

PRACTICA

FOUNDATION

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Job Description Country Representative, Ethiopia

Position: Country Representative, Ethiopia
Duty Station: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Deadline for application: May 8, 2009
Contract duration: Until 31 December 2010
(renewable)

Salary & benefits: To be discussed

Start date: August 1, 2009

The Organisation

The PRACTICA Foundation **designs and disseminates low cost technology in the field of water and energy** in developing countries. Practica achieves this by working with established implementing partners, engaging the local private sector and following principles of 'poverty alleviation as a business'. Practica works in the field of manual drilling, water storage, pumps, ceramic water filters, combustion engines, solar and wind energy, private irrigation and sanitation. Services provided include assessments and feasibility studies, research and development, project design, training and capacity building and technical support. Please see www.practicafoundation.nl for more information.



Context & Background

PRACTICA first began laying the groundwork for a country program in Ethiopia in late 2008, with the goal of establishing a second PRACTICA office in Africa. PRACTICA had worked with partners in Ethiopia since 2001, travelling from Europe for training and advisory services.

Working closely with established partners, PRACTICA has set up an office and technology centre in Addis Ababa and begun to shift research and development work to Ethiopia. At the same time, PRACTICA has begun the registration process and assessed potential for new partnerships and further dissemination of PRACTICA technology in Ethiopia.

Main Purpose of the Role

Continue to establish PRACTICA in Ethiopia by:

- Manage NGO registration process;
- Strengthening current and fostering new relationships with partners (NGO's and private sector);
- Managing small but growing staff to carry out R&D and training activities, perform consulting duties for partners and maintain facilities;
- Seek out new opportunities for PRACTICA for funding, R&D, partnerships, etc.

Duties & Responsibilities

Report to: Marjolein Meerburg, Director, PRACTICA Foundation

Engineering: participate in projects on low-cost technologies in collaboration with PRACTICA experts

Leadership: Communicate vision for PRACTICA Ethiopia to staff, partners and PRACTICA Foundation staff, and work daily to implement that vision

Program management: responsible for several concurrent programs of varying size and focuses, often involving close collaboration with PRACTICA experts based outside of Ethiopia

- Capacity building:** Continuously strengthen PRACTICA base in Ethiopia, including expansion of facilities, knowledge management, training of staff, etc.
- Representation:** Present PRACTICA activities with high professionalism, including to current and future partners and government. PRACTICA has ongoing relationships with several NGO's in Ethiopia, and accelerating these is key.
- Human Resources:** Manage staff to achieve required outputs, within budget
- Reporting:** Maintain high level of communication with PRACTICA Netherlands and partners
- Finance management:** Ensure smooth financial operation of all PRACTICA Ethiopia activities
- Perform any other work** related duties and responsibilities that may be assigned by the line manager.

Requirements

Education: Undergraduate Degree in engineering, design, management of technology/innovation or related field. Related graduate education an asset.

Experience: The successful candidate will show proven experience in the following:

- Minimum 3 years in engineering and design of low-cost, appropriate technology, particularly in the areas of water lifting, application and storage, solar energy, health and sanitation;
- Minimum 3 years in management (both program management as general management), particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Entrepreneurialism through growth of an organization.

Competencies: The successful candidate will show specific examples of the following competencies

- Leadership: ability to instil a vision for PRACTICA Ethiopia in staff and partners, have this vision drive your team's daily work, and assume responsibility for the team's results;
- Communication: highly professional communication skills, including verbal and written;
- Initiative and judgement: ability to move program goals forward and make sound daily decisions that contribute to those goals;
- Technical aptitude and curiosity: candidate will contribute to development of new technologies, and be responsible for implementing technology-related projects in collaboration with colleagues. This requires a strong desire to identify technological responses to user needs, resourcefully tackle new development and continuously improve existing technologies; and
- Entrepreneurialism: ability to scale an organization up quickly.

Skills:

- Essential: Basic Microsoft Office applications; Desirable: GIS and mapping

Languages:

- English (fluent written and spoken) required
- Amharic a significant asset
- Dutch and French desirable
- A demonstrated ability to learn new languages is also an asset. The prevalence of English is relatively low in Ethiopia, and the ability to quickly learn Amharic is important.

How to Apply

Please send your CV and application letter to: marjolein.meerburg@practicafoundation.nl under reference of the position.

For additional information contact:

Brendan Baker, Country Director (Ethiopia, email: brendan.baker@practicafoundation.nl)
Marjolein Meerburg, Director (email above)

Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.