

**SURINAME
BASIC EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
1521/OC-SU**

**Action Plan for the Implementation of the
Basic Education Cycle Reform**

I. BACKGROUND

In the past years Suriname has, inspired by the bottlenecks and problems experienced with education and also in the light of international and regional developments and commitments, taken many actions to transform the entire educational system. In this respect many sector-wide studies and analysis of education have been performed that were partly funded by different donors.

Also MINOV started in 2001 with a national mobilization process in order to consult the stakeholders in the education sector to lay the foundation for the realization of a short, medium and long term educational policy with a scope of 15 – 20 years. A five year Education Sector Plan was derived from all the studies, analysis, sector plan and other documents.

To achieve some of the objectives as mentioned in the educational policy documents, the Government and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) signed the loan contract 1521/OC-SU “Basic Education Improvement Program (BEIP)” on March, 31 2004.

This project aims at improved quality and increased efficiency of the basic education system by updating the educational contents and processes, providing inputs to schools and supporting institutional reforms to strengthen MINOV and build-up management capacities at the school level.

For the last two years, the Government of Suriname has been conducting a wide process of consultation with the main stakeholders regarding a proposed change in the structure of the basic education system. The proposed structure changes the current six-grade primary education to a ten-grade basic education system, which encompasses also 4 grades of the current junior secondary system. The consultations have resulted in a general approval of the system revision. However, a concrete step-by-step road map is needed both to guide an effective implementation and to provide specific information to the various stakeholders who are most likely to be affected by the changes, namely, students, teachers, and parents.

In 2004, The Ministry of Education appointed a Task Force to oversee the design and implementation of the new basic education cycle. The work of this task force has produced a number of documents describing the overall strategy of the proposed new system. The main responsibility of this consultancy is to provide a detailed plan of action or road map to turn those strategies operational.

For component I, a Task Manager is appointed by MINOV to manage all activities related to this component.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

II. CONSULTANCY OBJECTIVES

Based on the analysis of the MINOV strategic documents and the results from the stakeholder consultations, the objective of the consultancy is to prepare a detailed action plan/road map for implementing the proposed redesign of the new basic education cycle.

III. ACTIVITIES

The consultancy will conduct the following activities, among others

(i) Review and analysis of the Literature: The consultant shall review all Literature generated from the two years of consultation on changing the basic education cycle: The consultant shall review, inter alia, (i) report from the Curriculum Task Force (August, 2005); (ii) reports from the in-house consultations (In-house Consultaties met betrekking tot Hervormingen Basisonderwijs Eindrapport, Bendt Training & Consultancy) (iii) reports from the workshops conducted in November 2005; (iv) Sectorplan Onderwijs 2004-2008, November 2004; (v) Surinaams Educatief Plan- SEP, December 2002).

(ii) Analysis of Legal framework. In collaboration with the Legal Department of the MINOV and other relevant legal institutes, the consultant shall develop a thorough understanding of the regulatory framework for the education system. In coordination with the Ministry of Labor, Technology and Environment and the consultant shall identify and review the relevant *laws, decrees and by-laws* that regulate basic education in the country; assess the opportunities and/or limitations presented by those regulations; and identify any adjustments to the legal framework that might be needed for the smooth and successful implementation of the new educational structure.

(iii) Anticipated effects. Identify the most relevant short, medium and long term implications that may arise from the implementation of the new education cycle in the short and recommend actions to mitigate potential adverse effects. (For example, a timeline of communications with teachers before the changes are in effect.)

(iv) Impact of the new curriculum onto other programs. Identify and analyze the ways in which the new curriculum structure/content may affect the content or delivery of programs such as the Basic life skills program and programs concerning nursery and secondary education levels and the Hinterland.

(v) Action Plan: The consultant shall prepare an action plan or road map for the implementation of the basic education cycle. To avoid duplication the consultant shall consult and coordinate with other donors in the sector and ensure the road map is consistent with other donor activities as well as GOS sector plan. When appropriate, the action plan should include make reference to relevant best practices and lessons learned form other countries which attempted similar education reforms.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

IV. EXPECTED PRODUCTS

The main product of the consultancy will be a detailed action plan for the implementation of the new basic education cycle in Suriname. Such action plan should include at least:

- A summary report on the recommendation coming out of the two years consultative process.
 - A summary of steps or stages needed to arrive at full implementation of the change from a six-year primary education system to a ten-year basic education cycle.
 - A report on the review of the legal framework with recommendations for changes in the law to make it compatible with changing the basic education cycle.
 - Step by step road map/action plan and strategy for implementation of the basic education cycle. This plan should include, inter alia, all actions to be taken to implement the basic education cycle, persons or institutions responsible for those actions, resource requirement (human, financial and other resources) and overall budget.

The detailed action plan for the implementation of the new basic education cycle in Suriname shall be submitted to MINOV and the Bank for approval.

V. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CONSULTANCY

Type: Individual International consultant.

Duration: The consultancy will be for duration of 2 months.

Location: The consultant can work from his place of residence, but will need to spend at least 20 working days in Suriname collecting data and familiarizing him/herself with the national context.

Supervision: The consultant will report to the Program Coordinator.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

VI. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONSULTANT

The consultant should have a Masters in Education, Social Sciences, Political Economy or related field. Doctorate preferred. Other requirements include: (i) at least 8 years of proven experience with education reform processes, (ii) minimum 5 years of consulting experience in the provision of technical support to governments and international agencies, (iii) excellent ability to analyze and synthesize vast amounts of information, (iv) strong writing skills, (v) fluency in written and oral Dutch or English, (vi) thorough understanding of the Surinamese educational system.

VII. COORDINATION

The consultant will report to the PCU/MINOV. The consultant will work closely with the Task Manager Curriculum Development and PCU Project Team and will have the Task Manager as primary contact within the PCU. The Task Manager for this activity is the Head of the Curriculum Development Department. The MINOV departments Curriculum Development and Bureau of Examination will also be actively involved in all the activities and will have specific responsibilities related to this consultancy.

VIII. JURISDICTION

In disputes which may arise as a result of the interpretation or execution of this contract, and which cannot be settled amicably, a single arbitrator designated by agreement between partners shall refer the matter to arbitration and final determination. In absence of such agreement, the matters shall be resolved in accordance with the provision of the Laws in the Republic of Suriname to which jurisdiction the parties shall be subjected.