

**BAHAMAS  
EDUCATION PROGRAMME  
Education/Consultants  
CONSULTANT FOR READING  
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 libraries 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 Consultant for Reading, 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 coordinate, evaluate and develop literacy improvement programs throughout the education system (k-12) and to train personnel to implement the program.

Specific responsibilities will be:

- To identify standardized assessment instruments to be used for nationwide testing to determine reading and writing levels of students at both primary and secondary levels (k-12)
- To develop Bahamian norms for the assessment instrument
- To analyze reading tests result, design and implement intervention programs to meet the students' specific needs
- To document reading and writing competencies for grades k-12
- To set up model Reading/Writing Laboratories at primary and secondary levels
- To design programs for gifted and learning-disabled children
- To develop oriented Language Arts Curriculum (with equal emphasis on the four communication skills)
- To develop primary and secondary curricula guidelines and work schemes for students of above average, average and below average ability
- To coordinate and lead in service teacher training focusing on material selection, teaching methods, test construction and various forms of evaluation appropriate to the curricula as developed above
- To coordinate and conduct workshops based on the individual needs of teachers and the education system

The consultant will report to the Assistant Director of Education (Curriculum) and will coordinate 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 Education with a speciality in Reading or Literacy Education from an accredited University; at least 15 years of teaching experience (including primary and secondary levels); thorough knowledge of the English language.

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