

Call for Proposals

In-Depth Study of Pandemic Governance and Civic Space in New Zealand, Taiwan, and South Korea

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) seeks individuals or organizations to conduct research assessing New Zealand, Taiwan, or South Korea's governance approaches to COVID-19 and their impact on civic space. The budget ceiling for each country study is \$25,000. Consultants may apply to work on more than one country study, but priority will be given to individual or organizational consultants based in each study country jurisdiction.

Applications for this project are due July 31, 2022. Project work should be completed by December 15, 2022. For more details and application instructions, please see below.

Background

During a pandemic characterized by democratic backsliding and repressive public health approaches, a few countries have stood out globally for relatively participatory, successful pandemic management. In the Asia region, New Zealand, South Korea, and Taiwan have managed COVID-19 better than most of their neighbors, while generally also protecting civic freedoms, including public participation and freedom of expression.

Although there has been a fair amount of global coverage around these countries' policy approaches to COVID-19, coverage has tended to focus on public health measures and outcomes. There has been less attention on the enabling practices employed by these countries to promote public participation, protect civil society, and ensure civic freedoms remain in place during an unprecedented global emergency.

Scope of Work

In order to promote best practices to pandemic governance and further explore how governments can protect public health while safeguarding human rights and civic freedoms, ICNL aims to produce a comprehensive report examining in-depth practices adopted by New Zealand, South Korea, and Taiwan that facilitated public participation and protected civic freedoms during COVID-19. Example practices would include Korea's facilitation of online and remote voting during its elections, Taiwan's daily press briefings and regular communications to the public, and New Zealand's creation of an oversight committee to provide independent scrutiny of government measures.

As part of this proposed research, the individual or organizational consultant may apply to complete one or more country studies (with priority given to in-country researchers) covering the following:

1. In-depth research on all enabling government policies related to COVID-19 that had a positive impact on civic space, or were generally in compliance with international standards on free association, assembly, expression, or public participation.
2. The use of technology and digital tools in COVID-19 management, and examination of their impact on civic space.
3. Assessment of any policies that raised human rights concerns, or failed to protect civic space.
4. Overall assessment of the country response, analysis based on international standards around human rights and emergency measures, and recommendations based on the findings of the study, including good practices that could be replicated in other countries, and strategies for promoting rights-respecting approaches to pandemic governance.

Application Instructions

To apply for this consultancy, applicants must submit the following items in English:

- Proposal (see below).
- Line-item budget (no more than \$25,000 USD per country case study). The pricing for the cost proposal must be in USD and fully itemized. For personnel costs, please list each person to be involved in this project, the proposed day rate(s) and number of days. All other costs should be listed and explained. The proposed price should be inclusive of ALL taxes (including GST). ICNL expects to issue one Firm Fixed Price contract.
- Resumes/CVs of individuals to be engaged in the project, and/or background information about the applicant organization (e.g., website links or informational materials), where relevant.

Applications should be emailed to asia@icnl.org, with reference made to “COVID-19 Best Practices Research” in the subject line. All application materials should be submitted in English. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis through **July 31, 2022**. Questions related to this consultancy can be emailed to asia@icnl.org.

Proposal

Interested applicants should submit a proposal of four pages or less, addressing the following topics:

- The depth of your knowledge and experience around pandemic governance and civic space issues;
- Your experience undertaking research and writing policy reports;

- If more than one person will be involved in this project, a description of who will undertake different aspects of the project. ICNL reserves the right to approve or reject the use of any personnel;
- Proposed scope of work and any suggested revisions to the coverage presented above, and methodology for conducting the research.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures;
- Quality of proposal, including the proposed methodology/design and feasibility of the project (e.g., activities are targeted to achieve stated results, and anticipated results are realistic and attainable);
- Depth of experience with the subject matter of this research consultancy and experience researching and writing similar reports;
- Commitment to producing high quality reports in a timely manner; and
- Proposed budget and value for money.