

## Director

### Asian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility at AIT

#### Job Description

##### Background

The **Asian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility at AIT (ACCSR)** is a joint venture partnership between the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and CSR Asia. It is located at AIT in Thailand. Its scope of operation covers the Asia-Pacific region.

The **mission** of the Centre is to advance the development and implementation of effective sustainability solutions for and by business as well as to facilitate development of the supportive framework conditions for corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainable development.

ACCSR aims to carry out training, research, consultancy services and deliver a professional Master's degree in CSR. The ACCSR will provide a platform for dialog and innovation for the representatives of the private sector in seeking creative solutions for the challenging issues of sustainable development. ACCSR's target sectors are business and industry, government agencies and non-governmental organizations in as far as training, consultancy services and research are concerned. It will build a cohort of students that will take the modular, executive development, professional Master's degree.

The pursuit of sustainable development is a central part of AIT's mission. It is committed "to develop highly qualified and committed professionals who play leading roles in the region's sustainable development and its integration into the global economy". As an autonomous postgraduate institution having an international character of governance, faculty and students, AIT promotes technological change and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through higher education, research and outreach.

CSR Asia is a leading provider of information, training, research and consultancy services on sustainable development practices in Asia and promotes CSR in the Asia-Pacific region. It provides information and training relating to CSR issues as they emerge, provides expert CSR knowledge to businesses and their stakeholders, contributes to the sustainable development of the region, and incorporates Asian perspectives in the global CSR debate. Its clients and strategic partners include some of the private sector's best known brand names.

##### About ACCSR

It is expected that the ACCSR will contribute to the generation of innovative practices, methods and policies for CSR through research, consultancy and training activities. It will also create a platform for dialogue among the private sector as well as public sector, government and civil society organizations for the generation of capacity for sustainable business and community development. It will be central to building a knowledge base for CSR in Asia through training and capacity building. The outcome of the ACCSR's activities would be wider implementation of effective and innovative CSR strategies by the private sector in the Asia-Pacific region and thereby contributing to the sustainable development of the region.

Specifically, the ACCSR will undertake the following activities:

- **Executive education, training and capacity development** for the national and local governments, private sector, NGOs and international organizations. It will facilitate knowledge and skills development for addressing general and sector-specific solutions in the area of CSR and sustainable development. Using its insight into best practices and principles, the ACCSR will create state-of-the-art short courses for the future and current practitioners and policy-makers.

Executive education courses will be designed to be stand-alone or build into a professional Master's degree qualification (see below).

- **Consultancy** will be offered by the Centre principally using CSR Asia's existing capacity and aimed at companies in Thailand and Vietnam where AIT has already established networks. The consultancy will draw on the general CSR skills of CSR Asia and more specific capabilities of AIT staff where appropriate.
- **Research** will consist of in-depth examinations of issues and trends relevant to CSR. It will have an Asia focus and track the needs and aspirations of stakeholders and the private sector itself. The ACCSR will bid for contract research from international organizations and the donor community based on the reputations already established by AIT and CSR Asia.
- **Engagement.** The Centre shall participate in building on-going dialog leading to shared understanding of challenges and solutions for CSR among businesses, policy makers and civil society. The Centre shall build linkages with organizations and networks with similar missions in the area of CSR in the region.
- **Professional Master's degree:** The ACCSR will design and launch a flexible professional degree programme (MSc or MA) aimed at attracting part-time students wishing to increase their knowledge and skills in CSR. It will be delivered in an executive style involving intensive modules over four days each and include an action research-based dissertation.

## Directorship

AIT and CSR Asia are seeking to appoint a Director of the Centre. The position requires someone with leadership skills able to engage the private sector, NGOs, government agencies and donor agencies. The Director will work closely with the academic units within AIT as well as other offices of CSR Asia to develop regional training and education programmes and consultancy services.

Essential:

- Excellent spoken and written English
- Postgraduate qualifications linked to business, management and/or sustainable development
- A good understanding of CSR and business aspects of sustainable development
- A track record of engagement with the private sector
- An ability to lead and develop new initiatives, find funding for the development of the Centre and supervise and engage with its operations including training events, symposia, consultancy, research projects
- Experience of leading research projects
- A track record of writing proposals for donor agencies and other potential funders for projects
- Experience of organising events to build the reputation and standing of the Centre

Advantages:

- A PhD qualification in an area associated with CSR and sustainable development and associated academic publications
- Ability to speak Thai and other Asian languages
- Teaching and training experience

Further queries and applications should be sent through email to Erin Lyon, Executive Director at [elyon@csr-asia.com](mailto:elyon@csr-asia.com)