

**BAHAMAS
EDUCATION PROGRAMME
Consultants
MODERN LANGUAGES CURRICULUM CONSULTANT
Loan No. 848/OC-BH**

The Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has concluded a credit agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank for US\$ 21 million of an overall US\$ 33 million program for the improvement of primary and secondary education in the Bahamas. The objective of the program is to improve the quality and efficiency of primary and secondary education. This objective would be achieved through:

- Improving the content and teaching methods of primary and secondary education
- Rationalizing the use of school infrastructure while necessary expansion and replacements are taking place
- Strengthening the management, planning and maintenance capabilities of the system

The project is comprised of three major components:

- Educational services improvement
- Institutional strengthening
- Study in vocational educational and pre-employment training

In particular, the project would help:

- Finance the construction and equipment for three primary schools and two secondary schools.
- Enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Education (MOE) to plan and implement curriculum improvements in the main areas: technical and vocational subjects, sciences, mathematics, reading, modern languages and integration of the primary level curriculum.
- Establish capacity to equip all school children in the Bahamas and provide students with the opportunities to develop essential library skills. The program will furnish and equip 21 school libraries, including two model teaching libraries in one secondary school and one primary school in New Providence, nine regional "satellites" and the central media library in the Learning Resources Section.
- Establish a Resource Center with specific objectives (a) to prepare a strategy to increase the production, dissemination, use and assessment of economic and effective educational media, both traditional and electronic; and (b) to draw up and appraise alternative specifications for a cost effective teachers' resource center through:
 - The Special Education Unit of the MOE, by providing two fellowships to enable one guidance counselor and one speech therapist to upgrade their skills and thereby assist with the main streaming of learning disabled children
 - The Planning Unit of MOE, by financing the capacity development to plan and manage the education system and to monitor and evaluate school maintenance
 - A study of Vocational and Technical Education, by producing an evaluation of how well the current system of training works, and considering alternative development strategies for training citizens and workers in the Bahamas

The functions of the Curriculum Specialist in Mathematics, under the authority of the Project Director of the Project Coordinating Unit, will be to oversee, coordinate and plan improvement to the Modern Languages Curriculum.

The general responsibilities will be to determine the extent to which the Modern Languages Curriculum is consistent with the characteristics of students, the needs of the society, the requirements of tertiary education and the demands of the 21st Century, and revise the Modern Languages Curriculum accordingly.

Specific responsibilities will be:

- To devise with the Modern Languages Curriculum team a plan and a strategy for the evaluation of the curriculum
- To supervise the work of curricula committee comprising Modern Language teachers from the College of The Bahamas, public and private schools and other relevant agencies
- To conduct a survey to determine English as a Second Language (ESL) needs and develop appropriate strategies for implementation of ESL programs
- To evaluate present Spanish and French programs in secondary schools
- To coordinate the revision of curriculum guidelines in Modern Languages
- To review curricula in Spanish and French and develop ESL curriculum guidelines in collaboration with the Bahamas General Certificate in Secondary Education examinations officers, personnel from the College of The Bahamas and a team of Spanish and French teachers from public and private schools
- To review and assess the adequacy of textbooks and other curriculum resources used at each grade level and recommend necessary changes
- To assess the effectiveness of instruction in the Modern Languages
- To design and develop a Modern Languages program for primary schools
- To pilot a Modern Languages program for grades 5 and 6 in select primary schools
- To design staff development programs to upgrade the content and teaching skills of Modern Language teachers
- 1. To organize and conduct in-service workshops which will equip teachers with skills to deliver curriculum for Spanish, French and ESL
- To supervise officers as they conduct training sessions on the implementation of the revised Modern Languages Curriculum
- To set up a model Modern Language Laboratory in a senior high school in New Providence
- To draft grade 7-9 curriculum that will form the basis for a conversational French creole course for English speaking Bahamian students
- To recommend texts and other curriculum resources to be used at each level through the system

The consultant will report to the Deputy Director of Education (Curriculum) and will liaise with relevant education officers, teachers, teacher educators and other consultants engaged in the project. The appointment location is New Providence, Bahamas; however, it might be necessary to travel to other islands in the Bahamas. Duration of appointment is one calendar year.

Interested consultants will submit to the MOE 12 copies of the following:

- Initial report - one month after taking up assignment
- Mid-term report - six months after taking up assignment
- Final report - one month before the end of the assignment

The consultant should have the following qualifications: Doctorate in Foreign Language Education or Doctorate in French or Spanish and Masters in Foreign Language Education or Curriculum; thorough knowledge of the English language, fluency in Spanish and French; at least ten years relevant teaching experience and five years administrative experience; experience as a Foreign Language (French and Spanish) educator, teacher trainer. Curriculum developer would be an asset. Active involvement in the supervision of Spanish and French programs in secondary schools in the Commonwealth territories and in a similar project is desirable.

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IDB527-596/02