



Donor Funded Staffing Program

TOR No:	2020-065
Title:	Junior Professional Officer
Grade:	UC
Division/VPU:	Chief Economist's Office (EAPCE), East Asia and Pacific Region
Duty Location:	Headquarters
Appointment Type and Duration:	Two-year Term Appointment

BACKGROUND

Established in 1944, the World Bank Group (WBG) is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for development solutions. In fiscal year 2018, the WBG committed \$67 billion in loans, grants, equity investments and guarantees to its members and private businesses, of which \$24 billion was concessional finance to its poorest members. It is governed by 188-member countries and delivers services out of 120 offices with nearly 15,000 staff located globally.

The WBG consists of five specialized institutions: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). The World Bank is organized into six client-facing Regional Vice-Presidencies, several corporate functions, and fourteen Global Practices as well as five Global Themes to bring best-in-class knowledge and solutions to regional and country clients.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

The World Bank Group serves 23 client countries in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region, with a total population of about 2 billion people and a GNI per capita of about \$3,862 (in constant 2010 US\$). Clients span the lower- to upper-middle-income range and include fragile states along with a number of small island economies in the Pacific.

EAP has made the fastest progress in growth and poverty reduction of any region around the world over the last quarter century. Over the period, a succession of countries in the region has progressed from low-income to middle-income and even to high-income status. More than 90 percent of the region's population now live in 10 countries, many of which can realistically aspire to high-income status in the next generation or two. This dramatic transformation has helped move hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and into economic security. This rapid transformation, coupled with slowing growth in global trade, rapid technological change, rapid urbanization and accompanying congestion, climate change, and demographic aging, are creating new sets of challenges for development policy, however. Countries in the region need to continue longstanding reforms as well as address emerging priorities if they are to continue to grow, reduce poverty, and promote economic security, and do so in a sustainable way.

THE OFFICE OF THE EAP CHIEF ECONOMIST

The EAP Chief Economist is the principal economic advisor to the Regional Vice President and the Regional Leadership Team. The EAP Chief Economist's Office (EAPCE) is responsible for bringing the best possible knowledge to bear on key development issues facing the Region, providing intellectual leadership and ensuring quality and relevance of the region's analytical and advisory agenda. EAPCE undertakes regional analyses on issues of high or emerging importance to the WBG's policy dialogue in the region and is responsible for producing regional Economic Updates on a twice-yearly basis. The Office also provides regional analytical inputs to high-profile and strategic corporate and global analytical products, including, as needed, to the EAP regional strategy and regional strategy updates that the Region presents each year to the Bank's Executive Board.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Junior Professional Officer will be part of the EAPCE team, working with other colleagues and under the supervision of the Chief Economist to carry out research and analysis to support the preparation of the Office's various outputs and to fulfill the Office's quality assurance role.

His/her key responsibilities will include:

- Contribute to the preparation of analytical studies, including the EAP Economic Update, regional analytical notes, research papers, and presentations focused on EAP countries;
- Contribute analytical inputs to selected knowledge products or lending operations led by staff in the Global Practices, the Cross-Cutting Solution Areas or the Country Management Units, and focused on EAP countries;
- Contribute to and publish research, under guidance of other team members, and disseminate this work through participation in conferences, workshops and seminars; and
- Provide due diligence comments and other forms of quality assurance on key country-level, regional and global/corporate products – both ASA and selected operational documents – and represent the region, as needed, at review meetings.

The selected candidate will report to the EAP Chief Economist. On specific tasks, s/he may work directly under the supervision of other staff identified by the Chief Economist.

Note:

The selected candidate will not be assigned to programs involving his/her own government such as donor coordination and trust fund management.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- At least a Master's degree in economics with 2–3 years of relevant experience, or PhD (preferred).
- Excellent understanding of the latest applied economic methods and fluency in working with economic packages such as STATA, MATLAB, or other programming languages.
- Strong communication and presentational skills, both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to work flexibly on a range of assignments, adjusting to changing needs, while meeting strict deadlines.
- Demonstrated ability to work with other team members, demonstrating respect for different points of view
- Strong client orientation, ability to work effectively and collaboratively with colleagues and operational staff with different disciplinary backgrounds and areas of expertise.