



Cooperative Agreement 263-A-00-10-00026-00

**Quarterly Report
FY 2012, Quarter 1**

Executive Summary:

IIE/Egypt was awarded the New Scholarship Program (renamed LOTUS Scholarship Program) on May 4, 2010. The original award and a subsequent modification awarded in this reporting period provide funding for 150 scholarships. Two competitive, nationwide outreach and recruitment cycles resulted in 150 students being selected and joining LOTUS partner universities.

- Cohort 1, Cycle 1 consists of 44 students representing 21 governorates and two former governorates and entered universities in September 2010.
- Cohort 1, Cycle 2, consists of 56 students representing 24 governorates and one former governorate and entered universities in September 2011.
- Cohort 2 consists of 50 students representing 26 governorates and two former governorates and entered universities in September 2011.
- Overall, the 150 LOTUS students represent all of Egypt’s 27 governorates and two former governorates.

Profile of the 150 LOTUS students:

The LOTUS students represent all of Egypt’s 27 governorates and two former governorates.

Cohort 1, Cycles 1 & 2 and Cycle 2 Students	6th October	Alexandria	Assiut	Aswan	Beheira	Beni Sueif	Cairo	Dakahlia	Damietta	Fayoum	Gharbia	Giza	Helwan	Ismailia	K. El Sheikh	Luxor	Matrouh	Menoufiya	Minya	New Valley	N. Sinai	Port Said	Qaliyobia	Qena	Red Sea	Sharkiya	Sohag	S. Sinai	Suez	Totals
Female representation	3	4	2	3	2	6	5	4	2	2	2	5	0	0	3	3	3	2	6	2	1	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	81
Male representation	1	2	3	2	2	2	5	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	5	3	2	3	2	2	4	2	1	3	2	69
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University Placements

University	# Students
Ahram Canadian University	30
British University in Egypt	27
Future University in Egypt	27
Modern Sciences & Arts University	39
Pharos University in Alexandria	25

Fields of Specialization

Field of Specialization	# Students
Accounting & Finance	4
Art & Design	3
Biotechnology	11
Business Administration	4
Dentistry	15
Engineering	38
Human Resource Management	4
International Trade/Business	1
Informatics / IT & Computer Science	18
Languages & Translation	3
Legal Studies and International Relations	3
Marketing	1
Mass Communications	9
Pharmacy	27
Physical Therapy	4
Political Science	4

The 106 LOTUS students who entered universities in September/October 2011 have been on a steep learning curve this quarter. For most of them, this is the first time to live away from their families for an extended period of time. They have had to acclimate themselves to living on their own and have had to become more self-reliant very quickly. For the most part, the students are integrating very well into the universities and are beginning to take advantage of the many opportunities that are offered.

During the reporting period, IIE held several sessions for the LOTUS students including the following:

- Orientation and Team Building: getting to know each other and the universities
- Academic Skills: Time Management, Presentation Skills, and Research Skills
- Business Entrepreneurship event during Global Entrepreneurship Week featuring presentations by Egyptian business entrepreneurs
- Official Launch of LOTUS attended by the U.S. Ambassador and USAID Mission Director
- First Annual LOTUS Student-led Leadership Workshop

FY 2012, Quarter 1 reporting against Annual Work Plan:

