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CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR WATER

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS Research and Policy Committee

Deadline for nominations: April 30th 2019

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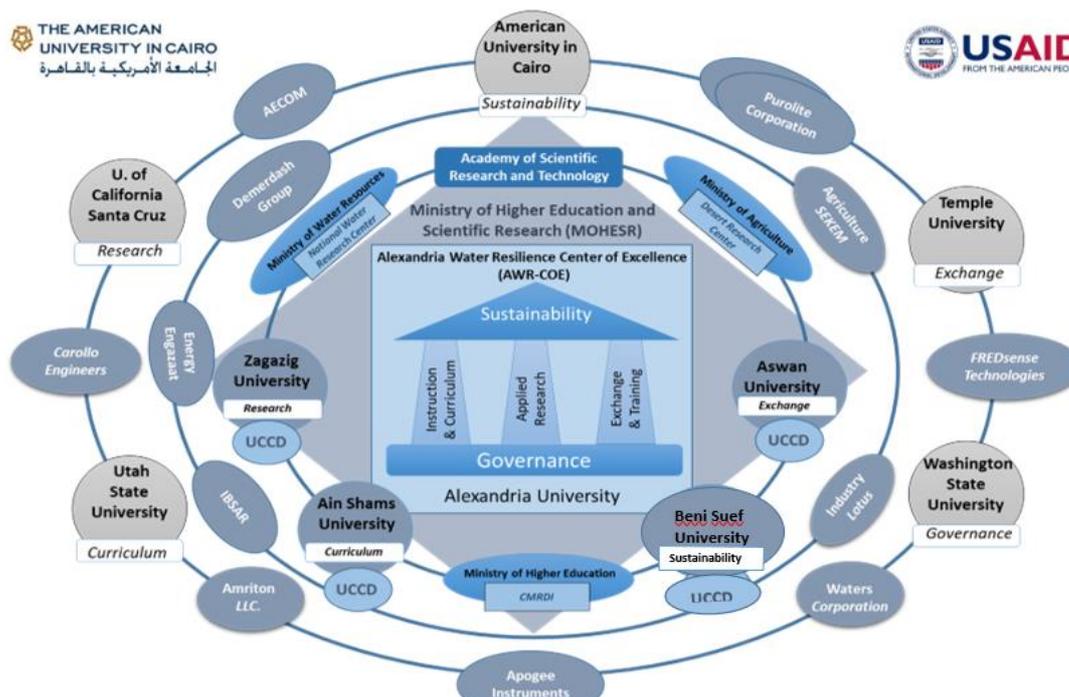
1 Introduction

The Center of Excellence for Water is one of three Major grants funded by the USAID in 2019, addressing three major challenges for Egypt: Water, Energy and Agriculture, which could be traced as well in the Egyptian Sustainable Development Strategy 2030.

Through the five-year duration of the project, a consortium composed of US and Egyptian Universities, Egyptian Ministries and Public entities, US and Egyptian private companies and NGOs will work towards the realization of the following five main objectives

1. Establish the Alexandria Water Resilience Center of Excellence with a governance structure that creates collaboration and accountability among partners and stakeholders, supports linkages between supply and demand for water research, policy engagement and skilled graduates, and generates revenue to remain financially stable for multiple decades.
2. Improve the relevance and quality of the water curricula and effective/innovative teaching methods for undergraduates, graduates and professionals in water related fields.
3. Elevate Egypt’s water related research capacity and ability to create policy-relevant, innovative, and market driven research products to strengthen the resilience of the community.
4. Provide scholarships, small grants, training, and exchanges to equip the faculty and students with the knowledge, skills and behaviors needed to master their jobs while strengthening the relation between U.S. and Egyptian universities.
5. Create a sustainable model yielding from a global network of public and private sectors, which will form alliances with stakeholders by instilling persistence, open dialogue and disseminating project results to raise public awareness and engagement.

The project is managed by The American University in Cairo (AUC) and has multiple partnerships and stakeholders (Universities, Public Institutions, and Industries. cf. Figure below). The duration of the project is 5 years, beginning February 20th 2019, and the total allocated budget is \$30 Million USD.



2 Call for Membership Nominations

Research and Policy Committee of the Center of Excellence for Water

The Research and Policy Committee of the Center of Excellence for Water is inviting nominations to serve on the Committee.

2.1 About the Research and Policy Committee

The Research and Policy Committee (RPC) will give high-level research program advice to the AWR-COE leadership and specific direction to Pillar coordinator. It will also ensure that all the proposed research programs and outputs, are implemented and meet high quality American-based standards for research, evaluation and when possible, publication.

2.2 Membership Duties

- The Committee will meet at least 2-4 times per year remotely or in person, with travel expenses covered by the project, and will confer as needed.
- Committee members can anticipate terms of two to three years.
- Members will actively contribute to the Committee's goals and activities to:
- Generate and prioritize topics for applied research based on:
 - The National Water Research Roadmap (NWRR) (primary source);
 - Concepts from teams of private sector and public university participants;
 - Concepts from teams of public sector and university participants;
 - Concepts from Professors and Graduate Students.

Note that the existing Egyptian National Research Agenda will play an important role in the creation of the NWRR, and will therefore influence decisions about what research projects are selected for funding.

- Generate Requests for Proposals (RFPs). RFPs will include objectives, timing, funding level, research expectations, and how proposals will be judged. The RFPs will include small, medium and large grants and in some cases target groups (research students, junior researchers, professors, etc.).
- Develop the concept, regulations and benchmarks for monitoring the different funding categories (small, medium and large) and include them in a guideline for applicants.
- Assign peer reviewers and as appropriate play the role of peer reviewers to proposals, and steer the evaluation process of all submitted proposals.
- Monitor and oversee individual funded projects/grants.
- Provide guidance and leadership in organizing and carrying out the annual National Water Research Symposium.
- Help write four papers (one per year) on research governance and inclusion in Egypt.

Members of the Committee will be allowed to apply for research funding either as Principal Investigator or as a team member. The Committees will have rules and procedures to operate fairly and transparently to minimize the risk of a conflict of interest.

2.3 Composition of the Committee

The Committee will have roughly 14-16 members. Up to two will be from the private sector. Up to two will be from the public sector. Five will be from all Egyptian partner universities (including at least one PhD-graduate student at an Egyptian partner university), and up to five members from US partner universities.



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The Committee will have a coordinating committee that includes:

- Prof. Haddad, (Chair)
- Prof. Abdelazim Negm, (Vice Chair)
- Prof. Hani Sewilam (Project Lead Scientist)
- Prof. Yasser Elshayeb (Chief of Party)

This coordinating committee may invite additional members based on a review of the received nominations.

2.4 Selection Criteria for Membership

The primary selection criterion is expertise in some aspect of applied water research. For private and public sector members, a selection criterion includes professional interest in Egyptian applied water research.

In addition, when selecting the overall Committee, care will be taken to include women, individuals with disabilities and students and early-career professors.

2.5 Nomination process

A qualified individual can nominate themselves or be nominated by their campus or otherwise nominated. Industrial partners and government agencies can also nominate members.

Nominations should include a cover letter summarizing qualifications and CV.

We hope to receive 2-3 nominations from each institution so we can balance the membership and expertise of the Committee.

The Coordinating Committee will review the nominations and appoint the committee members.

Please send nominations by 30th of April to the chairperson of the committee

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Chair, Committee on Research and Policy

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