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

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## **Part 1: Executive Summary**

During the fourth quarter, the Academies continued selecting volunteer reviewers for Cycle 17's 113 eligible collaborative proposals. As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, seventy-five reviewers had agreed to assist in the review process. In August and September, six review panels were held. Four of these panels were held exclusively online, while the other two had in-person and virtual participants.

## **Part 2: Major Milestones Completed**

- The U.S. review process for over 90% of the Cycle 17 collaborative proposals was completed, primarily through six review panels held in August and September.
- The Academies and the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) began comparing the U.S. and Egyptian collaborative reviewers' comments and scores.

## **Part 3: Description of Key Activities**

### ***Program Activities***

- During the fourth quarter, the Academies contacted 127 prospective reviewers, forty-two of which agreed to assist in the review process. As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, a total of 75 volunteer reviewers had agreed to review proposals. Reviewers were selected based on their expertise in the proposals' fields and in international capacity building efforts.
- During the quarter, the review process for over 90% of the Cycle 17 collaborative proposals was completed in the U.S. Review forms for the remaining proposals will be submitted to the Academies by the end of October.
- In August, four panel discussions were held to review proposals. Due to the relatively small number of proposals in each of the panels' fields, it was decided that the most efficient method to facilitate these discussions was through two-hour virtual discussions.
- In September, the Academies hosted two all-day panel discussions. For these panels, reviewers were given the option of participating in-person or virtually. Ten reviewers travelled to Washington, DC to participate in-person and nine reviewers participated virtually.
- Thirty-three reviewers agreed to complete an online survey, providing input on how the Academies could improve future review cycles.
- Multiple Skype discussions were held with STDF to discuss the status of the Cycle 17 review process and possible changes in the Cycle 18 RFA.
- The Academies continued discussions with USAID, the Department of State's Office of Science and Technology Cooperation (OES/STC), and STDF regarding possible dates for the joint selection meeting.

### ***Administrative***

- The year-two work plan and budget was submitted to USAID on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

- The planning process for the joint selection meeting will continue.
- The Academies and STDF will continue to discuss steps forward for Cycle 17 and possible updates for the Cycle 18 RFA.
- Quarterly progress and accrual reports will be prepared and acquitted.