Date Issued:    August 15, 2016

SUBJECT:    Pre-solicitation Notice: Centers for Collaborative Research (CCRs), under the USAID SHERA program

ATTENTION:    Interested Parties

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI): EOI must be submitted to USAID SHERA at shera@iie.org no later than September 15, 2016, 17.00 Jakarta time.

This serves as notification that the Institute of International Education (IIE) intends to release a Request for Application (RFA) in the near future to solicit applications from eligible higher education institutions (HEIs) to lead, establish and host Centers for Collaborative Research (CCRs) and engage in partnership research activities. Sustainable Higher Education Research Alliances (USAID SHERA) is a five-year program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in collaboration with Kementrian Riset Teknologi dan Pendidikan Tinggi (Kemristekdikti) to achieve the shared objectives of the sustainable quality and quantity of research in Indonesian higher education.

USAID SHERA Program Overview

Implemented by IIE, USAID SHERA seeks to foster linkages between Indonesian HEIs and U.S.-based universities, and across diverse Indonesian universities to:
- Enhance the research capacity of Indonesian HEIs in science, technology, and innovation (ST&I)
- Support the sustainable establishment or strengthening of five CCRs based in and overseen by lead Indonesian HEIs to:
  - Bring together Indonesian and U.S. researchers to conduct world-class research, and enhance the general understanding of international research partnerships
  - Focus on critical research issues for Indonesia’s development
  - Enhance the skills and expertise of Indonesia’s top researchers, and share these resources within their own institutions as well as across Indonesian HEIs in diverse regions of the country
  - Expand the institutional environment for research, and increase access to research and professional development opportunities for women

USAID SHERA Grant Award

IIE will administer grants of two-to-four years (2-4) in length with annual funding between $0.5 – 1.0 million to five (5) lead HEIs in Indonesia to:
- Establish and host a CCR focused on ST&I,
- Partner with U.S. universities and diverse Indonesian university affiliates to bring together scholars to conduct world-class research,
- Issue sub-awards to partners and affiliates to carry-out program activities,
- Promote knowledge sharing across CCRs,
- Work towards transitioning the CCRs to be fully independent and sustainable, and
- Engage with private sector and research-related stakeholders to promote innovative solutions to global challenges affecting Indonesia’s development.
Applicant Information
Successful candidates will be selected through open competition; however, they must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria:
- Be identified as a mandiri (autonomous) and A-tier cluster university, as classified by Kemristekdikti and accredited by Badan Akreditasi Nasional Perguruan Tinggi (BAN-PT),
- Have a Doctoral program in ST&I,
- Include at least one U.S. university and at least three Indonesian affiliate universities/ research institutions as partnership members, and
- Have support from their administration, the capacity to manage the award, and experience managing overseas grants.

Indonesian HEIs may apply to host more than one CCR, but will be required to submit a separate proposal for each. Applicants are encouraged to include HEIs off the island of Java, as well as research institutions and private sector stakeholders as partnership members. Gender-related criteria will be incorporated into the selection process, such as the extent to which proposed activities integrate gender considerations and address gender barriers facing female ST&I scholars.

Expressions of Interest (EOI)
A full RFA is anticipated for release on or about September 2016. USAID SHERA is accepting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from eligible candidates to focus the RFA on those candidates who express interest through an EOI and confirm their eligibility based on the above minimum eligibility criteria. Interested applicants who meet the criteria should download an EOI form from the SHERA website at www.iie.org/shera and submit it via email to shera@iie.org. EOIs must be signed and submitted by the head of the department or research unit, rector or vice-rector at the HEI. USAID SHERA will not respond to EOIs sent by individuals who do not represent a department, research unit or HEI. Submission of EOI does not constitute a solicitation.

The information included above is subject to modification and is in no way binding. This notice does not commit IIE to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of applications.