Terms of Reference

Scoping research: Environmental issues and political parties in Asia

Background
Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is the UK public body dedicated to supporting democracy around the world. WFD partners with UK political parties, parliaments, electoral and financial audit institutions to help over 30 countries make their governments fairer, more effective and accountable.

As part of its work with UK political parties, WFD are partnering with the Liberal Democrats in the UK to launch a new international programme in 2021 with a focus on addressing environmental issues and climate change and promoting the principles of environmental democracy. The project will aim to work primarily with political parties in Asia, and would seek to draw upon expertise and experience within the Liberal Democrats and the wider liberal family to support parties in the region in tackling climate change and environmental degradation.

The project’s overarching objective will be to build participating parties’ capacity to address climate change and other environmental issues in their countries. In the run up to COP26 this year, the project will also seek where possible to support parties specifically on climate action, and realising the commitments set out under the Paris Agreement.

Scope of work
As part of the project planning, WFD is seeking a Consultant Researcher to conduct an initial scoping of the political context and main environmental issues in the countries we plan to focus on. These are: Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand.

The main objective of the scoping research is to provide an overview of the environmental issues in each country and the political context within which they sit, and how political parties interact with these issues. The research will inform future project design.

The scoping research should be 4-5 pages per country (total up to 25 pages) and should cover the following key areas for each country:

A. **Political context overview of the country** (1 page) – key information about the system of government at national and local levels; the party system including the ruling party/coalition and major opposition parties; the outcome of the most recent elections; any recent instances of political instability/unrest; key observations on the status of political rights and democracy.

B. **Overview of two the most significant domestic environmental issues in the country** (1 page) – key information about each issue and the main factors shaping the issue (including public and private interests, status of government legislation and enforcement, informal practices and norms, public opinion, and any other relevant factors); the main 5-10 relevant stakeholders for each domestic issue, including media houses, think tanks, academic institutions and civil society organisations.

C. **Overview of the country’s action on climate change** (1 page) – focusing on progress within the Paris Agreement and towards commitments made in their Nationally Determined Contributions. (For Taiwan, this can focus on the progress towards the broad aims of the Paris Agreement, as they are not a formal signatory.) This section should also include the main domestic factors shaping action/inaction as outlined above, as well as the main 5-10 stakeholders.
D. **Overview of political party work on environmental issues in each country, especially relating to climate change and the main two domestic issues highlighted** (2 pages) – summary of how political parties are interacting with these issues; examples of any notable campaigns/policies or other involvement by parties.

**Deliverables**

1. Conduct scoping research using secondary data sources as detailed above, focusing on the Philippines, Malaysia, Mongolia, Taiwan and Thailand.
2. Produce a final internal written report summarising the research. The report should be structured country by country, covering each point set out in the scope of work for each country. **The report should be a maximum of 25 pages (4-5 pages per country).**

**Timeline**

- **Research Start Date:** 19 March 2021 (TBC)
- **Final written report due:** 9 April 2021

**Person specification**

- Experience in conducting political context research and analysis
- Knowledge of environmental issues, their drivers and main stakeholders in Asian countries, including political responses and actors
- Knowledge of global climate change commitments, especially in relation to the Paris Agreement and how it works, and progress towards targets in Asia specifically
- Excellent report writing skills

**Contract and fees**

The contract for the research will be for **10 days of work at a rate of £200/day, totalling £2,000.**

**Working arrangement**

Work location and equipment must be provided by the Consultant. Any business costs incurred as part of the research are subject to prior approval and can be claimed back from WFD upon presentation of receipts. WFD reserves the right to refuse reimbursement if expenses are judged unreasonable.

**Expressions of interest**

Interested parties are requested to submit a summary of relevant experience (brief CV and two relevant references) which demonstrates proven experience in the areas outlined in the person specification.

**Expressions of interest should be sent to Helen Reeve, helen.reeve@wfd.org, by 14th March 2021.** Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by 16th March 2021 to arrange a telephone interview.