

BELTA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

New methods and IT in English Language Teaching stressed

MOON MOON SULTANA

The Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA) in its effort to improve standards of English language teaching (ELT) and learning recently had its 3rd international conference 'ELT in context: Future Directions' at the British Council in Dhaka.

Welcoming teachers, BELTA president, Dr Arifa Rahman, said the association is trying to bring teachers out of the traditional system of teaching.

BELTA was started in 1984 but faded with the death and migration of its founding members.

It came to life again in 2003, when a group of 29 teachers met with the emergence of communicative language teaching (CLT) in late 90s, expanding its objectives to empower teachers to effectively utilise communication in ELT practices.

"BELTA is now well-known within the country and internationally through various activities," said Dr Rahman, also the head of the English Language department of Presidency University. "This conference is held with confidence and commitment to attain its goal to bring ELT professionals on to a common platform to promote English teaching and learning," she said.

Two international conferences were held earlier in 1989 and 1991 respectively.

The conference had 44 ses-

sions of presentations on research, workshops followed by discussions, exchange of views and suggestions among 300 participants.

"I'm amazed with the various issues dealt here," said Dr Robert J. Dickey, assistant professor, Gyeongju University, South Korea, who conducted a workshop on pronunciation titled: The Sound of English.

"I ensure my students are relaxed when learning, so I make my lessons fun to listen and learn," said Dr. Robert.

Speakers emphasized the use of information technology (IT) for language teaching. They argued, the use of IT in the class integrates psychological and optical involvement of the learners helping them retain the lessons for a long period.

"We have to be aware of what's happening around us and have the will to accept new methods," said BELTA president. "We have lots of constraints but the problem, I think, is with the conception of 'pedagogy' (technique) of teaching," she added.

"We should not whine about the lack of technological support. Instead we must utilise what we have around us," said Dhaka University (DU) Professor Dr. Niaz Zaman.

Speakers urged ELT practitioners to encourage learners to generate their own ideas.

"It is high time to empower teachers with this authority because they are well aware of their environment and of the

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A forum discussion in progress.

level of students," said Professor Dr. Ravinder Gargesh, University of Delhi.

He added that efforts to use extracts from TV programmes like CNN and BBC in absence of online support must be made, incorporating different contexts in teaching language.

An integral part of the conference was the participation of a large number of young teachers with little experience, as most discussions were directed towards them.

Fiona Whitchelo of the British Council Dhaka addressed how young learners should be motivated and analysed the goal-based syllabus and evaluated its effectiveness in relation to project work, resulting in encouraging real communication.

"I'm inspired, and I have learnt a lot. The conference has been really helpful," said Takwa, a teacher from South Point School and College.

Teachers Mahibul and Berek from Mirzapur High School expressed satisfaction with the conference stating that it was very useful. "We will try the techniques and suggestions on our students," said Mahibul.

"Horizons for the work of ELT practitioners are not limited to teaching, training and writing materials for teaching English only," said Dr Dil Afroze Quader, Professor, Institute of Modern Languages, DU. She mentioned how three ELT practitioners worked successfully on a British project to assist

writing textbooks in Bangla for nurses.

The serious question of 'testing' or 'evaluation' was raised in the conference. What is BELTA doing to upgrade the system of testing learners' skills apart from developing teaching skills?

"Testing has been a very neglected area in Bangladesh. Teachers are powerless to make decisions on testing methods. A collaborative effort must be made between the policy makers of the testing boards and teachers to formulate reliable and valid achievement tests in the context of Bangladesh," said Dr. Rubina Khan, general secretary, BELTA and conference chair.

She also said that the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) are only methods of testing language proficiency, which are now made compulsory for migration purposes. These testing systems do not reveal actual achievement levels and are not valid in Bangladesh.

With the conclusion of the conference future aims emerged. Opening chapters at regional level to disseminate BELTA work to teachers at grassroots levels, developing simple English teaching materials, weaning teachers/ students away from the notebook-guidebook culture collaborating with other educational development endeavours were some of them.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
LGED Bhaban (Level-12), Agargaon
Dhaka-1207

Memo No: LGED/PD(RIIP-2)/02 Dated: 15.09.2005

Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project
Request for Expression of Interest for Institutional Support Consultants (ISC)

