Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation

**Consultancy for Development of E-Learning Platform
(UWU/AHEAD/ELTAELSE/ANS/ICC/CON/02)
ELTA ELSE Department DP**

Department of Animal Science (DANS), Uva Wellassa University (UWU)

1. Background

The development of the higher education sector is of central importance to enable Sri Lanka to make the transition from a Lower Middle Income Country (LMIC) to an Upper Middle Income Country (UMIC). Recognizing this, the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the World Bank have agreed, to support the higher education sector through a bank funded Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation.

The Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture (FASEA) was established in 2005 with the inception of the Uva Wellassa University (UWU). Department of Animal Science is one of the two Departments belongs to Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture which was commenced as one of the pioneering Departments in the University in 2005. The Department of Animal Science aims to craft competent and skilful graduates with specialized knowledge and skills on farm animal production, aquatic resources technology and value addition to national resources. The Department offers two competitive four-year honours degree programmes namely Bachelor of Animal Science Honours (BAScHons) and Bachelor of Science Honours (BScHons) in Aquatic Resources Technology. Monthly Department meetings regulate the issues and matters relevant to academic, administrative and extra-curricular events. The recent curriculum revisions of Animal Science Degree Programme and Aquatic Resources Degree Programme enabled the Department to identify and incorporate emerging national and international needs to the two curricular, keep the curricular up to date, and to be in line with the university's vision to become a Centre of Excellence for Value Addition. Moreover, Department of Animal Science has taken steps to incorporate the principles of Outcome Based Education and Learner Centred Teaching into its two degree programmes.

Under the Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation, the Department of Animal Science has identified the following five activities.

Activity 1:   Enhancing entrepreneurial and socio-emotional skills

Activity 2:   Promoting University-Industry collaboration

Activity 3:   Enriching teaching process

Activity 4:   Enhancing learner experience through practical exposure

Activity 5:   Enhancing English Language Skills

Under Activity 3 – Enriching teaching process, a sub activity is proposed to enhance the learner-centered teaching (3.3: Improving learner-centered teaching environment). Under this, an E-Learning platform is proposed to develop to inculcate knowledge seeking behaviour in undergraduates.

The Department of Animal Science aims to produce well rounded leaders who are updated and highly adaptable to national and international working environment. In order to face the

challenges during the real working environment, graduates should be self-motivated knowledge hunters who are working independently. E-Learning platform will be an effective way to train and encourage the undergraduates for independent learning, thereby enrich the teaching process. This E-Learning platform is expected to open for all the undergraduates of Department of Animal Science considering the possibility of measuring the impact on the two degree programmes throughout the next academic years by assessing their independent learning through continuous assessment. Further, information provided by the graduates of Department of Animal Science who are working in different fields related to Animal Science and Aquatic Resources Technology through the E-Learning platform will provide updated knowledge for undergraduates regarding the real local and global scenario. Moreover, E-Learning platform will improve the link among the graduates, undergraduates and staff of the Department of Animal Science for future developments.

Accordingly, this TOR is meant for a Consultant for developing the E-Learning platform and training a staff member/s on using the E-Learning platform.

2. The Operation

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation is organized into two components. The first is a Program Component that supports the national Higher Education Development Program. The second is a systems strengthening, capacity building and technical assistance component that will assist GoSL to strengthen the higher education sector and achieve the objectives of the AHEAD program component. This second will also cover monitoring and evaluation, policy analyses, program coordination and communication.

The implementing agency is the Ministry of Higher Education and Highways (MHEH). The University Grants Commission (UGC) will coordinate the activities of the universities. There will be an Operations Monitoring and Support Team (OMST) which will coordinate and support all AHEAD activities among the MHEH, UGC, and the universities.

AHEAD has three Results Areas:

Results Area 1: Increasing Enrollment in Priority Disciplines for Economic Development

Results Area 2: Improving the Quality of Higher Education

Results Area 3: Promoting Research, Development and Innovation

3. Objectives of the Consultancy

- To develop an E-Learning platform to provide opportunities for undergraduates to acquire comprehensive updated knowledge while sharing student centred learning activities, publications, innovations, achievements and important information of graduates, undergraduates and staff

- To train a staff member/s on using the E-Learning platform

- To prepare a usable manual/guide on using, maintaining, updating and administration works of the E-Learning platform

4. Scope of the Consultancy

The E-Learning Platform is a web based online database which mainly targets all the undergraduate students, staff and graduates of the Department of Animal Science of Uva Wellassa University. However, the interface of the platform known as the common

visualizing platform is attractively opened for any internet users worldwide, but especially target researchers, academicians, information seekers, other university students, teachers and school children.

Within the E-Learning platform two sections should be developed. The two sections are;

4.1 Open access section and

4.2 Restricted access section

4.1 Open access section

The selected Consultant is expected to develop this common visualizing platform (E-Learning platform) which include following aspects without any restriction to access.

    4.1.1   Details of products developed and commercialized by student and staff (Product Display Centre)

    4.1.2   Product (developed by student and staff) purchasing system for any customers

    4.1.3   User friendly e-repository:

        This e-repository should facilitate the users to upload electronic material to the repository itself, however, before displaying it at the repository approval of Head of the Department of Animal Science should be granted through an online mechanism.
Eg. E-magazine, E-newsletter, Research articles and abstracts published by students, staff and graduates, Abstracts of the undergraduate thesis, other academic related activities (ongoing research projects) etc.

