

“Modernizing Uzbekistan National Innovation System (MUNIS)” Project

Terms of Reference

IMP Project title: Building Institutional Capacity for Sustainable Futures: A Pathway to Competitiveness in Central Asia and Beyond

Title of Assignment: Procurement of Logistical Support Services

BACKGROUND

In 2024, the Institute for Advanced International Studies at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy was awarded a Public Research Institutes Modernization Program (PRIM) grant by the Project Implementation Unit of the “Modernizing Uzbekistan National Innovation System (MUNIS)” project under the Agency for Innovative Development. The awarded grant amount is \$195,600 and its implementation period from December 2024 to December 2025. Within the given grant, the title of the IAIS institutional modernization plan is “Building Institutional Capacity for Sustainable Futures: A Pathway to Competitiveness in Central Asia and Beyond”.

MUNIS PRIM grant program is envisaged under the Subcomponent 1.3 - Public Research Institutes Modernization of the MUNIS Project. The MUNIS Project Development Objective (PDO) aims to enable the development of a market-oriented national innovation system in Uzbekistan. Long-term priorities of national science and innovation sector transformation are defined in the Concept of Uzbekistan Science Development until 2030 (Presidential Decree PF-6097, 29.10.2020).

This strategic concept defined goals and targets for transformation of public management of science, improving science funding mechanisms, diversification of sources for financing, modernization of research infrastructure, and developing data and information systems. In particular, the Concept indicates a comprehensive approach to the transformation of PRIs and envisages scientific infrastructure update, as well as cooperation of institutions with enterprises in the real sector of economy, creation of innovative enterprises, cooperation between various actors of the national innovation infrastructure (institutes, foundations, laboratories, scientific and technical parks, etc.), improving management, planning and forecasting of PRIs, better community outreach of PRIs to increase awareness of society on societal and economic benefits of scientific programs.

Through this grant, IAIS seeks to strengthen its institutional capacity to tackle the interconnected challenges of sustainable development, water and climate diplomacy, energy diplomacy, international trade, and related areas. This project is aligned with IAIS’s strategic vision to establish itself as a regional leader in research, policy dialogue, and practical solutions, enhancing its competitiveness while shaping global policy frameworks.

Central Asia faces pressing challenges at the nexus of environmental sustainability, international trade, and energy security. With Uzbekistan’s ongoing efforts to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the region’s struggles with climate change, water scarcity, and energy transition, there is a critical need for rigorous research and informed policy guidance. IAIS, leveraging its expanding centers and interdisciplinary expertise, is well-positioned to provide such leadership but requires further capacity building to achieve its full potential. This project aims to enhance IAIS’s ability to deliver high-impact research and policy solutions that support sustainable development and regional growth.

The project has three core objectives:

- 1. Upgrading Research Infrastructure and Data Exchange:** Modernize IAIS's digital platforms to support diverse research topics by developing an internal data management system and securing access to external databases.
- 2. Promoting Strategic Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships with industries, international organizations, and research institutions to foster joint research and knowledge exchange.
- 3. Building Institutional Capacity:** Enhance IAIS's capabilities through staff training in research methods, resource mobilization, leadership development, and governance, ensuring long-term policy influence and research excellence.

ASSIGNMENT

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IAIS) invites qualified suppliers to submit proposals for the provision of logistical support services. These services are essential for implementing key activities under the following pillars of the project: IMP Pillar B: Capacity Building, IMP Pillar C: Strategic planning and governance, IMP Pillar D: Knowledge exchange and sharing, and Pillar F: Community engagement and outreach.

The required services include:

1. Procurement of airline tickets for diverse itineraries.
2. Sourcing and booking of hotel rooms for project participants.

QUALIFICATIONS CRITERIA:

1. **Legal Status:** The bidder must be a legally registered entity (e.g., Travel Agency, DMC - Destination Management Company) with a valid business license/registration certificate.
2. **Years of Experience:** Minimum of **1 year** of proven experience in providing corporate travel management and hotel booking services, preferably for international organizations, NGOs, or large corporates.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested suppliers should submit their proposals, including:

- Company profile.
- Filled in tables in the below format:

Air tickets

| Itinerary (economy class) | Period (tentative) | Cost |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| New York – Tashkent – New York | October - November | |
| Beijing – Tashkent – Beijing | | |
| Astana – Tashkent - Astana | | |
| London – Tashkent – London | | |

Hotel rooms

| Hotels (standard) | Period (tentative) | Cost |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Hilton | | |

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Hyatt Regency | October - November | |
| Hampton by Hilton | | |
| Wyndham | | |

Applications should be submitted via email for the attention of Mr. Shakhboz Akhmedov via the following address: info@iais.uz till 23:59 (Tashkent time) on September 23, 2025.