1. Background and Rationale

With the establishment of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MEO) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) Joint Task Force (JTF) as an initial step and impetus to a Philippines – Taiwan Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA), both parties agreed to come up with a Work Plan to provide ‘comprehensive research and collaboration to enhance bilateral economic relations, including developing a Philippines-Taiwan ECA, and to pursue closer partnership and shared economic growth and prosperity’.

A Philippines-Taiwan ECA would build opportunities in terms of promotion and cooperation in trade and investment, strengthening of production networks, and cooperation in agriculture and other key industries. Moreover, Taiwan is one of the major destinations of overseas Filipino workers that cooperation in human resource would facilitate movement of natural persons and enhance labor standards. Taiwan is also known to invest in and implement technological advancements in its industries; hence, cooperation in this area will facilitate and enhance current trade in goods and services between Philippines and Taiwan, and will open opportunities for expansion of trade and investment, and participation especially for MSMEs.

A set of feasibility studies were conducted in 2013, which prepared the groundwork research that looked into the setting for enhancing the Philippines-Taiwan relations. Part of the current JTF Work Plan is a joint feasibility studies project which aims to conduct further consultation and more in-depth study on the feasibility of a proposed Philippines-Taiwan Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA).

One of the feasibility studies that will be conducted is on Global Value Chains (GVCs). GVCs has emerged and developed as a strategy for firms to optimize production processes. Aside from the ‘fragmentation’ of production processes, other activities such as design, marketing, logistics and distribution, have been outsourced and
located in different countries. There is big potential for cooperation between Philippines and Taiwan in this regard.

In carrying out this work, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies will procure the consultancy services of a Consultant as Research Associate to assist the Project Director in the management and conduct of the study.

2. Objectives

The primary objective of the joint feasibility studies project is to submit analytical reports that will serve as guides in the discussion of both governments in promoting enhanced economic relations, including a possible Philippines-Taiwan ECA or other forms of economic partnerships in the future.

The report, particularly for the GVC study, will examine the sector and assess possible areas for enhanced cooperation for Philippines and Taiwan. The report will demonstrate major findings, including opportunities and challenges for both countries, areas for enhanced economic cooperation, conclusions and policy recommendations.

3. Scope of Work, Deliverables and Schedule of Payment Releases

Under the guidance and technical oversight of the Project Director, the Consultant shall be the Research Associate for the study. He/She is expected to work with the Project Team and perform the tasks/activities mentioned below.

The study will involve an assessment of the status and participation of industries in the GVC in the Philippines and Taiwan, and recommendations for possible framework and/or strategies for enhanced cooperation between the two countries. It is expected that the automotive sector and electronics sector will be part of the discussion.

The study will require the conduct of desk review, and primary and secondary data collection as needed. Focus group discussions, key informant interviews among government and public stakeholders will be conducted as required.

The Consultant will prepare the following outputs based on the schedule below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities and Deliverables</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Payment Tranches</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inception Report</strong> describing in detail the methodology, work</td>
<td>September 25,</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plan, and schedule of activities, acceptance and approval of</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIDS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preliminary or Progress Report</strong> containing the literature</td>
<td>October 12,</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>review, acceptance and approval of PIDS</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Qualifications of the Consultant

The Consultant should have the following qualifications:

- Advance degree in Economics, Development Economics, Statistics or related field
- Desirable Qualifications:
  - with relevant research experience and good track record of delivering high quality output
  - strong analytical skills
  - excellent communication and technical writing skills
  - demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment

5. Project Duration

The engagement is from September 18 to January 28, 2018 on a part-time basis.

6. Project Cost

The estimated cost of this consulting service is Two hundred six thousand pesos (PhP206,000). This does not include the cost of field visits which will be shouldered by PIDS. PIDS will also provide office space, internet connection, transportation service arrangements for field visits, and other administrative service to the consultant.
7. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

a. Consultant’s Qualifications: 50%
   i. Advance degree in Economics, Development Economics, Statistics or related field
   ii. Research experience and good track record of delivering high quality output
   iii. Analytical skills
   iv. Communication and technical writing skills
   v. Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment

b. Plan of approach and methodology with emphasis on the clarity, feasibility, innovativeness and comprehensiveness of the plan approach, and the quality of interpretation of project problems, risks and suggested solutions: 50%

To be registered and eligible to be included in the PIDS’ database of research consultants, interested proponents must submit the following documents:

a) PhilGEPS registration number
b) Tax Identification Number (TIN) and Curriculum Vitae (for individual consultants)
c) Filled-up accreditation form/registration form*, which includes information on completed contracts and all on-going government and project contracts, including contracts awarded but not yet started.
d) Notarized Affidavit* containing: statement of Filipino citizenship and supporting documents, i.e., birth certificate, passport, or other documents relative to citizenship; statement of not “blacklisted” or “barred” from bidding by any government agency, office, or corporation, and authority to verify documents.
e) Registered professional authorized by appropriate regulatory body to practice those profession or allied professions, if applicable.
f) BIR Certificate of Registration (for individual consultants)
g) DTI/SEC/CDA registration, and Mayor’s Permit (for consultancy firms)
h) Audited financial statements for the immediately preceding calendar year stamped “received” by BIR or its duly authorized/accredited institutions (for consultancy firms)
i) Income/Business Tax Return

*Registration of qualified proponents is on-going. Please secure copies of the registration form and affidavit from the Procurement Management Division c/o Sharold B. Magallones at 18/F Three Cyberpod Centris – North Tower, EDSA cor. Quezon Ave., Quezon City. These documents may also be requested via email at smagallones@mail.pids.gov.ph.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements and technical and financial proposals for the abovementioned research project is on or before September 11, 2017.