TERMS OF REFERENCE

Senior Strategist/ Consortium Manager

Tara Climate Foundation is a regionally-led philanthropic foundation with a vision of a just and thriving society in Asia powered by renewable energy. Our mission is to support a diverse group of partners to accelerate Asia’s energy transformation. We work with more than twenty-five civil society organizations, think tanks and business associations in the Philippines.

The Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities is an international non-government group advancing fair climate policy and low-carbon, climate-resilient development. Based in the Philippines, it is engaged with the broader international climate and energy policy arena, particularly in Asia. It is recognized for helping advance effective global climate action and the Paris climate agreement.

Tara and ICSC share a mission of accelerating the energy transition in the country by tackling policy, regulatory and financial barriers to renewables power generation and utilization. A critical area that needs focused work is transforming the Philippine grid system. ICSC is leading in setting up a consortium of groups to work on grid modernization to strengthen the advocacy.

Job Purpose

The post-holder will be a thought leader on grid modernization within ICSC and the wider Tara ecosystem. The purpose of the role is to engage with key government agencies, corporate actors, think tanks, civil society groups and other stakeholders on accelerating the energy transition and modernizing the grid. The post-holder will:

- Lead the development and delivery of policy and advocacy strategies in transforming the Philippines grid system to become more cost-effective, resilient, and absorb more clean energy supply.
- Coordinate and provide high-quality support to a consortium of partners addressing policy, regulatory and financial challenges in modernizing the grid.

Duties and Responsibilities

Clean Strategy and Delivery (focus on grid modernization)

- In collaboration with consortium partners and other key stakeholders, develop and lead the implementation of policy and advocacy strategies on grid modernization.
- Design and implement advocacy strategies to influence decision-makers and build a strong network of actors supportive of grid modernization and accelerating the energy transition.
- Organize and deliver planned key influencing events, such as high-level dialogues, policy forums and discussions.
• Establish and strengthen alliances with key stakeholders, such as wind and solar industry platforms and electric cooperatives, advocating for the energy transition.
• Represent ICSC and the consortium of partners as needed to communicate views on the energy transition and grid modernization to various actors, including governments, regional institutions, civil society organizations and media.

• Work with colleagues in media and campaigns to develop and implement communication and strategies that maximize ICSC’s and the consortium’s influence and impact.
• Regularly coordinate with other team members to ensure the smooth delivery of project objectives and plans.

Consortium coordination
• Lead the coordination of the grid + storage consortium.
• Working with the ICSC energy team and other partners, further develop the grid+storage consortium mission and purpose, including its agenda, member roles and responsibilities, and implementation strategies.
• Ensure robust consortium coordination by organizing regular meetings, open communications and plans are implemented.
• Develop plans and implement strategies for expanding consortium memberships.
• Support consortium members in their work by providing analysis, insights and direct implementation of activities.
• Actively look for opportunities to leverage members’ networks and strengths and increase the consortium’s impact.
• Help develop MEAL to monitor project outcomes and impacts
• Monitor, produce and compile regular reports and updates on the implementation of consortium activities.

Policy analysis and research
• Undertake high-quality political and policy analysis on energy transition and grid modernization.
• Identify research needs and lead the development of new research, analysis and policy on clean acceleration specifically on grid modernization - including commissioning, writing and researching policy and advocacy products.
• Monitor major climate change and energy transition developments that affect the power grid system and provide ICSC, consortium partners and the wider Tara ecosystem with robust policy analysis to inform influencing strategies.
• Prepare policy positions on critical energy transition and grid issues and support the production of briefing papers, policy position statements and public communication materials.

Essential skills and competence
• Relevant work experience of at least three years in a relevant post, with proven project management skills in developing and implementing successful advocacy and policy projects, experience in research and advocacy, communication and lobbying.
• A proven record of advocacy and policy skills, proven experience in policy analysis and advocacy work and the ability to negotiate and agree policy positions amongst different stakeholders.
• Knowledge of Philippine energy transition issues and concerns.
• Strong analytical skills and ability to think strategically, including the ability to think beyond the specific issue of concern and to act within an overall energy transition framework.
• Organized, with good attention to detail and developed ability to prioritize tasks to meet tight deadlines and organize work in a complex institutional setting.
• A high level of interpersonal and communications skills; developed capacity for tact, diplomacy and negotiation.
• Ability to work creatively, innovatively and effectively, a self-starter who can work within a framework and with some support.
• Fluency in written and oral English and Pilipino; able to write briefing papers, funding proposals and reports.
• Proven experience of using MS office applications (Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint) and desk-top publishing software.

Desirable Skills
• Post-graduate qualification in a relevant field

Reporting lines
The post holder will be part of ICSC’s energy transition team and report directly to the Energy Policy Team head. They will serve as the coordinator of the grid+storage consortium that will be set up by ICSC.