Call for Expression of Interest

Commonwealth of Learning, in partnership with PACFOLD/ Centre for Flexible Learning, University of the South Pacific, is implementing a project on Open, Distance and Flexible Learning (ODFL) in nine member countries of the Commonwealth in the Pacific, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand. There are different activities that are grouped in four workstreams. One of them is to support the design and development of regional tools to advance e-learning.

In this workstream, COL, in partnership with PACFOLD, will launch a series of activities whose objectives are to:

- Support teachers in creating high-quality educational resources, lessons, and lesson plans on STEM topics aligned with national curricula.
- Enhance teachers' skills and resilience in integrating technology-enabled into their practices.
- Foster innovation and skill development in teaching practices through the exchange, adaptation and/or reuse of open educational resources.

The expected outcomes include a scalable, efficient system for Open Educational Resource creation in STEM topics and their management, increased teacher resilience and efficiency, and improved educational outcomes across the nine Commonwealth small island countries in the Pacific region.

COL and PACFOLD intend to achieve the objectives through the development of an AI-powered system designed to support schoolteachers in Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu to enhance quality in teaching of science and mathematics in the Pacific school education system. This set of activities will enable teachers to create, curate, adapt and manage high-quality OERs, to help them become more resilient and efficient in the rapidly evolving educational landscape of the region.

COL seeks expressions of interest from competent entities to design and develop the following components:

1. AI-based OER Generator Development

We propose to develop an AI-powered system tailored for teachers within the Pacific Education Systems. This system will feature an intelligence component capable of generating and modifying open educational resources aligned with the STEM topics of the of national curricula for primary, secondary, and high schools.
The AI-based OER generator will:

▪ offer content in simple English, including diagrams and examples (where feasible), suitable for specified parameters such as location, grade or equivalent, length, and complexity.

▪ adapt existing OERs based on partner-defined contexts and parameters.

▪ ensure generated content includes reasonably accurate citations and references to OERs and copyright-free materials, promoting transparency and reliability.

2. Teacher Registration and Profile Creation Module

To facilitate effective use of the system, a dedicated module for teacher registration and profile creation will be developed. This module will:

▪ allow teachers to create own profiles detailing their teaching subjects, grade levels, and other relevant information.

▪ enable teachers to access advanced features of the AI-powered system, including content generation and modification tools and generate analytics of use.

▪ -enable access, after a period of time, to more advanced LLM’s to teachers with analytical scores above a project-defined threshold.

3. OER Upload and Review Module with Publishing Facility

This component will focus on the management and dissemination of OERs. It will include:

▪ A web-based application interface for uploading and managing teacher-prompted OERs onto a repository.

▪ A detailed view of each OER, including options for reviews and feedback from mentors in the community of teachers.

▪ A participatory user role system, enabling both trained and untrained teachers to engage with the content.

▪ A content moderation workflow to ensure the alignment and quality of the content.

▪ A facility to publish reviewed OERs, making them accessible to the wider teaching community.
The partners are aware of the multi-dimensional challenges associated with deploying Generative AI-powered services in content development. Since the source of training of most LLM’s is unknown, the challenge of attribution to original sources remains open. When creators make their outputs available even under the most liberal license (an example is CC0), the legal rights applicable in a country or domain might not permit transfer of rights of adaptation and reuse to a machine-learning system. **The partners will thus expect the entities offering proposals to develop their solutions with close and adequate attention to as many of the challenges as possible.** This source provides a reasonably good overview of the issues: [https://bccampus.ca/2023/03/06/chatgpt-and-open-education/](https://bccampus.ca/2023/03/06/chatgpt-and-open-education/)

There are a few more useful sources as well, such as: [https://creativecommons.org/2023/08/18/understanding-cc-licenses-and-generative-ai/](https://creativecommons.org/2023/08/18/understanding-cc-licenses-and-generative-ai/)

**Eligibility Criteria**

Entities interested offering proposals should offer evidence of working with AI-powered services in education, especially in the developing island states of the Pacific.

COL will administer the process of selection. Decisions of COL will be final.

To initiate the submission process, interested parties are required to upload their expressions of interest, along with comprehensive proposals that detail costs and timelines, to a designated online folder managed by COL. The necessary first step involves completing and submitting the following form: [https://forms.microsoft.com/r/9nYLGnnrSq?origin=lprLink](https://forms.microsoft.com/r/9nYLGnnrSq?origin=lprLink)

**Submission deadline** for completed proposals is **Friday, 28 March 2024** at 5:00 pm PDT in Vancouver BC, Canada.