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Part 1: Executive Summary

At the beginning of the quarter, the 2016 U.S. - Egypt Science & Technology (S&T) Joint Board Meeting was held at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) headquarters in Washington, DC. U.S. and Egyptian Joint Board Members approved Cycle 17's projects for funding and debated Cycle 18's priorities.

NAS's administrative efforts during the rest of the quarter focused on beginning the implementation of Cycle 17's U.S. sub-awards and preparing for the Cycle 18 RFA opening. Cycle 17 sub-award documents were sent by NAS to the institutions of all 15 U.S. collaborative principal investigators (PIs). Preparations were made for the Cycle 18 RFA launch through drafting text and discussions with program stakeholders.

Part 2: Description of Key Activities

During the third quarter, most programmatic activity focused on the U.S. – Egypt S&T Joint Board Meeting, the beginning of the Cycle 17 sub-awards, and preparation for the launch of Cycle 18.

Joint Board Meeting:

- The 2016 U.S. - Egypt S&T Joint Board Meeting was held on April 6th at NAS headquarters in Washington, DC. Meeting highlights included the approval of 15 collaborative research proposals and 10 junior scientist applications for funding.

Cycle 17 Sub-Award Administration:

- Following the approval of Cycle 17's 15 funded collaborative projects, NAS moved forward on the processes of notifying all U.S. applicants and obtaining fully-executed sub-awards. These efforts included the following:
 - All Cycle 17 U.S. PI collaborative applicants were contacted by NAS, to inform them of the status of their proposal. The anonymous comments of U.S. reviewers were provided to all non-selected U.S. applicants who requested them.
 - The website www.nationalacademies.org/egypt was updated to feature the list of funded projects.
 - The 15 selected U.S. PIs were contacted by NAS, to request the completion of the documents necessary for the creation of their sub-award and (if applicable) a revised budget.
 - Sub-award documents were sent by NAS to the institutions of all 15 U.S. collaborative PIs.

Cycle 18 Preparations:

- NAS and STDF began to collaboratively draft the RFA text, based upon Joint Board input and lessons learned from the Cycle 17 RFA.
- NAS and STDF jointly developed a unified Cycle 18 collaborative review form. It is hoped that the unified review form will ensure that reviewers in both countries have a shared frame of reference for evaluating the proposals.

Plans for the Next Quarter:

- Final copies of the Cycle 18 junior and collaborative RFA documents will be provided to all relevant program stakeholders.
- The Cycle 18 junior and collaborative RFA application webpage will open on July 27th, with a planned closing date of September 27th.
- NAS will continue the implementation process of the Cycle 17 U.S. sub-awards, through responding to institutions' inquiries, returning full-executed sub-awards, reminding new U.S. PIs of important program rules, and disbursing first-year payments.
- NAS will submit the Year 3 workplan to USAID by August 30th.