				Planned FY2012/Q1 Cohort 1	Status as of 12/31/11 Cohort 1	Planned FY2012/Q1 Cohort 2	Status as of 12/31/11 Cohort 2	Planned FY2012/Q1 Both Cohorts	Status as of 12/31/11 Both Cohorts
Task 0: Program Start-up and Management									
0.1	Finalize SOW and legal service agreements for partner NGOs and Universities								
0.2	Staffing of all IIE and partner positions					IIE recruits positions	Advising Coordinator position advertized		
0.3	Complete Annual Work Plan (AWP) for year 2							12/2011	In progress
0.4	Realignment of Cohort 1 budget								
Task 1: LOTUS Scholarship Program Recruitment, Selection and Placement									
1.1	Placement of Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	10/2011	56 students placed	10/2011	50 students placed				
Task 2: LOTUS Scholar Academic and Personal Support									
2.1	Develop agreements and procedures with the five universities to host LOTUS students and pay university coordinators							On-going	On-going - accomplished
2.2	LOTUS students are supported financially and materially to attend university							On-going	On-going - accomplished
2.3	Procure laptop computers and software for incoming students, along with other settling-in supplies and school materials to be distributed							10/2011	Accomplished
2.4	Hold orientation and team building sessions for incoming students in coordination with partner universities							10/2011	1 orientation and 1 team building session held
2.5	Conduct occasional meetings with LOTUS students at the group and individual levels							Monthly	Monthly - accomplished
2.6	Provide sessions to LOTUS students on a variety of academic and personal skills development themes							8 sessions	8 sessions held (see attached list)
Task 3: Leadership in Action Program									
3.1	Continue development of Leadership in Action Program sessions, materials, and handouts							On-going	On-going
3.2	Work collaboratively with partner NGO Nahdet Mahrousa on NM-specific Leadership in Action sessions and activities							On-going	On-going
3.3	Orientation to the Leadership in Action Program								
3.4	Leadership in Action Program sessions delivered by IIE staff and facilitators							4 sessions	4 sessions held (see attached list)
3.5	Specialized sessions and meetings for specific purposes	8 sessions/meetings	8 sessions/meetings held (see attached list)						
3.6	Leadership in Action Program sessions delivered by Nahdet Mahrousa								
3.7	Namaa Summer Program delivered by Nahdet Mahrousa								
3.8	NM and other cultural events and trips								
3.9	Coordinate community service learning activities								
3.10	Annual Student-led Leadership Workshop	12/2011	Accomplished						
Task 4: English Language Support									
4.1	All LOTUS students take the ITP TOEFL exam during the fall semester	11/2011 - 12/2011	Accomplished (see attached roster)						
4.2	Assess LOTUS students' English language proficiency and develop action plans								
4.3	Provide Intensive Summer English Program								
4.3	Provide supplemental English language programming							On-going	20 PUA students

				Planned FY2012/Q1 Cohort 1	Status as of 12/31/11 Cohort 1	Planned FY2012/Q1 Cohort 2	Status as of 12/31/11 Cohort 2	Planned FY2012/Q1 Both Cohorts	Status as of 12/31/11 Both Cohorts
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Task 6: Career Development									
6.1	Develop NM-led Career Development component								
6.2	Career counseling sessions								
6.3	Student career self-assessment activities								
6.4	Coordinate intern and workplace activities								
6.5	Career mentoring activities								
Task 7: Leadership Capacity Building for Universities									
7.1	Deliver Strategic Leadership Seminar #1 to two remaining LOTUS partner universities	2 seminars	1 seminar delivered						
7.2	Design and develop up to five university capacity building sessions for LOTUS partner universities								
7.3	Deliver Strategic Leadership Seminar #2 to LOTUS partner universities								
7.4	Deliver Strategic Leadership Seminar #3 to LOTUS partner universities								
7.5	Deliver Strategic Leadership Seminar #4 to LOTUS partner universities								
7.6	Deliver Strategic Leadership Seminar #5 to LOTUS partner universities								
7.7	Deliver Strategic Leadership Seminar #6 to LOTUS partner universities								
7.8	Invite university leaders to participate in Leadership in Action and other LOTUS activities							On-going	On-going
Task 8: Communications, Monitoring and Evaluation									
8.1	Website design and launch							On-going	On-going
8.2	Set-up and maintain collaborative communication and survey tools							On-going	On-going
8.3	Revise M&E Matrix								
8.4	Identify the control group of students and plan for annual assessments								
8.5	Submit Quarterly and Annual Reports	10/31/2011	Accomplished						
8.6	Produce LOTUS highlights and PR documents							On-going	On-going

During this reporting period, the following **challenges** were faced:

- The high Thanaweya Amma scores and higher percentages required for choice faculties in the public university system resulted in a rush on the private universities. IIE faced some challenges getting students placed in Dentistry at Future University in Egypt. FUE requested and received additional slots in Dentistry from the Supreme Council of Private Universities, however not all of the LOTUS students could be placed in Dentistry and some were placed in their second choice field of Pharmacy.
- The security situation in the country continued to pose challenges to both IIE and students. Several sessions had to be postponed as a result of demonstrations and violence in both Cairo and Alexandria. IIE was unable to meet with the head of the Supreme Council of Private Universities in December due to violent protests downtown.
- Scheduling sessions and meetings for students continued to be a challenge due to the different exam and break schedules of the five universities.

