

KEYNOTE LECTURE 1

STDF Strategy and Funding Mechanisms

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The Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) was established in 2007 as a result of a complete reform of the Egyptian Science and Technology (S&T) governance system. STDF is the premier governmental funding agency that supports not only basic and applied research but also technology and product development. This gives STDF a unique position compared to other Research and Development (R&D) funding agencies inside and outside Egypt. It is also the mandate of STDF to disseminate information on S&T and monitor its performance through the development of proper indicators.

The Fund supports research in all Egyptian universities, research institutions, and private sector through competitive calls for proposals, which were tailored to overcome the challenges facing the Science and Technology system in Egypt. Funding schemes offered by STDF include National Research Grants; Joint Research Grants and Visit Exchange Grants with several countries including the United States, Germany, Japan, and France. In addition, targeted calls, which are directed to areas of priorities determined by the Higher Council for Science and Technology, are offered as well as Capacity Building Grants which aims at improving Science and Technology Infrastructure.

In order to improve the innovation power of the private sector and establish a link between academia and industry, STDF funds R&D activities for the benefit of the Egyptian industry in cooperation with the Industrial Modernization Center (IMC). Recently a joint Innovation Grants were announced. In addition, in cooperation with the University of Texas, STDF conducted a pilot project on the commercialization of Egyptian technologies. The pilot program was a great success and therefore, it is planned to initiate a full program for two and a half years.

With this full range of programs, STDF is exerting its efforts in order to complete the Innovation cycle and bridge the Valley of Death and the River of Magic.