



**MALDIVES ENERGY AUTHORITY**  
**Republic of Maldives**

**Terms of Reference:**

**Consultancy for the Regulations Implementation Support for the Maldives Energy Authority**

**A. Background**

Electricity, which is now considered as a basic human need, was first introduced in Male', the capital city of Maldives, in 1949. This led to a succession of electrification programs in other islands, and by 2008, all islands of the Maldives had at least a basic power system installed composing of generating stations and a mini-grid to distribute electricity to the consumers.

Historically, the process of electrification was initiated in most islands on an ad-hoc basis through public and private sector programs and projects, and with little consideration on sustainability aspects. Although the mandates of the government regulatory bodies were limited that time due to the limited activities, various efforts have been put in regulating the sector.

With time the regulatory framework had also been evolving and since 2006 the Maldives Energy Authority (MEA) has the mandate to regulate the sector. Its current activities involve the development and implementation of regulations, which include approval of power system designs, registration of electricity service providers, electricity tariff setting, licensing of electrical workers/professionals, approval of panel board designs and approval of electrical cables.

However, given the growth in economy and development activities in the Maldives, the electricity demand growth has been increasing exponentially resulting in the need for more power generation along with growth of various sizes of electrical installations throughout the Maldives. The total installed capacity of the power systems in Maldives is over 200MW which includes all inhabited islands and resorts and there has been a large growth in the number of professionals working within this area as well as the materials that are imported.

Thus, given the importance of safety, quality, reliability and efficiency of the electricity sector services for sustainable development of the sector, MEA acknowledged the need for updating the existing electricity sector regulations, and started to develop a new regulatory framework in 2012 to address the

gaps and streamline the electricity sector standards within the country. Moreover, since the electricity sector is one of the key drivers of our economy it is also relevant to the sustainable development of the country as a whole.

To date, various draft regulations that have been developed in the broad areas of licensing/registrations, technical standards, provision of utility services, and tariff are in the process of being finalized, published and implemented.

Furthermore, to complement the implementation of the new regulations, the existing procedures for approvals and licenses issued by MEA are currently under review in order to improve the quality of services provided by MEA. This will also further strengthen and complement the new regulations to be implemented.

## **B. Objective of this assignment**

The overall objective of the assignment is to assist MEA in the process of the preparatory works for the implementation of the new regulations, and in improving the quality of services provided by MEA.

## **C. Scope of Work:**

The Consultant shall be working closely with key-staff of MEA and international experts (where relevant) and will be carrying out the following key tasks:

1. Review of regulations developed by MEA:
  - Review of the existing legal and policy framework including all relevant laws and regulations along with the new draft regulations that have been developed by MEA and see any conflicting issues; review of the new regulations developed by MEA, in the context of existing legal and policy framework, including all relevant laws and regulations, and identify any conflicting issues;
  - Review of the Dhivehi translations of the new regulations developed by MEA, and assist in the revision of the English versions to ensure consistency.
2. Provide support for the implementation of new regulations. This includes (but not limited to):
  - Identification of the requirements of MEA to prepare for the implementation of new regulations;
  - Identification of the constraints of the utilities, and electricity sector in general, in complying with the new regulations, and propose mechanisms to address the same.

- Revision of the existing implementation timelines and develop implementation strategies that can ensure speedy and efficient implementation of the regulations.
- 3. Assist in the development of awareness programs for sensitizing the public, government and stakeholder electrical professionals on the new regulations. This may include (but not limited to) assistance in developing awareness materials, facilitating awareness workshops, etc.
- 4. Review the Standard Operating Procedures of MEA which are currently being developed by MEA. This includes mainly procedures related to electricians/engineers licensing, cable approval and power systems approval, operators' licensing and utility investment approvals.
- 5. Assist in review and testing of new tariff methodologies developed by MEA. This would include assisting the data collection process, validation of data provided by utilities, validation of tariff models and other tariff related aspects.

#### **D. Deliverables**

The consultant will be assisting MEA within the scope of work mentioned above on a daily basis in order to publish and implement the new regulations, and improve the quality of services provided by MEA. The consultant shall provide monthly reports at the end of each calendar month, which highlights the work done in the past month, and the work planned for the upcoming month. Payments will be made on the submission of the invoice along with the Monthly Report along with the time sheet.

#### **E. Key Qualifications**

The Consultant shall be capable of carrying out all tasks within the scope of ToR and should have an educational qualification of a minimum of Masters Degree in electrical engineering (or related field) with a minimum of 10 years of management experience in the Maldives electricity industry. Furthermore, the consultant shall be familiar with the existing laws and regulations relevant to the electricity sector, and shall have experience in solar photovoltaic systems.

#### **F. Schedule for the Assignment**

The Consultancy service period for the assignment is 6 calendar months.

#### **G. Facilities to be provided by the Client**

Office facilities, administrative support and institutional coordination support will be provided by the Client.