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# U.S.-EGYPT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY JOINT FUND QUARTERLY REPORT

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

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**Table of Contents**

Acronyms ..... 2

Executive Summary ..... 3

Part 1: Major Milestones Completed ..... 4

Part 2: Description of Key Activities ..... 4

    Program Activities ..... 4

    Plans for Next Quarter ..... 4

## Acronyms

**NAS**  
**STDF**

National Academy of Sciences  
Science and Technology Development Fund

## **Executive Summary**

In May, the RFA for Cycle 17 of the U.S.-Egypt Science and Technology Joint Fund closed. The RFA's application system registered 154 application accounts for Collaborative Research Grants and 89 application accounts for Junior Scientist Development Visits. NAS and STDF agreed on a division of responsibilities for the proposal-screening process. Both sides agreed to forward to review 113 eligible collaborative proposals. For the review of these collaborative proposals, as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, NAS had contacted 108 prospective reviewers. Thirty-five of these prospective reviewers agreed to participate in the review process.

## Part 1: Major Milestones Completed

### 1.1 Milestones

- In May, the RFA for Cycle 17 of the U.S.-Egypt Science and Technology Joint Fund closed. The RFA's application system registered 154 application accounts for Collaborative Research Grants and 89 application accounts for Junior Scientist Development Visits.

## Part 2: Description of Key Activities

### 2.1 FY 15 Q3 Progress Summary

#### ***Program Activities***

- The STDF-hosted online application for Cycle 17 was closed on May 12<sup>th</sup>. NAS and STDF later agreed to temporarily re-open the call for proposals on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- After May 19<sup>th</sup>, STDF provided NAS with administrative access to their website. This allowed for the easy download of proposal files on both sides. The application account totals were:
  - Collaborative – 154
  - Junior – 89
  - Not designated – 54
- To efficiently divide the proposal-screening process, NAS agreed to screen all of the collaborative and undesignated proposals, while STDF screened all of the junior proposals. Of the collaborative proposals, 113 were found eligible for further review. All of the undesignated proposals were found ineligible. The collaborative and undesignated proposals were screened based on the RFA's Attachment V: Proposal Screening Checklist, as was agreed upon with STDF.
- NAS contacted all of the collaborative and undesignated U.S. applicants, informing them of the status of their proposals.
- The reviewer recruitment process began for collaborative proposals. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, NAS had contacted 108 prospective reviewers, thirty-five of which agreed to assist in the review process. The reviewers include a mix of U.S. S&T Joint Fund alumni, with valuable expertise on capacity building in Egypt, and expert scientists who are new to the Joint Fund's work. The reviewers will use a newly drafted review form, which has been forwarded to STDF and USAID for background.
- Multiple Skype discussions were held in May and June with STDF to discuss the closing of the RFA and steps going forward.

#### ***Plans for Next Quarter***

- The reviewer recruitment process will be finalized and the virtual and in-person panel meetings will be held.
- The planning process for the joint selection meeting will begin.
- NAS and STDF will further discuss the next steps for Cycle 18.
- Quarterly progress and accrual reports will be prepared and acquitted.