**People’s Republic of China**

**Project Concept Note**

**Project Title:**

Formulation of the “UNDP-Changshu Hydrogen Industry Workforce Development Institute Project”

**Expected UNSDCF/CP Outcome(s):**

Outcome 1: Relative poverty and multi-dimensional poverty are reduced, and more coordinated development leads to reduction in gaps between rural and urban areas and among regions, as more people in China, including left-behind groups, benefit from sustainable, innovation-driven and shared high-quality economic development, with enhanced access to economic opportunities arising through innovation, entrepreneurship and rural revitalisation, enjoying decent work, sustainable livelihoods, and the right to development equally for both women and men.

**Expected CPD Output(s):**

Output 1.1: Public and private solutions developed, financed, and applied to reduce multidimensional poverty/increase population access to income and build resilience, in selected areas.

Output 1.3: Capacities of target governments strengthened to facilitate gender-responsive demographic transition through a life-cycle approach and preparedness for the future of work.

**Start/End Dates:** 28 July 2021 to 28 July 2022

**Implementing Partner:** UNDP (DIM)

Programme Period: 3 years

Atlas Award ID: 00137034

Atlas Output ID: 00127696

Gender Marker: GEN-2

Total resources required USD 100,000

Total allocated resources:

* Regular
* Other
  + Government USD 100,000

**Brief Description**

The formulation of the “UNDP-Changshu Hydrogen Industry Workforce Development Institute Project (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Changshu Project’) aims to develop a full-sized Project Document that seeks to create an enabling environment for youth and adults in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines to gain quality technical vocational education and training (TVET) for employment and decent work in the context of China’s low carbon transition and sprouting hydrogen economy.

The project will focus on addressing the absence of adequate TVET for the hydrogen industry in the Yangtze River delta in China. It will establish necessary research bodies and advisory committees to inform policy decisions and formulate standards for skills qualification systems, designing appropriate education and training programmes and curriculums, and carrying out the training of trainers.

The Project Document will define the goals, strategies and framework of the project based on extensive desk research, comprehensive stakeholder and expert group consultations, field visits to institutions that are leading the technical vocational education and training in China, as well as on-site preparatory technical assessment in Changshu. It will adopt a rights-based approach while also empowering women and girls in STEM and TVET.

Agreed by UNDP:

# Purpose and Expected Output

The formulation of the Changshu Project seeks to provide an important platform for untapping the potential of skills development and the role of TVET for the hydrogen industry in the Yangtze River Delta in China, which can be further replicated across the country and globally. The project will cooperate with relevant bodies in the industry to provide systematic solutions to TVET for the industry. Expected outputs of the project formulation phase will be Project Document and 2022 Annual Work Plan.

The project framework is envisaged to include the following outputs:

1. A Hydrogen Energy Talent Development Institute established to support industrial development.
2. An advisory committee on TVET for a hydrogen economy is set up and comprised with industrial professionals and TVET experts.
3. An adequate TVET system, including training programmes, curriculums, skills qualification systems etc., that meets the needs of China’s hydrogen industry and its low-carbon transition agenda, is developed based on in-depth research and consultation with relevant stakeholders.
4. A training centre established for trainers and students (adults and youth) to receive adequate training.

The formulation of the Changshu Project will be based on appropriate situation analysis on hydrogen industry talent development, extensive stakeholder consultations with potential implementing partners, experts, local hydrogen enterprises, educational departments, and vocational training institutions in Changshu. It will adopt a rights-based approach while also empowering women and girls in STEM and TVET.

# Management Arrangements

1. **UNDP China**

Responsible for leading the project formulation phase in overall project design. UNDP China will provide recommendations on selection of domestic and international consultants, organize and lead the field-based stakeholder consultations and project design process, give guidance on the social and environmental safeguards pre-screening and gender analysis. It will also lead in the consolidation and finalization of Project Document, along with assessment of project implementation and management arrangements.

1. **Beijing Guoqing Zhonglian Hydrogen Technology Research Institute Co., Ltd. (the Hydrogen Institute)**

As the operating body of the China Hydrogen Alliance, it is responsible for providing technical advisory to the pipeline task force, leveraging its top-notch network in the industry, support all preparatory research, supporting field-based stakeholder consultations by coordinating local hydrogen industry actors, educational departments, and other relevant units, mobilizing technical expertise from energy industry for preparing Project Document.

1. **China Automotive Technology and Research Center (CATARC)**

Responsible for collaborating with Hydrogen Institute to support all preparatory research, mobilizing technical expertise from automotive industry for advisory on preparing Project Document. It will also assist in formulating project implementation and execution modality.

1. **Changshu High-tech Development Zone Management Committee (the Committee)**

Responsible for providing funding and policy support for the project formulation phase, coordinating with stakeholders from Changshu Technology College and the Committee to participate in consultation process, cooperating with all parties to formulate project implementation and execution modality. The Committee will provide USD 100,000 for project formulation.

All pipeline activities, including preparatory technical studies and formulation of Project Document, will provide crucial guidance to the project’s implementation phase. The pipeline taskforce should also use the insights and network established during project formulation phase to prepare for and/or blend in some of the initial activities to be carried out in the first year of implementation, including but not limited to: Organization of workshops on hydrogen talent development; Research on the current situation and needs of hydrogen industry talent development in China; Development of hydrogen safety training system and textbooks; Research on vocational qualification accreditation of hydrogen industry.

# Monitoring

The parties will jointly carry out monitoring and evaluation of project formulation phase, including progress monitoring and quality assurance of the project design and strategies, project document, budgeting, work plans. In this process, UNDP will initiate the pre-establishment of a project board as the interim decision-making body for clarifying the roles of various groups involved in project development and monitoring, how is data collected in the project formulation phase, how is the data linked to programming, and how the intended programmatic results can be linked to national level results. A comprehensive work plan with concrete pipeline activities has been developed as the key basis for monitoring the key output and associated results.

UNDP China Office will also ensure that the pipeline process follows UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP).

# WORK PLAN

**Period: July 2021 – July 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PLANNED ACTIVITIES** | **2021** | | **2022** | | | |
| Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Drafting statement of intent of project |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Approval of statement of intent of project |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drafting financial agreement |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Approval of financial agreement |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Decision on implementing partner and project management office |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOR drafting of project consultants and contracts signing |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| On-site investigation and assessment in Changshu, including meeting with relevant stakeholders including project experts, enterprises, vocational and research institutes |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| First draft of project document |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Revision and finalization of project document |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Submission of project document for review |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PAC meeting |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Approval of project document |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Project inception meeting |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drafting and approval of 2022 annual work plan and budget |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Formulation of project management arrangements |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Risk Analysis

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project title: Formulation of UNDP-Changshu Hydrogen Industry Workforce Development Institute Project | | | | | | Project ID: 137034 | | Date: Jan 7, 2022 | |
| # | Description | Date identified | Type | Impact and Probability | Countermeasures / Management Response | Owner | Submitted, update by | Last update | Status |
| 1 | **Decision to not fund the full-sized project as agreed by local government.**  This could be caused by the continuous fiscal pressure imposed by the COVID pandemic’s impact on the local economy, or in the event of change of key personnel at the government. | Jan 7, 2022 | Financial risk | P = 1  I = 4  P\*I = 4 | * Adopt a consultative approach in the project formulation phase and ensure that the local government and stakeholders are fully consulted on their needs, challenges, and vision for the project. * Speed up the project formulation process to reduce the possibility of changes in government decision making personnel. * Strengthened monitoring on the use of financial resources during project formulation phase. | Programme Manager | Programme Manager | Jan 7, 2022 | Initial |