

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: Consultancy for developing teachers' professional standards and indicators

Duty station: Islamabad

Supervisor: Akiko Hanaya

Job Contract: Consultant's Contract

Duration: 1st February 2009 to 30th April 2009 (3 months)

Background:

Ministry of Education (MoE) in collaboration with UNESCO is implementing a project **Strengthening Teacher Education in Pakistan (STEP)** with financial support of USAID. The project seeks to support the vision of the Government of Pakistan i.e. a) strengthening professional development of teachers and b) designing of National Standards for Teacher Certification and Accreditation.

To improve the quality of teacher's training the setting up of standards for teacher education and accreditation at national level gets significant importance.

The specific objectives of STEP are the followings.

- Objective 1: To prepare the project implementation by reviewing the global / regional trends in and gathering technical information on the policy, system, profession and practice issues related to teacher training and education
- Objective 2: To support the government's development of a national policy framework for teacher education
- Objective 3: To support the government's establishment of a national body for teacher certification and accreditation
- Objective 4: To strengthen the networks of teacher's professional development initiatives and institution and public & private partnership
- Objective 5: To identify, scale up and disseminate information on best practices in teacher training and education

Support establishing accreditation system of teacher education institutions and programmes is one of the key components of the project. Strong evidence demonstrates that the quality of teachers is the most significant educational input for quality learning in schools. This is reflected in the international trend to give greater attention and effort to improve the quality of teachers.

Standard-setting and accreditation of teacher education are key mechanisms to ensure the quality of teacher training. Many countries have already established such mechanisms but Pakistan has been lagging behind in this regard. The absence of a quality assurance mechanism for teacher education in Pakistan means that teaching institutions are able to implement teacher education programmes at their discretion, which are often of uneven quality. The Government of Pakistan is very much aware of the need to take urgent action in this regard. Indeed, the National Education Policy (draft) states that *“Teacher training arrangements, accreditation and certification procedures shall be standardized and institutionalized.”*

Government of Pakistan has already taken some steps. Higher Education Commission has established Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (ACTE) in 2006. Its main objective is the development and review of policies and procedures for accrediting teachers’ education programmes and institutions in the country. STEP is supporting ACTE in the development of the National Standards for Teacher Education and the Guidelines of Institutional and Programmatic Accreditation System.

Duties and responsibilities

Under the overall authority of the Director of UNESCO Islamabad and the immediate supervision of ACTE chair person and STEP Programme Manager, the consultant will assist and coordinate with senior UNESCO consultants and STEP-UNESCO Islamabad in developing indicators for professional standards of teachers. The specific responsibilities are as follows:

1. Collect information to develop a detailed work plan to undertake the activity
2. Develop tools to operationalize the observation task based on the specifications in the document and train the MOE monitors to undertake the task
3. Pre pilot and pilot study of indicators
4. Ensure the marking and branding policy of USAID for all STEP activities
5. Perform any other task assigned by STEP Project Manager, if required

Others:

1. Written outputs are to be sent to the Office in an electronic form:

- (i) Outputs are to be reviewed by the Office before finalised**
- (ii) Revisions are to be made if suggested.**

Required Qualifications

- A masters degree in education along with more than 8 years working experience in teacher education
- Good technical knowledge of teacher education and professional development programmes in Pakistan

- Punctuality for deadlines of assignments

Applications with CV (UN P-11 form and a recent photo) shall be sent to the Administrative Officer, UNESCO, P.O. Box 2034, Islamabad, or e-mail at vacancy.unesco@un.org.pk .

UNESCO reserves the right to accept or reject any application.