

# Research Manager (Myanmar)

- **Reports to:** PI (Nicholas Ryan), Co-PIs (Michael Greenstone, Robin Burgess)
- **Location:** Naypyitaw, Myanmar, with field travel
- **Deadline to apply:** 21 October 2016
- **Desired start date:** As soon as possible
- **Length of commitment:** 1 year commitment with likely extension
- **Monthly Salary:** Depends on qualifications

## Project Summary:

In partnership with the International Growth Centre (IGC), the research team will work closely with government ministries and the World Bank on the issue of electricity access alongside a large-scale national grid expansion programme. The National Electrification Plan (NEP) is an ambitious plan to provide access to electricity for all in Myanmar by 2030. Currently, only one in three have access to electricity in Myanmar. The NEP has two components: a major roll out of the national grid and the simultaneous development of off-grid alternatives for remote households. The grid expansion is being done on a geospatial least-cost basis, building the grid in various phases, offering a unique research opportunity to explore the broader welfare and economic effects of obtaining access to electricity. This forms the first aspect of the proposed research.

The second proposed focus area is on the process of connecting to the national grid once it arrives. The grid is built to the township level by the government. Villages within each township must then self-organise and form what is called a Village Electrification Committee (VEC). The VEC is then responsible for liaising with the local government to develop connection plans and, crucially, devise how much each household must pay to connect. Households cannot connect individually, and which households get connection and for what price is determined by the VEC. In this context it will be important to better understand how the VECs can best organize themselves and what support (both technical and financial) the government should consider providing.

## Position Summary:

The Research Manager will join at a very exciting time in Myanmar's development. Look at the map of night-time lights in Myanmar; you will only see darkness. Because of this, energy is receiving considerable attention by development partners and the government. IGC will be working alongside the World Bank and the associated government ministries on the issue of access to electricity and the project outlined above will generate much needed evidence required for policy discussions.

The Research Manager will lead the interaction with the government and World Bank, alongside supporting fieldwork associated with the project. The type of work, especially early-on, will vary, from more detailed data scoping work to responding to government requests to support internal capacity and policy. The research is at an early stage; the role therefore offers considerable scope for personal involvement in the design of the project and frequent interaction with three leading researchers in the field. The main duties will be:

- Managing high level relationships with government ministries, participating in meetings with stakeholders and presenting research findings to contribute to the policy discourse
- Working closely with ministry staff to support them in their work and build capacity
- Actively responding to requests by government to create detailed notes or presentations on possible policy options
- Writing reports detailing research findings and proposed interventions, supporting project design, as well as other forms for media (articles, blogs)
- Supporting the collection of administrative and other data
- Assisting in data cleaning and analysis
- Collaborating with the IGC team in Myanmar, including on capturing evidence of policy impact.

**Qualifications:**

- Excellent management and organizational skills along with strong quantitative skills
- Flexible, self-motivating, able to manage multiple tasks efficiently, and a team player
- Ability to manage both high-level relationships with government ministries and daily interactions with lower level ministerial staff
- A Master's degree in economics, engineering or related fields
- Demonstrated proficiency in Stata; experience with GIS software desirable
- Experience with quantitative research
- Fluency and excellent communication skills in English
- 1-year of work experience is desirable. Experience of working with government is desirable.

**Application Instructions:**

To apply for the job please have a statement of purpose (cover letter) explicitly addressing the duties and qualifications above, CV, and a copy of your transcripts sent to <[myanmar@theigc.org](mailto:myanmar@theigc.org)>. Please be advised that we will be requiring two letters of recommendation should you be invited for an interview.