Student status changes in this reporting period:

- At the close of FY 2012, Quarter 1, a female Cohort 2 student from Qaliyobia studying Languages at MSA University chose to leave the Program for personal reasons. After consultation with USAID, IIE offered a female alternate from Alexandria a placement at MSA University. The student statistics will reflect these changes Quarter 2 once the new student begins university.

- In addition, a male Cohort 1, Cycle 2 student from the Red Sea studying at Ahram Canadian University requested to take a leave of absence for the remainder of the academic year following the death of his father. With IIE and USAID's concurrence, he has taken leave and is enthusiastic about returning to university in September 2012 once he has settled his family's affairs.

In FY 2012, Quarter 1, IIE held the following orientation, academic skill, and specialized sessions:

Topic of Session	Session Type	Trainer / Guest Speaker	Date	Students	# Students	Venue
Orientation	Orientation & Team Building	IIE staff	Oct. 1, 2011	FUE Cohort 1, Cycle 1 and Cohort 2 students	22	IIE
Team Building	Orientation & Team Building	IIE staff	Oct. 7, 2011	BUE and FUE Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	38	BUE
TOEFL IBT Preparation Class	Specialized	George Marquis	Oct. 21, 2011	Select Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students	2	IIE
Annual Workshop Brainstorming Session and Project Management Session	Academic Skills	IIE staff George Marquis	Oct. 22, 2011	Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students	36	IIE
Rights & Responsibilities	Leadership in Action	IIE staff	Oct. 24, 2011	MSA Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	30	MSA
Rights & Responsibilities	Leadership in Action	IIE staff	Oct. 25, 2011	FUE Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	22	FUE
TOEFL IBT Preparation Class	Specialized	George Marquis	Oct. 29, 2011	Select Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students	2	IIE
Rights & Responsibilities	Leadership in Action	IIE staff	Oct. 30, 2011	ACU Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	21	ACU
Rights & Responsibilities	Leadership in Action	IIE staff	Oct. 31, 2011	BUE Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students		BUE
Study Skills & Time Management	Academic Skills	George Marquis	Nov. 12, 2011	PUA cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	17	PUA
Meeting with Annual Workshop Committee Heads	Specialized	IIE staff	Nov. 13, 2011	Select Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students		IIE
Study Skills & Time Management	Academic Skills	George Marquis	Nov. 19, 2011	BUE & FUE Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	38	FUE
Meeting with Annual Workshop Committee Heads	Specialized	IIE staff	Nov. 21, 2011	Select Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students	6	IIE
Annual Workshop Planning Meeting	Specialized	IIE staff	Nov. 25, 2011	Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students	36	IIE
Study Skills & Time Management	Academic Skills	George Marquis	Nov. 25, 2011	MSA & ACU Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	47	ACU
Academic Integrity, Research, and Writing (Day 1)	Academic Skills	George Marquis	Nov. 26, 2011	BUE & FUE Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	38	BUE
Meeting with Annual Workshop Committee Heads	Specialized	IIE staff	Nov. 30, 2011	Select Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students	5	IIE
Academic Integrity, Research, and Writing (Day 1)	Academic Skills	George Marquis	Dec. 3, 2011	PUA Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	16	PUA

Meeting with Annual Workshop Committee Heads	Specialized	IIE staff	Dec. 7, 2011	Select Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students	6	IIE
Academic Integrity, Research, and Writing (Day 1)	Academic Skills	George Marquis	Dec. 9, 2011	MSA & ACU Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students, and 1 PUA student	50	MSA
Academic Integrity, Research, and Writing (Day 2)	Academic Skills	George Marquis	Dec. 10, 2011	BUE & FUE Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students	37	FUE
Meeting with Annual Workshop Committee Heads	Specialized	IIE staff	Dec. 12, 2011	Select Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students	8	IIE
Workshop Rehearsal	Specialized	IIE staff	Dec. 16, 2011	Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students	43	BUE
Annual Student-led Leadership Workshop	Annual Workshop	Misc.	Dec. 17, 2011	Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 students	147	BUE

