

Terms of Reference for Visiting Fellows for Bioeconomy

1. General Information

Title:	ESCAP Visiting Fellows for Bioeconomy
Duration:	9 months with the possibility of extension
Induction Course dates:	TBD
Training dates:	Nine-month fellowship programme (dates to be confirmed)
Duty Station:	Bangkok, Thailand
Sector of assignment:	Environment and Development Policy Section (EDPS), Environment and Development Division (EDD)
Application deadline:	31 July 2026

2. Supervision

Overall guidance:	Director of EDD
Direct supervision:	Chief, EDPS/EDD

3. Context

These fellowships are funded through the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Section 23 of the United Nations regular budget), the broad objective of which is to support and advance processes aimed at strengthening the capacity of Governments, through both individuals and institutions, to formulate and implement policies for sustainable economic and social development. The Programme promotes the sharing of experiences across countries and regions, the use of national expertise from beneficiary countries to the extent possible, and the development of knowledge networks to facilitate continued exchange, cooperation and sustainability. Fellows are expected to strengthen their capacities through a variety of learning methods, including on-the-job training.

The ESCAP secretariat supports inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the region by generating action-oriented knowledge, and by providing technical assistance and capacity-building services in support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ESCAP also provides support to partners at the national level.

ESCAP's national offer is rooted in, and linked with, the implementation of global and regional intergovernmental frameworks, agreements, and other instruments, including ESCAP resolution 82/2 [*Supporting the transition towards a sustainable bioeconomy in countries in Asia and the Pacific*](#); and the Ministerial Declaration on [*Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific*](#), adopted at the 7th Session of the Committee on Environment and Development (ESCAP/CED/2022/4/Add.1).

The Government of Bangladesh has identified Environment and Development as one of the priority areas under the ESCAP Visiting Fellows Programme. In response to this interest, the fellowship will provide an opportunity for a government official to gain practical knowledge

and capacity building experience in a multilateral environment and deepen understanding of regional policy processes. The fellow will contribute to intergovernmental process for policy dialogues, ongoing analysis and research, and knowledge-sharing and capacity-development activities undertaken by EDPS, while enhancing professional skills and knowledge that can support Bangladesh's national development priorities and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. Duties, responsibilities, and output expectations:

The fellow will support the work of Environment and Development Policy Section. Key responsibilities may include:

- Supports the overall coordination of activities related to the implementation of ESCAP Resolution 82/2 Supporting the transition towards a sustainable bioeconomy in countries in Asia and the Pacific, including the implementation of technical activities, coordination with implementing partners, and administrative follow-up.
- In particular, the fellow will be responsible for the organization of high-level policy dialogues among member States, entities of the United Nations system, partners and stakeholders, as appropriate, to share experiences and lessons learned on bioeconomy.
- Supports the promotion of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to address biodiversity loss, restore degraded ecosystems, boost resilience, mitigate and adapt to climate change, support sustainable food production methods, promote health and contribute to addressing other challenges.
- Facilitates the integration of blue carbon and blue economy into policy-making, and supports related activities in the region.
- Researches, analyzes and presents information gathered from diverse sources.
- Assists in policy development, including the review and analysis of issues and trends, preparation of evaluations or other research activities and studies.
- Performs other duties as required.

5. Learning Elements

After the assignment the fellow will be able to:

- Understand regional policy frameworks and cooperation mechanisms.
- Apply analytical and research skills to the subject area in a multilateral environment.
- Organize and support international meetings and capacity-building activities.
- Prepare policy-oriented knowledge products and communication materials.
- Strengthen professional networks with regional and international stakeholders.

6. Content and methodology of the supervision

The fellow will receive an induction programme and orientation to ESCAP's mandate, programme of work and relevant projects. The fellow will work closely with the supervisor and relevant programme staff, participate in weekly section meetings, division meetings and regular consultations. Guidance and feedback will be provided through periodic review meetings and mentoring throughout the fellowship.

7. Qualifications and experience

Education: Advanced university degree (Master's Degree or doctorate or their equivalents) in the field of environmental science, environmental studies, economics, engineering, public administration, or related subject.

Work experience: Previous experience in the sector of ICT, digital, science, technology, space technology and geospatial information at the national or international level will be considered as an advantage.

Languages: Fluency in oral and written English.

Other skills: Able to operate in MS Office programmes, social media skills would be an advantage.

Competencies:

Planning & Organizing: Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.

Communication: Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.

Teamwork: Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; places team agenda before personal agenda; supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings.

8. Background information

The mandate of ESCAP is to promote sustainable and inclusive development and regional connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region. The role of ESCAP as a regional development arm of the United Nations Secretariat is to support its membership with policy-oriented research and analysis, normative support and technical assistance and capacity-building, to respond to the development priorities and changing needs of the region.

9. Fellows' Administrative Arrangements

The selected fellows must be available to travel to the assigned duty station as may be decided by ESCAP after the selection process;

The selected fellows will receive a return air ticket between his/her country of residence and the assigned duty station;

The selected fellows will receive, on a monthly basis, a stipend to cover local travel and subsistence for the duration of the fellowship. In the case of the final month's stipend, it will

only be paid upon submission of a fellowship report and an approved final performance evaluation of the fellow.

The fellowship program is for nine months.

10. Reporting

At the end of the fellowship, fellows will be required to provide a report comprising self-assessment, supervisor's comments and learning outcomes during the fellowship with ESCAP. The assessment will help evaluate the overall fellowship period, including learning outcome and its impact on the fellow's contribution to national institutions in the implementation of development cooperation activities.

11. Special notice

This call is open only to nationals of Bangladesh

Candidates must submit, through their Government (through the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance), their Candidate Profiles and the following documents as PDF attachments:

- Candidate Profile (Personal History Profile (PHP) to be prepared on inspira.un.org and printed as .pdf for submission by email)
- Copy of academic certificates
- Copy of applicant's national passport (information page only), and;
- Self-certification for health insurance coverage

ERD of the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is Government's focal point for this Programme.

The United Nations Secretariat is committed to achieving 50/50 gender balance in its recruitment. Qualified female candidates and young scholars are particularly encouraged to apply.

An impeccable record for integrity and professional ethical standards is essential.

ALL SUBMISSIONS TO BE EMAILED TO:	
Email Address:	escap-edd@un.org ; escap-spmd@un.org
Subject Line:	ESCAP Fellowship for Bioeconomy

Application deadline: 31 July 2026, midnight Bangkok time