

4.7.2 Resume of TORS:

The program would support the reform and modernisation of vocational and technical education. It would do so by the development of a network of Professional Education Centres (CPs) adapted to labour market needs. Sample activities and outcomes would be :

- provide flexibility in educational strategy to workers
- develop a curriculum according to occupational competencies required in each sector
- promote private sector involvement and means of certification to facilitate entrance and exit from the system
- retrain the unemployed
- to enhance information and evaluation systems
- procurement of didactic materials and equipment including refecton of buildings and essential infrastructure works
- undertake surveys to determine the usefulness of CPs
- develop a public information campaign about CPs and their role
- instigate reform and expansion of general education at the middle school level to improve its academic quality and relevance
- implement state plans to reorganise professional education through institutional reorganisation and management, curriculum improvements, legislative changes.

One of the companies that decided to bid on this project was EDUTECH, a dynamic Canadian information technology (IT) firm with a track record of success in the education marketplace especially as a provider of goods and training. EDUCTECH contacted the Canadian Embassy and asked the Commercial Counsellor about their chances of success, the possible competition and how to improve a possible bid. Although there was no generic link between the telecommunications project and the IDB education project, they clearly had to be part of an overall national development strategy. Linking the two Canadian firms would result in a better bid and invite economies of scale. Moreover the IT component of the IDB project relates directly to the activities involved in the larger telecommunications project for the modernisation of the telecommunications system. The training component present in both projects could overlap and create conditions for the success of both. Moreover the larger project could stand to improve their training profile that had been considered somewhat lacking in their bid in the Fall of 1997.