

Terms of Reference for Policy Brief

The Value of Science Centres – especially in low- and middle-income countries

A consultant is required to produce a policy brief of approximately 8000 words on the topic “The Value of Science Centres and Museums – especially in low- and middle-income countries”.

The consultant should hold a PhD in a field of the sciences or social sciences, with at least five years of subsequent professional experience (demonstrated by publications) in fields such as science education, science literacy, popularization of science, science outreach, international science, science for development, science policy, etc. Analytical and data presentation skills, along with a high level of English are also required. Candidates should also be able to demonstrate background knowledge of academies of science and inquiry-based science education (IBSE).

Background

Interactive science centres and museums are found in many countries around the world, especially in the global North. However, they are less common in low- and middle-income countries and especially absent from most Least Developed Countries and from most countries in Africa.

The Global Council of IAP’s Science Education Programme (www.interacademies.org/education/overview) has recognised the importance of such science centres and museums in reaching out to the public, promoting science literacy, and encouraging schoolchildren to consider following science subjects and careers. They can also act as important hubs for hands-on training of science teachers, for example in IBSE methodologies.

However, literature that pulls together evidence for the benefits of such science centres and museums is scattered. For this reason, IAP aims to produce a succinct ‘Policy Brief ’that brings together such evidence and makes the case for low- and middle-income countries to invest in the establishment of such centres in their countries.

Scope of the Policy Brief

The policy brief should cover the following aspects:

- (1) The concept of interactive science centres and museums – definition, diversity (e.g. including FabLabs), and perhaps a brief history.
- (2) Evidence for the impact of such centres on the public understanding of and engagement with science, promoting science literacy, and encouraging schoolchildren to consider following science subjects and careers. While it is likely most examples would be drawn from the global North, an important component of this section will be sourcing equivalent examples from the global South.
- (3) A section covering issues such as gender equity and contributions towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may be considered.
- (4) The final section should produce key recommendations for policymakers in developing countries that would encourage them to invest in such science centres and museums.

Timeline

Submission of first draft of policy brief	Month 1
Completion of internal review	Month 2
Submission of final draft of policy brief	Month 5
Sign-off on final version	Month 6

Payment

The full payment for the completed commissioned report is USD 8 000. This amount will be paid in instalments as follows:

USD 2 000 - upon signing the contract

USD 2 000 – upon approval of the first draft by members of the IAP SEP Global Council

USD 4 000 - upon acceptance of a final report

**Candidates wishing to apply should send their CV with a covering letter:
to iap@twas.org by Monday 14 December**