

PD-ALF-605

# THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*

Division for Policy and Global Affairs  
Development, Security & Cooperation  
USAID Research Support Program

500 Fifth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 202 334 2633  
Fax: 202 334 2660  
E-mail: review@nas.edu

June 22, 2005

Mr. Mark Walther  
Agreement Officer  
Division B, PCE Branch  
Office of Procurement  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523-0089

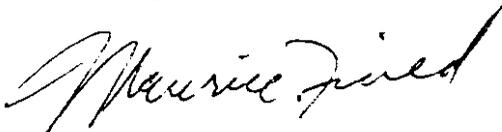
Reference: Agreement No. PCE-A-00-98-00008-00  
Quarterly Report: 28 of 40

Dear Mr. Walther:

Attached is the quarterly performance report of the above-mentioned agreement for the twenty-eighth three-month period ending June 19, 2005. The purpose of this activity is to assist the USAID Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade (EGAT) by providing technical and administrative support for two international collaborative research programs, the U.S.-Israel Cooperative Development Research (CDR) Program and the Middle East Regional Cooperation (MERC) Program.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 334-2633.

Sincerely,



**Maurice Fried**  
Responsible Staff Officer

cc: Gloria White, PPC/CDIE  
David O'Brien, EGAT/EGAD  
John P. Boright, NAS/NRC/PGA/OIA

Ms. Gloria White  
PPC/CDIE Room 6.07-121 RRB  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20523-6802

Dr. David O'Brien  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade  
Room 2.11-152 RRB, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20523-2110

Dr. John P. Boright  
Director, International Affairs  
Policy and Global Affairs  
National Academies, Keck 528  
500 Fifth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS  
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
Quarterly Performance Report to USAID  
Period 28 of 40: March 20, 2005 - June 19, 2005

RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM  
PCE-A-00-98-00008-00

I. CURRENT STATUS

Primary emphasis this quarter has been on preparing the revised 25 cycle of approved projects for action. This included all the preliminary activities required before AID can take the necessary steps for awarding contracts. These activities as well as other necessary activities during the quarter are described below.

- **Provided draft conditions of the MERC 26 preproposal committee meeting to sponsor, and draft letters were prepared.**
- Processed MERC and CDR 26 preproposal acceptance, reject, and M26-052 fast track letters.
- Updated the Research Support Program website with current CDR and MERC preproposal guidelines.
- Sent copies of the CDR preproposal guidelines to the USAID target-country missions.
- Created binder for the Fall Review 25 Summary of Results and Reviewer Expertise.
- The last of the final summaries were provided to USAID for the MERC and most of the CDR peer review panels of October 2004.
- Processed all full proposal summaries for MERC25 and most of CDR25 (including declined projects) to check for compliance with preproposal conditions.
- **Reviewed and proposed corrections and changes in drafted approval, resubmit, and declined MERC25 and approval CDR25 letters including provisos in the approval letters.**
- Prepared draft approval, resubmit, and decline letters for MERC25 and draft approval letters for CDR25.
- Prepared draft revision of the MERC Budget Guidelines.
- The mailing of **decision packages** for the Review 25 cycle has been initiated including mailing out approval, resubmit, and decline letters for MERC25 and the approval letters for CDR25 (C25-005, 013, 014, 029, 037, 044).
- Updated the electronic files with Review 25 proposal and Review 26 preproposal decision letter information.

- Received, checked, and reviewed the responses to provisos for some of the MERC25 and MERC26 fasttrack proposals; took appropriate action when not complete and passed the material to the sponsor for appropriate action.
- Processed and sent mission clearance request packages for CDR25 approved proposals to the corresponding missions.
- Continued to update the funded database as copies of grant agreements and amendments for CDR, CAR and MERC arrive.
- Continued to receive, process, and summarize progress reports from researchers with active grants and inform the US Embassy in Israel upon receipt.
- ~~Continued~~ ongoing communications with researchers, providing them with program guidelines and answering questions about grants, the review process or program policy.
- Maintain USAID files and order additional supplies as necessary.

## II. DISCUSSION

This quarter has been devoted to finishing the drafts of the CDR25 decline summaries/decision sheets, taking the myriad actions necessary to finalize approved projects for action by the sponsor, and preparing for the next round of reviews. We are current with all our responsibilities. A large amount of time has been devoted to the Response to Provisos that each year are greater in number, much broader, and much more detailed than in previous years. This report marks the completion of seven years of our cooperative agreement. As mentioned at the end of the previous year, we continue to take pride in being associated with such a worthwhile USAID program and are devoted to contributing to its success. We will continue to give the program our careful attention and full cooperation with USAID.

## III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

While the MERC responses to provisos have arrived and been acted upon, there are still remaining issues to be completed in the next quarter. Further, the CDR responses to provisos will be arriving and need to be acted upon. Most of our attention will be devoted to preparing for the next cycle of reviews. This will involve the formation of many panels and reviews of the CDR26 and MERC26 proposals submitted in the CDR and MERC programs. Specialized scientists will be located who are available at the appropriate time and are willing to donate their time to the review process.