

Organization: Aqueous Solutions
Position: Program Coordinator (MSWEP)
Location: Tak Province, Thailand
Start Date: October 2009
Length of Contract: 7 months with the possibility of extension

Aqueous Solutions

Aqueous Solutions (www.aqsolutions.org) is a U.S. based non-profit organization, developing and deploying water treatment technology utilizing renewable materials and adaptations of local and traditional techniques to remove harmful contaminants from drinking water. These systems are designed to serve those without access to capital-intensive water treatment facilities. Aqueous Solutions is currently the only organization implementing water purification systems able to remove pesticides using technology appropriate for remote rural communities worldwide. We currently have projects in Thailand, Bolivia, India, and Cameroon.

Migrant Schools Water and Eco-sanitation Project (MSWEP)

MSWEP's vision is to advance healthy living and learning environments for migrant communities along the Thai/Burmese border, by providing Burmese migrant schools in Thailand with the means to maintain safe and environmentally sustainable sources of clean drinking water and sanitation. In order to achieve this vision, the project is designed to address problems of water contamination, water scarcity, inadequate water treatment and sanitation practices, and public awareness as they relate to the migrant school communities in and around Mae Sot city, Thailand. Capacity building and increasing access to relevant information and methodologies have been identified as cornerstones for achieving this vision.

In order to address and remedy water and sanitation factors facing migrant schools in Mae Sot, Aqueous Solutions will employ measures including onsite water testing, implementation of appropriate technology water treatment systems and eco-sanitation methods, as well as applied trainings in design and maintenance.

Position Summary

This is a great opportunity for individuals with a solid background in environmental engineering and appropriate technology, to apply their skills where they are most needed. The incumbent will be working with a team of Western and local volunteers with a variety of skills, expertise, and language abilities. Together they will be constructing water treatment and eco-sanitation facilities in rural schools. The coordinator must be able to think on their feet, generate creative solutions, possess a flexible, easy-going demeanor, and be able to work with the resources on-hand.

The project is located in a very safe, but rural location near the Thai/Burmese border in Northern Thailand. Therefore, the coordinator must be able to adapt to the local living situation, respect and engage in the local cultures, and learn to love spicy food. Because the project involves school communities, the incumbent should also love kids. The Mae Sot area is very diverse culturally, religiously, and politically. The right person will gain as much (if not more) than they are able to give back.

The MSWEP coordinator is a key operational position. They will be working in collaboration with a local counterpart, Aqueous Solutions Director of Programs, and a qualified group of international and local volunteers. The coordinator is responsible for implementation and management of the MSWEP program. They will provide leadership and supervision for all field-based staff and volunteers, managing resources, construction and related activities associated with the project. In particular, the MSWEP coordinator will have the following responsibilities:

- * Work collaboratively to design and implement appropriate technology for water, sanitation and hygiene projects.
- * Provide leadership and strategic vision in all aspects of program implementation, development and management, including overseeing and assigning tasks to onsite staff and volunteers.
- * Manage technical staff and organize the engineering team to perform engineering design, prepare plans and technical specifications, monitor progress of work, and problem-solve any field issues that arise during construction.
- * Ensure the timely completion of project activities in line with budgets and estimates.
- * Ensure that program implementation is responsive to communities and aligned with Aqueous Solutions' principles, values, and strategic plan.
- * Effectively balance the technical/engineering aspects of the project with community development initiatives to ensure stakeholder participation, ownership, and sustainability.
- * Monitor technical quality of engineering projects at all phases: identification, design, implementation and upon completion.
- * Provide regular reports on project status.

Qualifications

Required:

- Bachelor's or advanced degree in Engineering, Water Resources Management, Water Treatment Technologies or related field.
- 3 or more years of professional working experience, with at least 1 year providing expertise in the design and implementation of appropriate technology projects.
- Knowledge of rainwater harvesting techniques and bio-sand filtration systems.
- Good organizational and project management skills and the ability to anticipate project needs
- Fluency in English language
- Valid drivers license.
- Ability to adapt to local styles of living and traveling
- Willingness and ability to work effectively with a wide variety of people
- Patience and a positive attitude

Desired:

- Advanced degree
- Knowledge of earthen-building techniques and eco-sanitation systems.
- Experience living or working in developing countries (preferably in Asia)
- Knowledge of Thai, Burmese, or *Karen* languages

Conditions

- This position is contingent upon funding.
- Local style room and board will be provided on or near the project site.
- Round-trip airfare and domestic travel to field site will be provided.
- The incumbent will receive orientation and ongoing training / skill enhancement opportunities
- A monthly stipend will be provided for additional living and travel expenses.

How to Apply

Submit resume and cover letter to info@aqolutions.org. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Thank you for your interest in Aqueous Solutions.