FY 2012, Quarter 1 Activities:

In addition to the activities identified in the table above, the following activities and accomplishments took place in FY 2011, Quarter 4:

- **Study Abroad:** the following study abroad-related tasks were accomplished this quarter:
 - The two students who were selected for study abroad for the spring 2012 semester obtained requisite IBT scores and the IIE NY placement office worked on university placements for them.
 - The two students who were selected for study abroad for the fall 2012 semester sat for the IBT exam and obtained the requisite scores. IIE worked with them on filling out the common application form.
 - IIE met with USAID to discuss study abroad challenges and realities for several students who can only study abroad in the summer. USAID concurred to allow IIE to explore alternative U.S. experiences including internships and summer courses.
- **English proficiency assessment and testing:**
 - Two students who were selected to study abroad in fall 2012 attended a two-day TOEFL IBT preparation workshop, which successfully prepared them for the exam which they took this quarter.
 - 148 students sat for the ITP exam (see attached scores). The remaining two students will take the exam in January.
 - 20 PUA students took advantage of the opportunity to take supplemental English courses at AMIDEAST.
- **Reporting:** IIE worked on drafting a revised M&E Matrix to include Cohort 2 and the Annual Work Plan for FY2012. Drafts will be submitted to USAID in January for review and finalization.
- **University Capacity Building Program:** Workshop 1 of the LOTUS Strategic Leadership Seminars was held at ACU for faculty and staff.
- **Annual LOTUS Student-led Leadership Workshop:** Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students developed and implemented the first Annual Workshop (see full details below).

FY 2012, Quarter 2 Activities:

In addition to the activities identified in the table above, the following activities will take place in FY 2012, Quarter 1:

- **Study abroad:**

- The two students who were selected for study abroad for the spring 2012 semester will be placed and travel.
- The IIE NY placement office will work on placements for the two students who were selected for study abroad for the fall 2012 semester.
- IIE plans to undertake a comprehensive review of the processes and requirements for study abroad in preparation for the second study abroad application cycle, which will take place in Quarter 3.
- **English proficiency assessment and testing:**
 - The two remaining students who did not take the ITP exam in Quarter 1 will take the exam in January.
 - IIE will conduct a review of the English language proficiencies of the 44 Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students as evidenced by university English placement scores, baseline and year 2 ITP scores, first year English course grades, and Intensive Summer English results (as appropriate). A similar review will be done for the 106 Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students looking at the baseline ITP scores and mid-term English course grades. Based on the findings, IIE will put together action plans for students with weak English language proficiency. Supplemental English opportunities consist of the Intensive Summer English Program and extra English classes or tutorials as needed based on exam results and progress in university English classes and available budget for each cohort.
 - IIE will work to identify providers for supplemental English language enhancement opportunities.
- **Reporting:** IIE will submit and obtain approval of the Annual Work Plan for FY 2012 and the revised M&E Matrix.
- **University Capacity Building Program:** Workshop 1 of the LOTUS Strategic Leadership Seminars will be held at FUE for faculty and staff.
- **Budgets and modifications:**
 - IIE will conduct a realignment of the Cohort 1 budget based on actual costs and future projections for USAID review and approval.
 - IIE will conduct a review of any programmatic and fiscal issues that could require modifications to the award. IIE will work collaboratively with USAID to draft language for any/all necessary modifications.

