

Press Release
**Long-term impact of the German-Egyptian Science Year
19 German-Egyptian research projects launched in May 2009**

The Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) and the German International Bureau (IB) of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) launched 19 joint application-oriented research projects from the 1st May, 2009. The projects will be financed for a period of two years through the "German-Egyptian Research Fund" (GERF).

At the end of the German Egyptian Year of Science and Technology, 2007, the Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Hany Helal, and the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Annette Schavan, signed an agreement on the establishment of a joint research fund worth €600,000 per year with the aim of strengthening bilateral research cooperation between the two countries. The fund is designed to support bilateral teams, and contribute to ensuring that research results are translated into applications.

A total of 90 high-quality project proposals from different disciplines were submitted and therefore, both ministers agreed to increase the fund up to €2 millions per year.

Proposals in all fields of science, covering most of the priority areas of the Science Year were encouraged with a special interest in the areas of wind energy and agriculture biotechnology expressed by the Egyptian side.

GERF's second call for proposals will be announced in early 2010.

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