

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Preparatory Assistance (PA)  
to Support  
King Abdulaziz City for Science & Technology (KACST)  
In Support of Open Source Software (OSS)**

**Situation Analysis:**

King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology is working towards establishing a national Open Source Software (OSS) center that will act as a single point of reference on OSS focusing on coordinating and facilitating development and implementation of OSS for the public sector in Saudi Arabia.

The decision concerning the establishment of such a center came from the concerns regarding propriety software. These include issues of licensing fees, security vulnerabilities and possible vendor lock-in. Partially for these reasons, KACST decided to encourage the development and localization of open source software in the Kingdom several years ago.

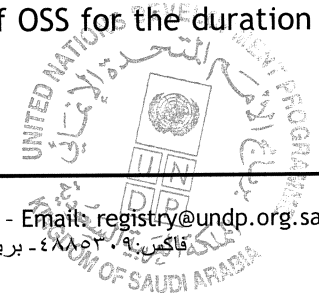
Since 2000, among other things, KACST has worked on a project for Linux Arabization. It has produced an Arabic e-mail client and editor for Linux users. Following these projects, KACST has carried out several OSS projects through which it contributed to the Arabization and localization of several international OSS products such as K Desktop Environment (KDE), OpenOffice and Fedora. KACST has also developed open source fonts for Linux.

KACST is currently developing an Arabic spell-checker and Math editor for OpenOffice. As part of its efforts in the OSS localization in the Kingdom, KACST is also working on Arabizing educational OSS for children.

**Objective, outcomes, duration of the Preparatory Assistance (PA)**

The objectives this PA is to carry on a mission that will assess the current situation and prepare a report on the feasibility of a National OSS Center or perhaps even an "Open ICT Technologies Center" that would focus not only on OSS but also open Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) ecosystems. In Addition, this PA will facilitate the development of a project document that would encompass main activities and outcomes for a joint development programme between KACST and UNDP.

This PA will provide two international consultants in the field of OSS for the duration of seven man/days.



The report will include the potential benefits of OSS and open ICT ecosystems for Saudi Arabia. If the findings and conclusions of the mission are positive, the report will also include possible initiatives and projects that could be undertaken, as well as guidelines and references based on the experience of other OSS established resource centers.

The main outcomes, outputs and activates that are intended to serve this purpose are represented in the following:

**Outcome 1:**

The establishment of the Saudi National Open Source Software Center (OSS).

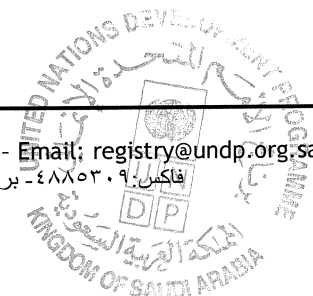
**Output1:**

A feasibility study report, providing an overview of benefits of OSS and open ICT ecosystems; the feasibility of a resource center; plans on advocacy research, and development work the center could undertake

**Activities:**

- Propose guidelines and references for assessment based on the experience of other, established OSS resource centers in Asia and beyond
- Assess the desirability and feasibility of the establishment of a national resource center to undertake advocacy nationally, as well as research and develop activities towards achieving benefits of open ICT ecosystems and/or OSS
- Propose possible plans on research initiatives and activities that the proposed center could undertake
- Assess the human, financial and materiel resources that the proposed center would require over the short (1 year) and medium-terms (3 years) in order to deliver on its proposed program of work
- Identify regional and international programs and initiatives that the proposed center should establish links with for mutual benefit
- Prepare a presentation to stakeholders on the preliminary findings

**Output2:**



An agreed upon project document including work plan and budget for the KACST

**Activities:**

- Based on output one and initial feedback, Draft an initial logical framework and project document.
- Drafting of detailed work plan and budget will be developed to express the needed resources to be mobilized to support UNDP activities, and preparation of project document for signing.



Outputs	Impact and Intended Results	Indicative Activities (Strategy)	Type of Activities	Input/Timing/Relationship with other Partners	Cost
1. Feasibility Study of a National Open Source Software Resource Center	Establishing a national Open Source Software (OSS) center that will act as a single point of reference on OSS focusing on coordinating and facilitating development and implementation of OSS for the public sector in Saudi Arabia.	<p>1.1 Propose guidelines and references for assessment based on the experience of other, established OSS resource centers in Asia and beyond</p> <p>Assess the desirability and feasibility of the establishment of a national resource center to undertake advocacy nationally, as well as research and develop activities towards achieving benefits of open ICT ecosystems and/or OSS</p> <p>1.2 Propose possible plans on research initiatives and activities that the proposed center could undertake</p> <p>1.3 Assess the human, financial and materiel resources that the proposed center would require over the short (1 year) and medium-terms (3 years) in order to deliver on its proposed program of work</p> <p>1.4 identify regional and international programs and initiatives that the proposed center should establish links with for mutual benefit, and</p> <p>1.5 Prepare a presentation to stakeholders on the preliminary findings</p>	<p>Desk Review</p> <p>Field Visit</p> <p>Desk Review</p> <p>Desk work</p> <p>Desk work</p> <p>presentation</p> <p>Desk work</p>	<p>UNDP Expert for 7 man days to come around June 2007.</p>	5,824
2. An agreed upon project document.	The development of Joint programme between the KACST and UNDP to support development activities.	<p>1.1. Formulation of Project Document</p> <p>1.2. Drafting of detailed work plan and budget will be developed to express the needed resources to be mobilized to support UNDP activities, and preparation of project document for signing</p>	<p>Desk work</p>		600
3. Contingency					

4. Facilities and Administration 3%								192,72
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TOTAL  
6,616.72



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## Management Arrangement

The project will be nationally-executed through the King Abdulaiziz City for Science and Technology (KACST). The National Project Director (NPD) will be in charge of the management of this project and will be the coordination focal point with UNDP. All project personnel will be under the guidance and supervision of the Director General.

