Terms of reference for engaging a Legal Advisor (Litigation) to ClientEarth in Japan

1. Position information

Position title: Legal Advisor (Litigation)
Type of contract: Legal service provider agreement
Duration: 2-3 working days per week for an initial duration of 12 months – flexible and to be agreed upon with the consultant
Duty station: Home-based (Japan)
Preferred start: Q1 2022

2. Context

ClientEarth is an international environmental legal organisation with a unique approach – a team of lawyers and policy experts using the power of the law to protect people and planet. We are a team of over 200 people across eight offices in Europe, China and the United States.

We work in partnership across borders, systems and sectors in over 50 countries. We work to bring about systemic change by informing, implementing and enforcing the law, advising decision-makers on policy, and training legal and judicial professionals.

Our work in Asia seeks to support the transition to a zero carbon future. We are helping to embed climate change in investment, regulatory and policy decisions. We work with government, the private sector and civil society to champion realistic policy that delivers energy security, sustainable financial flows and a cleaner future. We provide research, education and expert advice and assistance. We help inform robust regulation, advise decision-makers on policy and build legal and judicial capacity.

3. Key tasks

The Legal Advisor (Litigation)’s key tasks will include:

- Research and analysis of public and private law and regulation relevant to climate change mitigation and adaptation and the net zero transition in Japan
- Identifying opportunities and developing strategies for using law and regulation in engagement, advocacy and legal interventions to drive climate ambition and accelerate the net zero transition in Japan
- Supporting partner civil society organisations in legal strategies in Japan
- Represent ClientEarth and / or partner civil society organisations in legal interventions in Japan

ClientEarth is not a law firm and does not provide legal advice, legal services or representation to third parties.
4. Method

The Legal Advisor (Litigation) will work in collaboration and coordinate with designated members of ClientEarth’s Asia Climate and Energy team and a network of external experts and counsel alongside potential government, private sector and civil society stakeholders.

Regular meetings will be organised via Microsoft Teams to coordinate and follow up on the work as it progresses, to provide comments and direction where needed.

The position may involve occasional travel in Japan and / or internationally subject to ClientEarth’s Environmental Policy.

5. Profile

The Legal Advisor (Litigation) should meet the following selection criteria:

- Japan-qualified lawyer (*bengoshi*) currently registered to practice in Japan (essential).
- Fluent (CEFR level C2) in English and Japanese (essential).
- Significant litigation experience in private practice, government or in-house (essential).
- Strong interest in climate change and the net zero transition (essential).
- Sector-specific experience in a relevant sector such as energy or finance (desirable).
- Excellent creative, critical and lateral thinking and a practical, outcome-focused and innovative approach to the law (essential).
- Excellent legal research, analysis, writing, advisory and advocacy skills (essential).
- Confident working with and assimilating complex technical, scientific, political and legal material (desirable).
- Ability to work both independently and in a collaborative manner within a multi-disciplinary, multilingual and multicultural environment (essential).

6. Timetable

The position will start as soon as possible and ideally in Q1 2022. It is intended to be for 2-3 working days per week for an initial duration of 12 months – to be agreed upon with selected position holder.

7. Remuneration

Fees will be determined after a discussion between ClientEarth and the position holder. Fees will be paid on a monthly basis upon submission of an invoice supported by a description of the services provided during that month.

8. Application process

Applications must include the following documents in English:
• Letter of interest explaining how you fulfil the selection criteria and your relevant skills and experience (max 2 pages)

• Recent CV.

Applications must be submitted to Peter Barnett (pbarnett@clientearth.org) and Raphaël Soffer (rsoffer@clientearth.org). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.