**Technical Assistance Consultancy: Development of Test Items for exams**

**Location:** *Nepal*

**Apply by:** *25 September 2015, 12 noon (Nepal time)*

**Start date:** *November 2015*

**End date:** *March 2016*

British Council Nepal is working in partnership with the Government of Nepal on Examination Reform. We are seeking consultants, institutions or consortia on a temporary basis for technical assistance in three examination reform projects:

* Exam Grading System reform
* Exam Appeals Policy reform
* ***Development of Test Items for exams***

Applicants can submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for one, two or all of the above projects. Details of the other projects are published separately. We require one EOI for each project but if applying for more than one, please include a cover letter highlighting areas of potential overlap and benefits.

**About the project**

As part of a wider School Sector Reform Plan, Nepal’s Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Office of the Controller of Examinations are committed to the introduction of a new model for the high-stakes Grade 10 School Leaving Certificate (SLC) examination. Currently, SLC test items tend to assess rote learning and students’ ability to recall the textbook. Many key stakeholders have expressed dissatisfaction with the SLC examinations, claiming that the current standards do not provide Nepali students with comparable achievements to students in other countries, and restrict their access to education and employment opportunities. The purpose of this project is to build capacity in key Nepali education institutions and support change by developing a cadre of test item writers able to produce and review valid, reliable test items which promote higher order skills and communicative, activity-based teaching and learning. The focus is primarily on the SLC English examination but there is potential to include the other core subjects of maths and science.

**About the role**

**Scope of Services to be provided**

1. Rapid qualitative appraisal of the current SLC test item bank and test item writing and marking processes as well as review of key curriculum documents and learning outcomes for identification of key issues associated with the current system.
2. Identify and recruit personnel from MoE (including the Office of the Controller of Examinations), other educational institutions, head teachers, teacher representatives and education officers to form *Test Item Writing Groups.*
3. Train item writers in the development and review of items according to the curriculum grade level learning outcomes and requirements of the assessment framework, ensuring that the developed test items have validity and reliability, are able to discriminate between the different abilities of students and include items testing higher order skills.)
4. Pilot test items with a representative sample of Nepali schools/districts and students; mark and score pilot tests and analyse the information.
5. Prepare and disseminate a report on the pilot results, identifying the strengths and weaknesses and making suggestions for a roll-out programme.

**TA Deliverables**

* **Inception Report** – to outline the agreed scope of work within 2 weeks of commencement.
* **Training documents/manual** – to cover test item writing and review processes.
* **Test item pilot project design document** – to outline the methodology of the pilot.
* **Pilot implementation activities and documents**
* **Final Report** – To cover results of pilot, bank of ‘good’ test items and recommendations for next steps.

**Qualifications and experience required**

**Essential**

* Experience of technical input in examination reform design processes, especially test item writing
* Experience of team leadership in education reform projects
* Experience of project/programme design and evaluation for international donor organisations
* Masters in ELT, Linguistics or Assessment

**Desirable**

* Experience of testing, assessment and evaluation in South Asia

**How to apply**

If you are interested, please send your Expression of Interest (EOI) based on guidelines below to **rhona.brown@britishcouncil.org.np**  with the title *EOI: Development of Test Items for exams*

British Council will only contact those who meet the required standards **five**working days after the EOI submission deadline.

**Successful candidates will be invited to submit a full proposal by 12 October 2015**

**Guidelines for EOI: Government of Nepal Development of Test Items for Examinations**

For successful EOI submissions, the information may change between the EOI and full proposal but we require indicative figures at this stage.

The main focus of this project is the SLC English examination. All EOIs must have a focus on English. However, we also welcome EOIs which include other Core Skills (maths and/or science).

At this point, applicants should only include an indicative budget for the English strand although the approach, team make-up and number of days sections can include indicative information for all core subjects.

EOIs should be no more than 1000 words and should include the following:

* Outline and justification of approach including: types of work involved, resources utilised (including human resources), roles of international and local personnel, expectations of the British Council and their role.
* Name, title, qualifications and relevant experience of applicant; and if applying as a team, institution or consortium, an indicative team make-up, including name, title, qualifications /experience and justification for inclusion for each member.
* Anticipated number of days, including field, desk, travel etc.
* Indicative budget including human resources, team days, travel, accommodation etc.