**Consultant** **sought by British Council Japan for research into efficacy of global Primary English Education systems**

Consultancy Aim

British Council Japan is seeking a consultant to conduct desk research into the following:-

1. The models and best practices of exemplary Primary English Education Systems (PEES)
2. Any problems identified with specific underperforming Primary English Education Systems

The research will be used initially by the British Council Japan in on-going work with MEXT, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. MEXT’s plans involve introducing English as a compulsory subject in the final two years of primary education, and extending English activities into the earlier years. As part of this reform MEXT are considering introducing the teaching of reading and writing, in addition to speaking and listening, and developing assessment tests.

Scope of work/Deliverables

1. To identify those countries that are perceived to achieve excellent results in the delivery of primary English education. This should be done through reference to international ranking systems (e.g. PISA - though this obviously does not rank primary education), global reports (e.g. Pearson/ Economist Intelligence Unit) and primary education indicators (e.g. UNESCO) then cross referenced with current reports, academic literature etc. The countries chosen must be relevant to the Japanese context, for example, China, Korea, Germany, Finland are seen to have similar challenges/contexts whereas Singapore and Hong Kong less so.
2. To identify those countries that are seen to have underperforming Primary English Education Systems in relation to economic status or other education indicators. Again these countries should be relevant or comparable in some way to a Japanese context. The countries chosen here and above must be agreed with BC Japan.
3. The consultant will summarise and synthesise existing data from trustworthy, valid sources. It is expected that these sources will include current research, journal articles, reports, theses. Both qualitative and quantitative data should be drawn on in some form of another.
4. The consultant will produce a short report with findings that summarise the best models/practices noted and the possible problems experienced by underperforming PEES. Conclusions and recommendations, where possible[[1]](#endnote-1), should also be drawn. This report must display academic rigour, yet still be accessible to a non-academic audience.
5. All deliverables above should be completed within 15 days.

Consultant profile

-       An expert in the field of Primary English Language Education

-       A proven track record in desk research that draws on a wide, valid and authoritative range of sources

-       Excellent written communication skills

-       Desirable: Knowledge of Japanese education systems and context

Applications

Send a description of no more than two pages on:

1. Your qualifications and experience relevant to the task
2. A short description of how you will approach this task, with some examples of sources.
3. Your expected daily fee for providing this consultancy

by email, to Robin Skipsey robin.skipsey@britishcouncil.org.jp

by Monday 23rd December

1. Clearly there are no magic bullets expected here. While acknowledging that external factors outside each education system will play a huge part in the success or not of educational outcomes, it is hoped that noteworthy features of said systems can be drawn out and some broad conclusions and general recommendations made. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)