



NEPAD e-AFRICA COMMISSION

COORDINATOR – NEPAD e-SCHOOLS INITIATIVE. (THREE YEAR FIXED TERM CONTRACT)

1. INTRODUCTION

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a programme of the African Union, is a vision and strategic framework for Africa's renewal. Its primary objectives include poverty eradication, placing African countries on a path of sustainable growth and development, acceleration of women empowerment, stopping the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process and enhancing Africa's full and beneficial integration into the global economy.

The NEPAD e-Africa Commission (the Commission) was established in 2001 and was formally adopted by the NEPAD Steering Committee, as its task team for information and communication technology (ICT) in September 2002. The NEPAD Heads of States and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) endorsed the action of the Steering Committee in November 2002. The Commission's mandate is to manage the structured development of the ICT sector on the African continent in the context of NEPAD. It is also required to develop broad strategies and a comprehensive action plan for ICT infrastructure and its use for ICT applications and services.

The Commission wishes to recruit a highly qualified and experienced Coordinator for the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative. The appointment will be for a possible three year fixed term contract. The position is based in Pretoria, South Africa and will be reporting to the Executive Deputy Chairperson of the Commission.

2. NEPAD e-Schools Initiative

This initiative aims to impart ICT skills to young Africans in primary and secondary schools as well as harness ICT technology to improve, enrich and expand education in African countries. The aim is to equip six hundred thousand (600, 000) African primary and secondary schools with ICT apparatus such as computers, radio and television sets, phones and fax machines, communication equipment, scanners, digital cameras, copiers, etc, and to connect them to the internet, over a period of ten years.

The countries participating in the first phase are the first twenty countries to accede to the memorandum of understanding of the NEPAD African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). These are Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. The second and third phases of the Initiative will commence following appropriate experience with the first phase.

A NEPAD e-School is one which will

- produce young Africans with skills to participate in the knowledge economy
- have appropriate ICT equipment and infrastructure
- be connected to the Internet
- have teachers trained to impart ICT skills to students according to agreed curricula and content
- have teachers trained to integrate ICT for teaching and learning
- have access to, and contribute to, availability of locally appropriate teaching and learning materials
- have ICT tools to enhance the administration and management of the school
- be equipped with a “health point.”

3. DUTIES

The duties of the Coordinator will include but not be limited to the following;

- Co-ordinate the various components of the Initiative with respect to the Demonstration project, the business plan, national implementing agencies, teacher training, educational content, the development of standards and the NEPAD e-Schools satellite network.
- Engage with participating governments, development partners and other stakeholders in canvassing support for the Initiative including facilitating the signing of memoranda of understanding with governments and partners.
- Work effectively and productively with the participating governments and the lead consortia companies to ensure that the Demo project is properly and timeously implemented.
- Direct and monitor the development of the Business Plan including supervising the business plan development team and convening meetings of country experts and stakeholders.
- Facilitate the development of models of good practice for implementation of the Initiative based on lessons learnt from the Demo project.
- Conceptualize and facilitate the establishment of national implementing agencies in the participating countries.
- Develop and build the capacity of national implementing agencies to manage the rollout phase of the Initiative.

- Develop strategies and action plans for teacher training and content development to meet the objectives of ICT skills development on the continent.
- Develop strategies and action plans with respect to the evolution of the NEPAD e-Schools health points and their effective use to facilitate good health in African pupils.
- Ensure effective interface with the Continental Coordinating Body comprising nominated officials from the participating countries.
- Establish effective technical, software, content, pedagogic, procurement, financial and other standards that are intended to result in affordable technology and operation of NEPAD e-Schools across the continent.
- Facilitate the definition, design and construction of the satellite network for the purposes of availing affordable internet connectivity to NEPAD e-schools.
- Manage the monitoring and evaluation of implementation progress with a view of drawing lessons learnt and producing the necessary reports for sharing.
- Develop sound funding proposals for the purpose of mobilising resources to implement the Initiative.
- Carefully build and manage the project team at Headquarters for the efficient and effective implementation of the Initiative across the continent.
- Liaise with the governments, private sector companies, development partners, civil society organisations and other organisations on matters concerning this Initiative and skills development.

4. THE CANDIDATE

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The minimum qualification is a Master's degree in computer science, engineering, business administration, educational technology or appropriate field from a recognized University. Possession of a relevant Doctoral qualification will be an added advantage. The candidate should have a minimum of ten years experience in the application of ICT in education and must have demonstrable interest in development issues and the administration of education in a development setting. Relevant skills and experience in implementing large scale human development projects and managing a team of experts with different backgrounds within an

international organization is required. The candidate must have solid experience in developing project proposals and fundraising.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

The candidate must demonstrate strong aptitude to coordinate and inspire people, be a facilitator and a negotiator able to initiate, develop and implement projects which require the consensus among all involved parties. The candidate will be a professional with well-honed political skills able to handle a senior and demanding position. The ideal candidate should be able to lead a multicultural and multi-skilled team. Ability to read, write and speak in fluent English and French is a requirement.

5. APPLICATION DETAILS

Applications should include:

- A motivation letter and a comprehensive curriculum vitae not exceeding five pages
- Three referees of standing with good knowledge of the candidate's work, furnishing full contact details, telephone, fax and e-mail addresses.

Applications should be forwarded electronically to edrecruit@nepad.org and should be marked for the attention of:

Mrs. Faith Ramusetheli
NEPAD Secretariat
C/o Development Bank of Southern Africa