

JAMAICA
PRIMARY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROJECT
Consultants
PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE REVISION OF GRADE ONE REDINESS
INVENTORY
Loan No. 1264-OC/JA

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) has received a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to fund activities under the Primary Education Support Project (PESP). Part of the proceeds of this loan is to fund payments for the procurement of the services of a consultant to provide technical assistance leading to the revision of the Grade One Readiness Inventory, which is currently administered, and the beginning of Grade One (GRI), which is one of the instruments developed and administered by the Ministry of Education and Youth's, Student Assessment Unit, to provide information on the learning levels of students entering primary schools

The Inventory is currently a 33-item instrument which measures four areas of academic readiness: Visual Motor Coordination, Visual Perception, Auditory Perception, Number and Letter Knowledge. It is currently administered during the second and third week of the school year. Teachers administer and mark the inventory, following guidelines established by the Student Assessment Unit and prepare reports for the parents, school and the Ministry. A revision of the GRI is being considered at this time based on, inter alia, the following:

- The instruments being used have been in use since 1990 and started development in the 1980's.
- The graphics use in the instrument are limited in number and are not as attractive as desirable.
- The changing environment such as increased violence in schools, etc.
- The need to re-examine and package the training given to teachers to interpret and use the instrument so that schools could undertake this activity for new staff.
- The timing of the administration of the test is also under review.

The task will require the conduct of a comprehensive revision of the GRI to include:

- A review of the psychometric principles under girding the development of the instrument
- A review of the current reporting formats
- An analysis of the adequacy of the design of the instrument
- Redesign of the instrument
- Design of a training program for teachers in the interpretation and use of the results
- Designing and producing suitable instructional materials for promoting readiness at Grade 1

Interested eligible individuals from IDB's member countries may obtain a copy of the terms of reference and evaluation criteria by contacting the Project Manager, PESP, at the address below.

Individuals should have the following competencies:

- Masters degree or other specialist training in Early Childhood Education
- Training in Education Measurement Statistics
- A minimum of five years experience teaching at the Early Childhood or Primary level
- Experience developing and providing training programs for teachers
- Sound knowledge of the Jamaican educational system would be an asset.

Expressions of interest will open on Friday, 26 May 2006, when copies of the terms of reference may be obtained from the address below. Interested persons are required to submit a brief proposal outlining the methodology to be used, which should clearly demonstrate an understanding of the requirements; a copy of their curriculum vitae should also be submitted to the same address. Submissions by e-mail will be accepted.

This request for expressions of interest will close on Friday, 23 June 2006, at 1500 hours. Selection of a consultant will be based on an evaluation of their proposed methodology and their curriculum vitae. A minimum of three persons will be short-listed and invited to submit cost proposals.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

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