The amount estimated in the budget (US\$ 6,616.72 ) will be deposited with UNDP. Thereafter, payments for items identified in the project matrix (budget) will be made by UNDP after receiving disbursement instructions from the NPD. A financial report will be submitted to the KACST at the end of the project for the purpose of review and endorsement. In the event that both parties decided to close this project and certain funds remained unutilized, UNDP will return the unutilized balance, after clearing all contractual commitments, to the KACST or transfer to a full fledged project depending on the preference of the KACST.

The budget is subject to review as needs arise and there is enough flexibility to transfer among project budget sub lines.





## Preparatory Assistance Document

Country: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Expected Outcome(s)/Indicator (s):  
**Establishment of OSS Center**

(CPAP outcomes linked to the MYFF goal and service line)  
**Viable systems for improved public services delivery**

Expected Output(s)/Annual Targets:  
**Mission report and PD**

(CPAP outputs linked to the above CPAP outcome)  
**ICT Capacity Building**

Implementing partner:  
**King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST)**

The objective this PA is to help facilitate the development of a project document that would encompass main activities and outcomes for a joint development programme between KACST and UNDP

Programme Period: 12 months\_  
Project Title: National OSS  
Project ID: SAU10/56263  
Project Duration: 6 month  
Management Arrangement: NEX

Total Budget	6,616.72
Allocated resources:	
KACST	4,304.72
UNDP	2,312

Agreed by (KACST): \_\_\_\_\_

Agreed by (UNDP): \_\_\_\_\_

# **DRAFT**

## **Terms of Reference**

### *Feasibility Study of a National Open Source Software Resource Center*

#### *Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

**Dates:** At a time that is mutually convenient to all concerned

**Duration:** 1 week

**Requesting Organization:** King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia

**Fees:** None

## **Background**

King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology (KACST; see <http://www.kacst.edu.sa/eng/index.php>) is working towards establishing a national Open Source Software (OSS) center that will act as a single point of reference on OSS focusing on coordinating and facilitating development and implementation of OSS for the public sector in Saudi Arabia.

The decision concerning the establishment of such a center came from the concerns regarding propriety software. These include issues of licensing fees, security vulnerabilities and possible vendor lock-in. Partially for these reasons, KACST decided to encourage the development and localization of open source software in the Kingdom several years ago.

Since 2000, among other things, KACST has worked on a project for Linux Arabization. It has produced an Arabic e-mail client and editor for Linux users. Following these projects, KACST has carried out several OSS projects through which it contributed to the Arabization and localization of several international OSS products such as K Desktop Environment (KDE), OpenOffice and Fedora. KACST has also developed open source fonts for Linux.

KACST is currently developing an Arabic spell-checker and Math editor for OpenOffice. As part of its efforts in the OSS localization in the Kingdom, KACST is also working on Arabizing educational OSS for children.

## **Feasibility Study**

A mission to KACST is required to discuss and prepare a report on the the feasibility of a National OSS Center or perhaps even an "Open ICT Technologies Center" that would focus not only on OSS but also open Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) ecosystems (see <http://www.apdip.net/resources/policies-legislation/guide/Berkman-Roadmap4OpenICTEcosystems.pdf/>). The report will include the potential benefits of OSS and open ICT ecosystems for Saudi Arabia. If the findings and conclusions of the mission are positive, the report will also include possible initiatives and projects that could be undertaken, as well as guidelines and references based on the experience of other OSS established resource centers.

## **Duties and Responsibilities**

- Review benefits of FOSS and open ICT ecosystems for Saudi Arabia
- Propose guidelines and references for assessment based on the experience of other, established OSS resource centers in Asia and beyond
- Assess the desirability and feasibility of the establishment of a national resource center to undertake advocacy nationally, as well as research and develop activities towards achieving benefits of open ICT ecosystems and/or OSS



- Propose possible plans on research initiatives and activities that the proposed center could undertake
- Assess the human, financial and materiel resources that the proposed center would require over the short (1 year) and medium-terms (3 years) in order to deliver on its proposed program of work
- Identify regional and international programs and initiatives that the proposed center should establish links with for mutual benefit, and
- Produce a feasibility study report, providing an overview of benefits of OSS and open ICT ecosystems; the feasibility of a resource center; plans on advocacy research, and development work the center could undertake
- To hold a presentation session on OSS for stakeholders
- To hold a presentation of the initial assessment and recommendations

## Timeframe

One week of on site consultations.

Feasibility Study Report and Project Document to be delivered one month on conclusion of on site consultations.

## Qualifications and Experience

- Knowledge of Open ICT Ecosystems/Open Source Software/Open Standards and their application in public and private sectors.
- Knowledge of software localization; knowledge of Arabic and right to left languages in ICT use and OSS projects will be an advantage.
- Experience and knowledge in development of OSS resource centers.
- Experience in planning, project management and research.
- Good command of English-language communication and writing skills.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills and experience in working effectively in a multicultural environment.
- Self-starters able to work with minimum supervision, and with sound judgment.

## Terms and Conditions Principal Contacts

Consultants to be provided return air travel and per-diems based on standard KACST rules, regulations and practices.

Additional travel within Kingdom may be required, to be organized and covered by KACST.

## Principal Contacts

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### 2. Mayssam Tamim

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