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and grant from DFID, KiW & GTZ and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan and grant to payments under the contract for design & supervision consultants to provide consulting services for the Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP-2). The project scope consists of the (i) improvement of 1360 km of Sub-District Road, 550 km of Union Road, 60 km of Submersible Road & 3664 km of Village Road, 160 Nos. Growth Center Markets, (ii) construction of 9000m bridges/culverts on Sub-district & Union Roads & 3664m of road structure on Village Road, 25 Nos of Jetties, 175 Nos of Union Council Complexes and 6 flood refuge shelters, (iii) capacity building of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Union Parishad etc.
- The main objective of the project will be to reduce rural poverty through sustainable economic growth, rural infrastructure development in 23 districts of North West & Central Bangladesh (Rajshahi, Dhaka & Chittagong Divisions). To achieve these objectives the Project will increase economic opportunities for the rural poor through participatory improvement of sustainable rural infrastructure, social and gender development and improved local governance as well as strengthening the capability of Local Govt. Institution in the project area as well as LGED.
- The scope of services of institutional support consultant is to support the Local Government Engineering Department as the Executing Agency (EA) and Union Council (UC) with capacity building in the fields of (a) Training, (b) Benefit Monitoring & Evaluation, (c) Participation, (d) Management information system, (e) Socio-economic issues, (f) Financial Management & Accounting, (g) Local governance issues, (h) Environmental assessment, (i) Gender and Development and (j) Resettlement moreover, the preparation of monthly, quarterly and final reports throughout the 5 (five) years project period.
- Domestic consulting firm will provide the consulting services. The consulting services will be engaged by LGED in accordance with the ADB's guidelines on the use of consultants and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for engaging local consultants.
- LGED now invites proposals from professionals consulting firms having expertise and adequate experienced professional staff of different disciplines for short-listing of consulting firms. The proposal should demonstrate firm's understanding of the requirements of the project and an understanding of the tasks set forth in the scope of services. In particular, the proposal should consist of (i) the background, organisation and experience of the firm, including works done and at hand during the last ten years, (iii) detail resume of each of the proposed professional staff to be assigned to carry out the services etc, (iv) Financial resource, (v) Annual turnover, (vi) Audit report.
- All proposals (five copies) must be submitted to the Project Director, Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project, LGED Bhaban (Level-12), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 either by mail or in person on or before 19 October, 2005 at 2:00pm local time. The undersigned will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred in connection with the preparation or delivery of proposal or visits to any office or site whatsoever.

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GD-1486

চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (বি)/পাওয়ার এর দপ্তর

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৮/০৫ তারিখ: ০৫/০৯/২০০৫

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	নৌ-পরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়।	
০২।	সংস্থের নাম	চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, চট্টগ্রাম।	
০৩।	সম্মানক সঞ্চুর নাম	চেয়ারম্যান, চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, চট্টগ্রাম। প্রতিনিধি নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী(বি)/পাওয়ার, চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, চট্টগ্রাম।	
০৪।	সম্মানক সঞ্চুর জেলা	চট্টগ্রাম।	
০৫।	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হলো	বন্দর প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের জন্য Public Address System এবং Total Sound System সরবরাহ, স্থাপন ও চালুকরণ।	
০৬।	সম্মানক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।	
০৭।	বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস	চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ এর নিজস্ব অর্থায়নে।	
০৮।	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের সংখ্যা	০১ (এক) টি।	
০৯।	দরপত্র বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	০৩/১০/২০০৫	অফিস চলাকালীন সময়।
১০।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৪/১০/২০০৫	বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা।
১১।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৪/১০/২০০৫	বেলা ১২-০৫ ঘটিকা।
১২।	দরপত্র বিক্রি গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থানসমূহের নাম ও ঠিকানা		
দরপত্র দলিলাদি বিক্রি (মূল)			১। নিম্ন(বি)/পাওয়ার/চক এর দপ্তর, ৪নং জেটি গেট, বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, চট্টগ্রাম।
দরপত্র দলিলাদি বিক্রি (অন্যান্য)			২। উপ-প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (নিম্ন) এর দপ্তর, বন্দর প্রশাসনিক ভবন, চট্টগ্রাম।
দরপত্র দলিলাদি গ্রহণ (দাবি)			৩। প্রধান অর্থ ও হিসাবরক্ষক কর্মকর্তা/চক এর দপ্তর, চট্টগ্রাম।
দরপত্র দলিলাদি খোঁচা			নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (বি)/পাওয়ার ও উপ-প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (বি)/চক এর দপ্তর, চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৩। দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা			নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (বি)/পাওয়ার এর দপ্তর, ৪নং জেটি গেট, বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, চট্টগ্রাম। দরপত্র/তাদের প্রতিনিধি দরপত্র খোলার সময় উপস্থিত থাকতে পারেন।
১৪। কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ			Public Address System/Total Sound System সরবরাহ ও স্থাপন কাজে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন সরবরাহকারী/মানুস্কেরাচার যাদের বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাটা, আয়কর, রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ হালনাগাদ আছে।
১৫। কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ			দরপত্র দলিলের সাথে সংযুক্ত কাজের সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত উল্লেখ আছে।
১৬। দরপত্র দলিলাদির মূল্য			৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা (সংকেতযোগ্য)।
১৭। আবেদনকারীর পরিমাণ			৩২,০০০/- টাকা।
১৮। কাজ সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা			১২০ (একশত বিশ) পন্থিকা দিনস।
১৯। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম			মোঃ আশতাকজামান বখশ।
২০। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী			নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (বি)/পাওয়ার, চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, চট্টগ্রাম।
২১। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা ও টেলিফোন নং			নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (বি)/পাওয়ার এর দপ্তর, ৪নং জেটি গেট সংলগ্ন, চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, চট্টগ্রাম। ফোন-৮১২২০০-৩৪, এম-২৫০৫।
২২। চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা খোলার নির্ধারিত দিনে যদি অনির্দিষ্ট কোন কারণে দরপত্র গ্রহণ/খোঁচা সম্ভব না হয় তা হলে পরবর্তী কার্য নিবন্ধে দরপত্র সিডিউল গ্রহণ/খোঁচা হবে।			

