

Fourth Call for Joint Chinese- Egyptian Research Proposals Through the “Chinese-Egyptian Research Fund” (CERF)

Fourth joint announcement by the Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority (STIFA) of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of the People's Republic of China of regulations governing the funding of joint Innovative and Technological Research Projects.

1. Funding purpose and legal basis

1.1 Funding purpose

On the occasion of the visit by H.E. President XI JINPING, President of the People's Republic of China, to Egypt in January 2016, the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR) and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) agreed to establish a Chinese-Egyptian Research Fund (CERF) for the support of joint application-oriented research projects.

With the aim of promoting bilateral research cooperation between the two countries in areas of mutual interest, grants are to be provided to give researchers - including young scientists - an opportunity to address new areas of scientific research.

The implementing agencies are the Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority (STIFA) on behalf of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR) for the Egyptian applicants, and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) for the Chinese applicants.

The STIFA and the MOST have now agreed to announce the fourth joint call for proposals in the frame of Chinese-Egyptian Research Fund (CERF)

1.2. Legal basis

This announcement is based on the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Co-funding Program in Science and Technology between the MHESR and the MOST signed on March 27th 2016. Funding will be awarded in accordance with the respective national project funding regulations applicable in Egypt and China.

The submission of an application does not establish a legal claim to funding. The funding provider will make a decision at its own proper and dutiful discretion and within the framework of the budget funds available.

2. Eligible Research Areas

The aim of this joint announcement is to fund and support joint innovative, application-oriented research projects in the following fields:

- Water (specifically: desalination and waste water management)
- Renewable Energy
- Food and Agriculture
- Health (Stem Cells, Cancer, and prosthetics research)
- Information and Communication Technology

An important additional asset for research proposals is the participation of young researchers in the project.

3. Recipients of funding

On the Egyptian side, research teams based at public or non-public Egyptian research organizations, public or non-public institutions of higher education, as well as non-university research institutions are eligible for funding. The recipient institution must have an Egyptian legal identity.

4. Prerequisites and eligibility for funding / type, scope and rates of funding

Funds can be granted through project funding as non-repayable subsidies. The following eligibility criteria must be fulfilled:

- On the Egyptian side, the Principal Investigator (PI) must be affiliated to a research entity (university, research institution/center...etc.), which has an Egyptian legal identity.
- The Egyptian PI, should read carefully and adhere to STIFA general conditions and guidelines, IPR rules, code of ethics, ...etc. (www.stdf.eg),
- The Egyptian team of researchers must include at least one Ph.D. holder.
- The project partners on the Egyptian and Chinese sides must structure their cooperation in the following way:
 - One of the Ph.D. holders on each side acts as the Principal Investigator (PI).
 - In order to receive funding for the joint project, the Egyptian and Chinese sides are required to sign a cooperation document, indicating the obligations and commitments of each side.
- On the Egyptian side, the institutions / organizations involved are required to confirm the submitted application by officially stamping and signing an endorsement letter by the legal representative of the PI's institution, which states the project title, as well as the name, position and affiliation of the PI in charge of the proposal. Also, the endorsement letter should state that the project idea was not funded or submitted to another agency (national or international), or otherwise declare, and that the institution approves the project.

- The Chinese and Egyptian sides will submit two versions of the joint preproposal in the Chinese and English languages, respectively, which must be identical in their content. Project preproposals that reveal differences in content between the two sides will not be considered. Both versions must be signed by both PIs, and stamped by their respective institutions.
- The maximum total budget of the Egyptian side must not exceed 2.5 million Egyptian Pounds.
- The maximum duration of a project is 24 months.
- STIFA will grant funding, on a strictly competitive basis, for up to 10 joint research projects

On the Egyptian side, the following items are eligible for funding:

- a) Travel expenses for scientists/experts visiting project partners in China, including the following travel and subsistence costs:
 - Air tickets: economy class
 - Entry visa to China
 - Health insurance
 - Per diem for scientists/experts: to cover the cost of accommodation, meals and local transportation within China. The amount of the per diem will be decided in accordance with the applicable Egyptian governmental financial rules.Total travel expenses should not exceed 10% of the total budget of the Egyptian side.
- b) Salaries (not to exceed 15% of the total budget of the project for the Egyptian side). In all cases the proposed salaries will be subjected to STIFA administrative check to ensure its consistency with the salary scale provided by STIFA.
- c) Organizing bilateral, project-related workshops in Egypt: grants can be provided towards costs/expenses such as the preparation of the workshop, rental of the venue, and the realization of events in the context of the workshop.
- d) Equipment: Project-related equipment should not be less than 50% of the project's total budget.
- e) Other costs (consumables, etc..).
- f) Indirect costs¹.

In general, on the Egyptian side, **no funding** will be provided to cover the following expenses:

¹ Indirect costs = 20% of (Total direct costs – equipment). Please refer to STIFA's "Budget Table" found on <http://www.stdf.eg:8080> for instructions on the calculation of indirect costs

- Research institution's basic equipment (office supplies, communication, laboratory and IT equipment)

5. Procedure

The applicants are required to submit a **proposal** (as detailed afterwards in annex A). **On the Egyptian side**, the project proposal, including the cover page, is to be electronically submitted by the authorized PI on the STIFA Website (www.stdf.eg:8080), to which registration is required. Submitted proposals must be uploaded on the STIFA website **no later than 21.11.2020.**

The submitted proposals will be checked against the eligibility criteria. Applications which do not comply with all the formal requirements will be considered "ineligible" and will be disregarded.

For Egyptian applicants, the Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority (STIFA) will be responsible for carrying out this call for proposals and for implementing the funding measures.

On the Egyptian side, the contact person for subject-related information is:

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Annex A Components of the proposal

The proposal must include:

a] A cover page, to be signed by the Egyptian and Chinese PIs, and stamped by their respective institutions, containing the following: [one page]

- Title of the project
- The name, title and contact information of the Egyptian and the Chinese PI applicants
- The contracting organizations
- The Research Area of the proposal
- Grant duration
- Total budget
- The following sentence: The Egyptian and Chinese applicants hereby confirm that the Chinese and English versions of the preproposals are identical in content.

b] The proposal text should comprise:

- Abstract (English and Arabic)
- Statement of the degree of collaboration and the role of each PI:
- Problem Definition
- State-of-the-Art
- Objectives
- Approach and Methodology
- Project Outcomes and Impact
- Joint budget
- Key References

The total number of the application pages should not exceed 37 pages including a cover page, as well as all sections of the proposal. The proposal should be written in a 12-point Arial font format, one and half-line spacing and 1-inch page margins from the 4 sides. The proposal must be submitted as a pdf file.