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THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

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Development, Security & Cooperation
USAID Research Support Program

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October 6, 2005

Mr. Mark Walther
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U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-0089

Reference: Agreement No. PCE-A-00-98-00008-00
Quarterly Report: 29 of 40

Dear Mr. Walther:

Attached is the quarterly performance report of the above-mentioned agreement for the twenty-ninth three-month period ending September 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
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OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
Quarterly Performance Report to USAID
Period 29 of 40: June 20, 2005 September 19, 2005

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

I. CURRENT STATUS

During this reporting period, special emphasis has been on 1) initiating the peer-review process for 27 full proposals, 2) processing the Response to Provisos from CDR25 reviews and initiating the processing of the Response to Provisos of MERC25 reviews. Some of the details and additional activities are listed below.

- Processing the Response to Provisos for MERC and CDR.
- The last three final summaries for the CDR peer review panels of October 2004 were provided to USAID.
- In consultation with sponsor, developed alternative scenarios for CDR26/MERC26 review panels, with consensus on four review panels. The panels include 10 CDR proposals and 17 MERC proposals.
- Develop slates of potential reviewers for each panel and proposal and arranged schedules, facilities, and mailings.
- Updated appropriate databases to reflect proposal confirmations, Response to Provisos, mission clearance, grant agreements, new grant information, reports, etc.
- Initiating a consultant contract for a consultant to participate and report on the proceedings of CDR and MERC review meetings.
- Preparing for and participating in the quarterly financial review meetings.
- Summarized semi-annual and final reports in the RSTC, CDR, and CDR/CAR programs as well as quarterly reports and semi-annual reports in the MERC program. Informed the P.I. and the US Embassy in Israel upon receipt of reports.
- Archived files for projects containing a final report and completed for more than three years.
- Continued to work with approved projects' PI's to improve the quality of proviso submission and budget justification to help researchers prepare for pre-grant negotiations.
- Provided information and handled routine correspondence to researchers regarding program guidelines and proposal preparation.

- Processed CDR26 and MERC26 full proposals, updated information in database.
- USAID files were maintained and updated. Files with decline or reject letters dated more than three years ago were removed; the results letters were filed in reject binders.

II. DISCUSSION

Summertime is the time when many employees take vacations. Nevertheless, the groundwork for the four AID peer-review sessions in October has progressed satisfactorily. At the end of this reporting period we have nearly completed technical and logistical preparations, with a number of confirmed reviewers for all of the panel submissions.

III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The primary focus of the next three months will be to mail out the documents to the reviewers, carry out the four panels and prepare the summary sheets for each of the peer-reviewed proposals, along with implementation of the other support activities associated with the decision-making process. We will also be processing the CDR preproposals that are due on or before November 15, 2005 and the MERC preproposals that are due on or before December 15, 2005.