Terms of Reference

Short-term International Consultancy

STEM Expert to write blog and to facilitate a webinar in the Leadership Network for Sustainable Development

Type: Consultancy (Short term)

Start date: 10th April 2017

Finish date: 5th May 2017

Number of working hours: 40 hours over a period of 4 weeks (work from home)

1. Background:

GESCI, the *Global E-Schools and Communities Initiative*, is a non-profit organisation founded by the United Nations ICT Taskforce. GESCI, with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, provides strategic advice to relevant Ministries in developing countries on the effective use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) within the context of inclusive Knowledge Societies. See www.gesci.org

GESCI in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) and other partners developed the African Leadership in ICT (ALICT) capacity building programme which successfully graduated 497 participants across 16 African countries and from the AUC. Among the ALICT graduates, 160, i.e. 33%, are women leaders. The ALICT course presents a multi-stakeholder approach for capacity building and awareness raising of African leaders on the issues of the Knowledge Society, ICT, Education, Science & Technology and Innovation in support of the AUC Action Plan.

ALICT alumni form the core membership of the "Leadership Network for Sustainable Development" (LN4SD), a growing Community of Practice (CoP) that brings together public sector leaders and stakeholders working in knowledge society related sectors to harness the power of knowledge, skills, technologies and innovation to drive African social and economic transformation and achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development. The network connects public policy and decision makers, researchers and key actors, and is expected to facilitate and stimulate the collective leadership capacities for sustainable development of African and other developing regions through knowledge exchange, sharing learning, experiences and discussions on how to address common challenges to inform policy and decision making processes, support relevant research and empower potential leaders as to how to leverage knowledge society sectors (education, ICT and STI) for sustainable development, while addressing critical areas such as the environment and climate change, gender, youth skills and entrepreneurship, and social responsibility and accountability.

The LN4SD's online platform (http://www.leadership4sd.org) was launched in Abidjan, June 8-9, 2016 to encourage networking, knowledge sharing and learning and the emergence of innovative and provoking perspectives in addressing knowledge sectors-related policy debate through discussion forums, webinars,

blogs, etc. in order to achieve the required paradigm shifts and transformation required to reach development goals and targets through well-informed, distributed and innovative knowledge era leadership.

GESCI is seeking 5 acknowledged experts, who for a period of five (5) months, February to June 2017, will (1) write well-informed research blogs and respond to comments following the publication of the blog on the Leadership Network for Sustainable Development's online platform, and, (2) facilitate live webinars (each webinar: 20 min presentation and 40 min discussion) to be attended by members of the LN4SD.

The present TORs are intended for the recruitment of the third expert who will write the blog and facilitate the webinar for the month of April 2017 in line with the below theme and context. The blog and webinar have to address the challenges associated with the theme of the month.

Theme for April 2017: Investing in STEM education is critical to fuel Africa's socio-economic growth.

> **Proposed sub-thematic areas:**
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> - Reforming the curriculum and revisiting learning outcomes assessment.
> - 21st century skills, with focus on problem solving, entrepreneurship and digital skills for all.
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> **Context:**
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> - While 70% of graduates in Sub Saharan Africa hold a social science or humanities degree, the highest in the world, on average SSA countries have 35 scientists and engineers per million people, compared to 4,103 for the United States.
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> **Challenges:**
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> - *Lack of STEM education at primary education level and teachers in secondary education.*
> - Raising ICT literacy, which is critical for taking full advantage of Internet for economic development, is considered to be more challenging than deployment of infrastructure.

2. **Requirements for the consultant:**

   Highly Desired
   - Specialist in the Education sector and /or in in line with the theme mentioned above (STEM education).
   - Expert with deep, comprehensive understanding of the theme mentioned above and related solutions at conceptual and implementation level.
   - Vast experience publishing online research-backed blogs, articles and papers on STEM education and /or in line with the mentioned theme above.
   - Minimum five years' track record of writing engaging research-backed blogs.
   - Minimum five years' experience in facilitating engaging and interactive online vibrant group discussions.

   Required
   - Minimum Master's degree in Education and/or STEM related discipline
   - Proven track record in designing and implementing project/programmes in relation to the theme mentioned above within the African context.
   - Minimum five years' experience in STEM education, preferably in the African context.

- Expertise in articulating ideas/concepts simply, engagingly, clearly and in a focused manner
- Substantial professional online presence.

3. **Deliverables and timelines for delivery:**

Deliverables	Deadline
1. Propose the research-backed blog and webinar topics in line with the mentioned theme and validate them with GESCI LN4SD team.	Week 1
2. Draft the research-backed blog as per agreed title and theme.	
3. Share the draft research blog (write-up) with GESCI team for review and update according to feedback.	Week 2
4. Publish the blog on the Leadership Network for Sustainable Development website	End of week 2
5. Carry out webinar (presentation: 20 min and discussion: 40 min)	Mid-week 4

4. **Duration:** The time frame for the consultancy assignment is as below:
   - Start date: 10th April 2017
   - Finish date: 5th May 2017

5. **Consultancy Fee:** The consultancy fee will be Euro 2000. This amount is inclusive of 20% withholding tax in Kenya. This tax amount shall be deducted and paid to Kenya Revenue Authority and the certification shall be provided to consultants

6. **Payment schedule:**

   - 100% upon successful execution of the deliverables **after the four weeks**

7. **Confidentiality and Copyright:** The consultant will be required to sign a confidentiality clause whereby information accessed through this activity can only be disclosed and shared with authorised members of the ALICT programme. GESCI will have ownership over any Intellectual Property developed for or derived from this consultancy engagement.

8. **To apply:** Please submit by email under the heading "**STEM Expert: Blog and webinar for the LN4SD**" to GESCI procurement at procurement@gesci.org by 29/03/2017
   The application should include:
   a. a detailed CV
   b. a cover letter specifying why you qualify for this contract
   c. Links to published articles, online articles, webinars and blogs

Only consultants meeting the academic and experience requirements need to apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. For further information on the consultancy, you can contact Senthil Kumar, Programme Manager – ALICT at senthil.kumar@gesci.org