

International Growth Centre

Call for Proposals: Research on Technical and Vocational Education and Training

The International Growth Centre is issuing a call for proposals to do research on the state of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in Sierra Leone, in the context of human capital development policies to promote economic growth. At least two persons are needed for this project. Joint proposals from two or more authors will be acceptable. The output of the research will be a paper that will be presented in a workshop of stakeholders.

The IGC is a new centre initiated and funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and is directed and organized from hubs at the London School of Economics and Oxford University. The Sierra Leone Country Program (SLCP) was established in 2010.

The IGC-Sierra Leone Country Program's objective is to promote sustainable growth in Sierra Leone by providing policy advice based on frontier research to address issues of major concern to the authorities in implementing the Agenda for Change – the Second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. The SLCP is intended to fill knowledge gaps and support capacity building in policymaking in Sierra Leone.

The IGC is supporting the government's efforts in promoting private sector development. Good performance in technical and vocational education and training is critical for private sector development and economic growth. In this light, IGC will, in cooperation with others, work to develop ideas for a comprehensive reform plan for technical and vocational education and training. The proposed research work will include the following areas.

- The current institutional and organizational environment for technical and vocational education and training in Sierra Leone.
- The appropriateness of the current state of TVET, given the Sierra Leone labour market conditions.
- The role of the government in TVET and the role of the nongovernment sector.
- Ways in which skill development takes place in the informal economy.
- Important issues in the financing of TVET in Sierra Leone (resource mobilization, allocation mechanisms, financing enterprise-based training, etc.) and the challenges they pose for policymaking.

Proposals should be submitted electronically to oegjohnson@aol.com by June 30, 2010. Applicants should include curriculum vitae. Demonstrated ability to do high-quality research in relevant areas will be of enormous advantage. The research paper is expected to be completed in about three months.