event materials
5. As requested, provide assistance during knowledge exchange events in matters such drafting of proceedings
6. Other duties as required.

**Selection Criteria**

- Completed higher education (Preferably master or above)
- Strong writing skill in English
- Ability to conduct basic desk research
- Excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Japanese
- Experience in preparing short summary pieces in English
- Strong client service and program delivery orientation
- Good knowledge on development, urban planning, transport. Expertise and strong interest in Urban Development topics is a plus
- Strong team player
- Must have obtained workable visa that allow to take paid short term work in Japan

**Coverage**

The consultant will be paid based on the World Bank standard.

**Timeline and Reporting**
The consultant will be hired for 20 days and we will extend the contract based on the performance. The assignment will be undertaken from February to June 30, 2020. Specific working days will be agreed with each consultant. The work of the consultant will require them to be present with the TDLC unless alternative arrangements are agreed to. The Supervisor for this position will be Victor Mulas (Senior Program Officer, TDLC) and Haruka Miki-Imoto (Operations Officer, TDLC), and the Hiring Manager for this position will be Maitreyi Das (Practice Manager, GPURL).