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (বি)/পাওয়ার
চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ

জিডি-১৪৬৬

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
LGED Bhaban (Level-12), Agargaon
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Memo No: LGED/PD(RIIP-2)/01 Dated: 15.09.2005

Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project
Request for Expression of Interest for the Design & Supervision (D&S) Consultants

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and grant from DFID, KiW & GTZ and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan and grant to payments under the contract for design & supervision consultants to provide consulting services for the Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP-2). The project scope consists of the (i) improvement of 1360 km of sub-district road, 550 km of union road, 60 km of submersible road & 3664 km of village road 160 Nos growth center markets, (ii) construction of 9000m Bridges/culverts on sub-district & union roads & 3664m of road structure on village road, 25 Nos of Jetties, 175 Nos of Union Council Complexes and 6 flood refuge shelters, (iii) capacity building of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Union Parishad etc.
- The main objective of the project will be to reduce rural poverty through sustainable economic growth, rural infrastructure development in 23 districts of North West & Central Bangladesh (Rajshahi, Dhaka & Chittagong Divisions). To achieve these objectives the project will increase economic opportunities for the rural poor through participatory improvement of sustainable rural infrastructure, social and gender development and improved local governance as well as strengthening the capability of Local Govt. Institution in the project area as well as LGED.
- The scope of services of the D&S consultant team is to assist the LGED in preparing and implementing the project activities, including planning and designing, procurement of goods and services, training for sustainable operation and maintenance of infrastructure, the quality control regime, preparation of contract documentation, evaluation of contract award, certification in payment procedures with supervision of physical works. The consultant will also assist identifying and reporting adverse environmental impacts and modifying designs and practices to mitigate them and generally accomplishing project preparation tasks including resettlement plans and preparing monthly, quarterly and final reports throughout the five years project period.
- International firm in association with domestic consulting firm will provide the consulting services. The consulting services will be engaged by Local Government Engineering Department in accordance with the ADB's guidelines on the use of consultants and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for engaging local consultants.
- LGED now invites proposals from professionals consulting firms having expertise and adequate experienced professional staff of different disciplines for short-listing of consulting firms. The proposal should demonstrate firm's understanding of the requirements of the project and an understanding of the tasks set forth in the scope of services. In particular, the proposal should consist of (i) the background, organisation and experience of the firm, including works done and at hand during the last ten years, (ii) detail resume of each of the proposed professional staff to be assigned to carry out the services etc, (iii) Financial resource, (iv) Annual turnover, (v) Audit report.
- All proposals (five copies) must be submitted to the Project Director, Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project, LGED Bhaban (Level-12), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 either by mail or in person on or before 19 October, 2005 at 2:00pm local time. The undersigned will not reimburse any cost or expenses incurred in connection with the preparation or delivery of proposal or visits to any office or site whatsoever.

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GD-1485