# Terms of Reference for Constultant on e-platform

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation

Project AHEAD/RA2/ELTAELSE/PDN/AGRI

ELTA-ELSA Development Projects – Faculty Proposal

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

1. BACKGROUND

The development of thehigher 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.

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 between 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

The Project AHEAD/RA2/ELTAELSE/PDN/AGRI comes under Results Area 2 implemented by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya (UoP). The AHEAD operations are coordinated by Operations Technical secretariat (OTS) at UoP and Operation and Monitoring Support Team (OMTS) at UGC and Ministry.

3. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY

We envision a virtual space through which we support students to seamlessly transition to the university and then to the outside world. Students will be able to connect with other students, staff and alumni, assess their skill levels and explore their interests, and reach for resources and people to support them if they are struggling academically or want to build their competencies specific to their interests. We envision a radically transformed e-learning system that connects our many stakeholders, students, teachers, alumni, and others, strengthens students’ social networks, and helps showcase their work. In this process, students must become the agents of change both for themselves and their social systems.

The objective of the consultancy is to design and the development of the system that is able to fulfill this vision. The consultant is expected to review the current digital experience for students in their academic work and design a user-friendly, mobile- friendly, future-oriented experience.

4. SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The project should address the above needs and objectives of the students and staff of the Faculty of Agriculture and should cover curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities and should provide a field tested, de-bugged system, with required manuals and training by the end of the contract period.

5. KEY TASKS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The main duties and responsibilities of the consultant on the e-platform will be to:

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| **Key Task**  | **Required Deliverable** | **Time frame (after signing the contract)** |
| 1 | Develop technical specifications and design the e-platform based on consultations with the project team, where a conceptualisation of the platform architecture are spelled out in report form,  | 2 months |
| 2 | Implement design, once approved by the project committee. | End 1st year |
| 3 | Field test the product with users and system requirements, iterations and deployment with support from content development assistants. | End 1 year 6 month year |
| 4 | Work with the assessment specialist (consultant) and content development assistants to create online content based on the e-platform.. | End 1 year 6 months year |
| 5 | Deliver a fully operational system along with necessary instructional material and ownership information. | End 2nd year |

6. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The contract will run for 2 years and 2 months from the date of signing the contract.

7. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

* background in computer science (postgraduate qualifications in computer science
* ten years of experience working on large-scale systems designed for human-centric interaction

8. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT

Through advertise and selection interview.

9. REPORTING THE DELIVERABLES

The consultant shall closely coordinate and report to the project team, through the Activity 2 Coordinator.

10. REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

* ability to liaise with the Activity Coordinator and Co-coordinator Activity 2
* ability to work closely with the psychometric tool development consultant, the e-learning consultant and the content development assistants
* ability to analyze and resolve implementation issues effectively
* ability to interact with senior academic and administrative staff in the university and the Faculty of Agriculture
* ability to function effectively in a team environment inspiring trust and cooperation of other team members
* high level of IT literacy
* strong communication, negotiating skills and good interpersonal relations
* high level of proficiency in written and spoken English

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. Any Reports/ Data/ Information produced as a part of this assignment shall be handed over to the Client in soft and hard forms.