Activities/tasks moved to FY 2012, Quarter 2:

- **Nahdet Mahrousa components:** Leadership and career programming delivered by Nahdet Mahrousa will commence in FY 2012, Quarter 3 to enable Cohort 1, Cycle 2 and Cohort 2 students to attend all of the study skills sessions previously held for Cycle 1, Cohort 1 students. By catching the new students up, all students can attend the NM sessions together, which is more cost effective and will build a sense of team at each of the partner universities.
- **Community Service:** As part of its M&E plan, IIE will measure community service involvement. This task was postponed to Quarter 2 due to a very busy Quarter 1. Cohort 1, Cycle 1 students will submit two forms documenting community service work as follows: (1) baseline survey for period of Sept. 1, 2009 - Aug. 31, 2010 and (2) first year survey for period of Sept. 1, 2010 - Aug. 31, 2011. Cohort 1, Cycle 2 students and Cohort 2 students will submit a baseline survey community service form for the period of Sept. 1, 2010 - Aug. 31, 2011. An update will be provided in the FY2012, Quarter 2 report and statistics will be provided in the FY2012, Quarter 3 report.

FY 2012, Quarter 1 Highlight:

The highlight of FY 2012, Quarter 1 was a large event held on December 17 at the British University in Egypt. The event began with a **welcome and celebration of the 2011 intake of LOTUS students**, including speeches by three 2011 intake students and three 2010 intake students. Students focused their remarks on why they applied for LOTUS, what they have learned thus far, and their hopes and dreams for themselves and their country. The Honorable Anne Patterson,

U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Elizabeth Khalifa, IIE/MENA Director, and Dr. Ahmed Amin Hamza, BUE President delivered remarks. The LOTUS students also premiered a song that they wrote and recorded about their love of Egypt and how they can contribute to Egypt's development. The launch type event was an excellent opportunity to introduce the new Ambassador to LOTUS, to showcase LOTUS to the media and the Ministry of International Cooperation, and to celebrate the successful recruitment and placement of all 150 LOTUS students.

The second part of the event was the **First Annual LOTUS Student-led Leadership Workshop**. The Annual Workshops are an opportunity for LOTUS students to educate themselves on topics of importance to Egypt's development and youth. Students were responsible for the conceptualization, planning, organization, and implementation of the Workshops. Through participation in the Workshops, students gain valuable experience in event preparation, planning, and implementation, as well as in time management, problem solving, and teamwork. The Workshop planning and implementation process fosters an environment of collegiality and teamwork in which the students form networks with each other, with their peers in their universities, and with other Workshop participants so that together they can be a force for change and impact Egypt positively.

The Workshop was planned by the 44 students who entered the LOTUS Scholarship Program in 2010 and was attended by all of the LOTUS students, approximately 50 students from partner universities, IIE staff and alumni volunteers, partner university presidents, faculty and LOTUS coordinators, partner NGO staff and volunteers, and other invited guests. The total number of participants was approximately 200.

The LOTUS 2010 intake students chose Workforce Preparation and Challenges in Education in Egypt as the theme for the Workshop. During the Workshop, participants sought to understand and address the gaps that exist in Egypt's education system and the impact on the labor market. The aim of the Workshop was for participants to gain insight into challenges in the educational system, workforce preparation, and labor market needs. The Workshop began with a plenary session in which Shahinaz Ahmed, CEO of Education for Employment/Egypt discussed key challenges in education which impact the workforce and the employability of youth in Egypt. Students and guests then broke out into working groups in which they brainstormed solutions to the key challenges discussed in the plenary session. Each group worked on identifying solutions and activities that could enhance the higher education experience of Egyptian students. The goal was to come up with creative and alternative solutions and activities that LOTUS students could develop and implement in their home governorates. An interactive plenary session led by motivational speaker Osama El Gawady, Founder of MAAN, was held in the afternoon. During this sessions students gained valuable insights into how to develop themselves and increase their knowledge and employability.

The 2010 intake students did an excellent job planning and implementing the First Annual LOTUS Student-led Leadership Workshop. They faced many logistical challenges as they are studying at five different universities with different class and exam schedules located in different areas of Cairo and Alexandria. Several times in the two months before the event, clashes broke out in different areas of country that limited their ability to get together as a whole group to work on the workshop however they did not let this deter them. They utilized alternative communication channels such as Facebook and Skype. The students, particularly the committee heads, demonstrated extraordinary responsibility and maturity and worked collaboratively to produce and deliver a very successful event. IIE is proud of their efforts and looks forward to future Annual Workshops.