

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) SECRETARIAT

A HARMONISED APPROACH TO EDUCATION REFORM WITHIN CARICOM - DEVELOPING THE SKILLS NEEDED FOR A 21ST CENTURY ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR RESEARCHERS – PREPARATION OF DISCUSSION PAPERS

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of implementing the project entitled *A Harmonized Approach to Education Reform within CARICOM- Developing the Skills Needed for a 21st Century Economy and Society* and intends to apply the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of the CARICOM and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than CARICOM shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The CARICOM Secretariat, the Executing Agency, now wishes to procure consultancy services from five **Researchers**.

The objective of each consultancy is to conduct desk research on an assigned topic and present that research in the format of a Discussion Paper, which will inform the drafting of a Regional Education and Human Resource Development 2030 Strategy and Action Plan.

The indicative areas for research are the following:

- (a) *The creation of a globally competitive education and training (eco) system* - an analysis of data on education and training policies and systems of educational provision/service delivery *including*, an analysis of current national and regional systems for tertiary education in terms of access, structure, content and alignment with employment, entrepreneurship and societal needs; and trade in/export of education services
- (b) *Filling provision/service delivery gaps with equity* - a review of the regional framework for addressing gender and other differentials in education; and an analysis of service delivery for children with special needs
- (c) *Addressing the quality imperative* - an analysis of teacher education and training in the Caribbean; use of ICT in education; and governance and administrative systems

(including systems for continual alignment of education and training with the requirements for the 21st Century labour market and society).

- (d) *Improving performance with gender and socio-economic status sensitivity* - a review of regional standards for education provision at the early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary levels; secondary and tertiary levels; and a gender-sensitive analysis of the alignment of the education system and the requirements of a knowledge society and economic growth objectives
- (e) *Creating sustainable efficiencies to guarantee the future* - an analysis of school management and methods/sources of funding including opportunities for public-private sector partnerships in education; fostering increased cooperation among CARICOM Member States; and establishing an improved framework for managing the required reforms at the national and regional levels.

The duration of each assignment is expected to be 25 person days over a period of four (4) calendar months.

The CARICOM Secretariat now invites interested eligible *individuals* to submit Expressions of Interest for the provision of consultancy services related to each of the above-mentioned research areas.

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) in the case of *individuals*, the persons are citizens or *bona fide* residents of an eligible country; and
- (b) the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or *bona fide* resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to relevant experience and qualifications and capability to carry out the assignment. All information must be submitted in English. Further information may be obtained from the first address below between 09:00 and 16:00 hours Monday to Friday.

Expressions of Interest for each of the above-mentioned research areas may be submitted electronically or in hard copies. Electronic submissions should be sent simultaneously to the email addresses below with the subject “**Expressions of Interest – Researchers - Preparation of Discussion Papers**” no later than 15:00 hours on **Monday, October 12, 2015**. Submissions should clearly indicate which research area the Expression of Interest is responding to.

In the case of hard copies, five (5) hard copies – one original and four (4) copies - of the Expression of Interest must be received at the first address below no later than 15:00 hours on **Monday, October 12, 2015**; and one (1) hard copy must be sent simultaneously to CDB at the

second address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked, **“Expressions of Interest – Researchers - Preparation of Discussion Papers”** and indicate which research area the Expression of Interest is responding to

Following the assessment of the submissions for each research area, the most technically capable and appropriately experienced applicant will be invited to negotiate a contract to provide the consultancy services. The CARICOM Secretariat reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not engaging the services of any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

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