

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

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### **Bamboo Business and Technology Researcher**

The position is with Prosperity Initiative (PI), however the role will be based with one of our partners, the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in Anji, China as part of a programme to share and develop knowledge about the Bamboo industry

#### **THE PROGRAMME**

The program, is run by Fredskorpset (FK Norway). FK Norway is a Development Agency answering to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway. FK promotes capacity building of organizations involved in the exchange program through exchange of professional staff. FK believes that when our partners increase/strengthen their capacities, they would contribute to greater development in their countries and the world.

As capacity building of the organization takes some times, FK usually provides funding and support to an exchange project between 3-5 years (rounds of exchange) depending on the need and the results of the project. The project cycle for each round of exchange is 12 months comprising of 1 month for attending preparatory training organized by FK, 10 months for posting abroad, and 1 month to conduct activities to transfer the acquired knowledge and skills to their organizations and society.

The four partners in the program are:

- Prosperity Initiative, Vietnam
- Prosperity Initiative, Laos
- International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, Beijing, China
- Cane Bamboo Technology Centre, Guwarhati, India

The role of Bamboo Business and Technology Research will involve being placed in Anji, China for 10months, working in Anji Demai Bamboo and Wooden Machinery Co. Ltd. The role will commence with a 3 week training course in Thailand, followed by a 10month placement in Beijing, after which the individual will return to the PI office in Hanoi and manage a series of knowledge transfer events.

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**The following is the timeline and locations you will work in:**

1. 1 month (October 2010): Fredskorpset run Training Course: Songkhla, Thailand - Learn about the programme you are embarking on
2. 10 months (November 2010 to August 2011): Seconded to Anji Demai Bamboo and Wooden Machinery Co. Ltd in Zhejiang province, China after initial short introductory period at INBAR.
3. 1 month (September 2011): Prosperity Initiative, Hanoi, Vietnam - Knowledge Transfer to PI team on years learning's.

**ORGANISATION OVERVIEW**

Prosperity Initiative (PI) is an UK-registered international organisation set-up to help develop the bamboo sector for the benefit of business, farmers, and others in the industry in partnership with government partners in the region. Mekong Bamboo is PI's flagship programme which aims to support the development of a sustainable world class bamboo industry in the region that alleviates poverty, and creates widespread economic benefits by creating value for all actors across the supply chain

The objectives of the Mekong Bamboo Programme are to:

- Support business interests and investors in the highest value-added areas of the bamboo industry to maximise value adding and sustainable utilisation of bamboo resources;
- Support governments to enhance the policy environment in support of a vibrant value-added industry for farmers, workers and businesses;
- Support bamboo growing communities seeking to better manage and maximise returns from their bamboo resources and to help them gain access to higher value consumers/processors of raw bamboo materials.

Our experienced team in Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Cambodia, our new staff and technical partners from the leading industry in China, and our partnerships in India enable us to bring considerable expertise and knowledge to support our business and government partners in this region.

Our work brings together players across bamboo supply chains creating new possibilities through new technologies, ideas and practices - enabling new bamboo business opportunities and solutions for investors, businesses and government partners.

International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), China is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to improving the social, economic, and environmental benefits of bamboo and rattan. INBAR is established by treaty deposited with the United Nations and sovereign states can become members. There are at present 34 member states.

INBAR is headquartered in Beijing, China and has about 40 staff based in Beijing. There are smaller regional offices in Delhi, India; Quito, Ecuador and Kumasi, Ghana with about 4 staff each.

Funds are coming from membership fees from the member countries, contributions from the government of China, and from project based grants from the Common Fund for Commodities, European Union, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Blue Moon Fund, and some corporate sponsors for specific activities.

The objective of INBAR is to improve the well-being of the producers and users of bamboo and rattan within the context of a sustainable bamboo and rattan resource base by: consolidating, coordinating and supporting strategic and adaptive research and development; disseminating essential knowledge on the increasing number of ways in which bamboo and rattan can be applied to poverty reduction and sustainable natural resource management; assisting in bringing about successful development interventions through trade policy, statistical compilation, standard setting and direct community-based interventions.

In order to implement this, there are three main thematic programmes - Environmental Sustainability, Livelihoods and Economic Development and Trade Development, with four technical programmes - Global Bamboo Housing Program, Global Marketing Initiative, Global Rattan Program and the Non-timber Forest Products Partnership Programme, all supported by the Public Awareness, External Relations and Networking and Partnership Units.

#### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Review policy and technical documents, understanding the existing Bamboo market in Anji.
- To interview local manufacturers and experts in the Bamboo Sector
- Get hands on experience of working in the industry, by working with the technicians in a factory, for up to 2 weeks, to understand the production processes from raw materials, through the production line and to understand specific technologies incl Pressed Bamboo, Activated Carbon, Furniture board, Construction Board and Bamboo shoot processing
- Establish contacts with local manufacturers and extend the network within the region.

#### **KEY LEARNINGS**

- Advanced knowledge of China lead Bamboo technologies including those above.
- Knowledge of processing techniques, specific to China, like Pellets, Furniture board and bamboo shoot processing in order to bring this knowledge to the less developed Bamboo sector in Vietnam

**SUPERVISORY AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

Team: Trade and Standard Development

Line Manager: Immediate on site line manager from INBAR, Prof. Zhu. As a Prosperity Initiative employee you will report to Victoria Parkinson and maintain regular contact.

Workstation: Prosperity Initiative Office in Anji (INBAR do not have an office in Anji)

**KEY CHARACTERISTICS**

	Essential	Desirable
<b>Experience/ Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University education: at least bachelor’s degree in relevant discipline (business studies, trade, forestry, etc.</li> <li>English language skills: able to communicate, write and read.</li> <li>Experience in working with private sector related to bamboo preferred</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working knowledge of Bamboo technologies and Bamboo processing techniques</li> </ul>
<b>Skills/ Competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English language skills: able to communicate, write and read.</li> <li>Computer Literate</li> <li>Chinese language skills: able to communicate, write and read</li> <li>Interested in business development, technologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience in China, Laos or Cambodia</li> </ul>
<b>Personal qualities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belief in the importance of markets as a leading solution to poverty</li> <li>Is 35 or younger</li> <li>Willingness to relocate to Anji, China for 10months</li> <li>Strong commitment to an output and performance-based working style</li> <li>Willingness to travel occasionally in remote areas.</li> <li>Outgoing personality able to work with different people from private and public sector</li> <li>Flexible and interested in working within different culture</li> </ul>	

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- Full time, fixed term 12 month contract (subject to three-month probationary period). Extendable subject to satisfactory performance.

**CLOSING DATE:** August 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

**JOB START DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**HOW TO APPLY**

Please email a CV and cover letter to: [recruitment@pi-email.org](mailto:recruitment@pi-email.org)

The subject line of your email must be: “Bamboo Business and Technology Researcher”