4.2 Restricted access section

This section of the E-Learning platform should be with restricted access which can be accessed by the undergraduates, staff and alumni of DANS with their own login details. Mainly this restricted section is important to use as a virtual notice board etc., displaying CA marks, provisional results & other announcements to the respective undergraduates and promoting the independent learning of undergraduates & evaluation of undergraduates for independent learning through continuous assessment.

    4.2.1   Management Information System (MIS): Resource utilisation and sharing information. i.e. availability of labs, equipment, lecture halls, reserving option of lecture halls and laboratories etc.

    4.2.2   Web profile:

        Link students, alumni, staff together for sharing information. i.e. employment details, research engaged, postgraduate students' details, postgraduate opportunities, job opportunities (kind of a web based environment to share basic information as well as above info).

    4.2.3   Editable staff profile

The finally developed E-Learning platform should be:

1. user friendly and attractive
2. easily manageable and maintainable
3. met easy administration and updating mechanism

5. Key Tasks and Related Activities

The key tasks of the Consultant will be to:

- develop a draft version of E-Learning platform with its' all the aspects within the specified time period

- modify the draft version of E-Learning Platform and rectify defects by discussing with the Head of the Department (HoD), activity coordinator and other relevant staff members of DANS within the specified time period

- before handing over, the programme should run at least for 01 month as a test run. If any defaults were observed debugging should be done

- build up the final version of E-Learning Platform and submit it for the usage of the department

- hand over source code and full authority of editing, updating, upgrading and other relevant authorities to the University

- to prepare a usable manual/guide on using, maintaining, updating and administration works of the E-Learning platform

- train and aware staff member(s) for maintaining, updating and administration works of the E-Learning platform through workshops and discussion forums

Key Task	Required Deliverable	Time Schedule
Signing the Contract	Consultancy Agreement	02nd November 2020
Producing a draft version of E-Learning platform	Draft E- Learning platform	11th January 2021
Test run of E-Learning platform	E-Learning platform for test run (01 month from11th January 2021 to 08th February 2021)	08th February 2021
Submitting the final version of E-Learning platform	Final E-Learning platform and source code	15th February 2021
Submitting the final manual/guide on using, maintaining, updating and administration works of E-Learning platform	Final Manual/Guide	15th February 2021
Train and aware staff member(s)	Training	18th February 2021

6. Duration of the Consultancy

The duration of the Consultancy will be of Eighteen (18) weeks from the date of signing the contract.

Task	Oct. 2020		Nov. 2020			Dec. 2020			Jan. 2021			Feb. 2021		
Publishing the Notice for Inviting EOIs	�													
Deadline for Submission of Proposals with a work plan		▰												
Signing of Contract			▰											
Building & submitting the draft version of E-Learning platform and getting comments									▰					
Test run of E-Learning platform										▰	▰	▰	▰	
Submit the final version of E-Learning platform, source code, authority of platform and manual/guide on using E-Learning platform														▰
Training a staff member(s) through workshops														▰

Note: Above mentioned dates and time schedules had to be rescheduled due to prevailing condition of Covid-19 and deviated from the dates mentioned in approved PAT.

7. Required Qualifications & Experience

- Should possess a Bachelor Degree in IT or related
- Postgraduate qualifications in software development will be preferred
- Minimum 05 years of work experience as a software developer
- Industrial experience and exposure in international context would be an additional qualification
- The candidate must be able to produce a Manual/Guide on using the E-Learning platform

8. Required Professional Competencies

- High level of IT literacy
- High level of proficiency in written and spoken English
- Strong communication and negotiating skills

- Good interpersonal relations
- Ability to function effectively in a team environment inspiring trust and cooperation of other team members
- Ability to train the staff member(s)

9. Method of Selection

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Consulting Service Manual 2007 issued by National Procurement Agency following Individual Competitive Consultancy (IC-C) method.

10. Reporting Obligations

The Consultant shall closely coordinate and report to the Coordinator of Activity 03. The Consultant shall submit the following reports/documents/softcopies to the University as per schedule given in section 5 above.

- Draft version of E-Learning platform
- Test run version of E-Learning platform
- Final version of E-Learning platform
- Source code and full authority of editing, updating, upgrading and all the other relevant authorities of E-Leaning platform
- Manual/Guide on using, maintaining, updating and administration works of E-Learning platform
- Trained document of staff member(s) for using, maintaining, updating and administration works of E-Learning platform

11. Ownership of the Assignment

This assignment is funded by the Ministry of Higher Education via AHEAD-OMST under the program component of AHEAD. As such, the University shall be the owner of the assignment and will reserves the Intellectual Property Rights for all deliverable of the assignment under the terms and conditions given in the IP policy of the University. The Consultant will have no right of claim to the assignment or its outputs once it is completed and **no rights** to use **Data and Information** gathered through the assignment for other purposes without written permission from the Vice Chancellor of the Uva Wellassa University. Any Reports/ Data/Information produced as a part of this assignment shall be handed over to the Client in soft and hard forms.