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PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

International Scientific Conferences Support Program (ISCSP)-2011

The National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT) will sponsor, on a competitive basis, international scientific meetings or conferences to be held in Armenia on a topic in the basic or applied sciences and which will be organized at Armenian research organizations with “non-profit” juridical status.

On a competitive basis, NFSAT will sponsor up to 6 International scientific meetings or conferences, which will be organized by Armenian non-profit research organizations and universities under umbrella of local and/or International professional unions. The Statement from the International professional journals about readiness to publish the conference materials is also mandatory.

The main goals of this initiative are to promote the integration of Armenian scientists and engineers with the international scientific community and to improve the contacts that existed between scientists and engineers of the South Caucasus countries before the break-up of the former Soviet Union. It is NFSAT’s hope that such scientific contacts will help reduce political tensions in the region.

A key NFSAT criterion for support will be the participation of scientific representatives from a large number of FSU countries and Europe.

The International Scientific Meetings and Conferences Support Program is carried out under an award provided to NFSAT by the U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF).

NFSAT is an independent nonprofit foundation that was established in 1997. NFSAT promotes scientific research and technological development in Armenia through competitive grants, training, and technical resources.

The CRDF is a nonprofit organization authorized by the U.S. Congress and established in 1995 by the National Science Foundation. This unique public-private partnership promotes scientific and technical collaboration between the United States and other countries, primarily the countries of the former Soviet Union (FSU), through grants, technical resources, and training.

Applications for this program must be submitted to NFSAT at least 30 calendar days prior to the intended date of the conference, according to the submission guidelines below, but no later than July 01, 2012, or until the funds available for this program are exhausted.

Eligibility

This program is open to all areas of basic, applied and natural sciences. Conference organizers must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- a) Possess the degree of PhD., M.D., or the equivalent;
- b) Be an Armenia citizen;
- c) Work full-time in a non-profit research institution or university with a civilian research environment;
- d) Be affiliated with an Armenian research organizations or universities with “non-profit” judicial status.
- e) Presence of supporting letter by local and/or International professional union or Journal.

Applicants are also required to demonstrate that their colleagues from at least one FSU nation and Europe or the US are ready to participate in the planned conference. Only one international scientific conference from each institution will be supported.

Priorities

NFSAT will give the highest priority to proposals that include:

- Scientists and engineers formerly engaged in weapons research, in particular, work on weapons of mass destruction. All former weapons scientists and engineers must briefly describe their weapons research experience and provide the appropriate weapons researcher code listed in Appendix 1 which best illustrates this experience in the necessary sections of Form A and Form B.
- Scientists and engineers who have completed their PhD (Kandidat) degrees within the last six years at the time their application is submitted.
- Participants representing the U.S.
- Institutes located outside the Yerevan area.
- Institutes that previously haven't been awarded NFSAT grants.
- Representatives from another South Caucasus country in the team of conference organizers.

Proposal Submission

Applicants are required to submit their proposals to NFSAT in the following manner:

- Two hard copies in Armenian and one hard copy in English.
- An electronic copy in Armenian and an electronic copy in English. Applicants should send electronic copies of the proposal in Microsoft Word or PDF format to gmanas@nfsat.am with the subject heading “ISMCS Activity” in the message.
- All applications should be typed with 1.5-spacing in Armenian, point 12-font size, with margins of 2.5cm (one inch) at the sides and on the top and bottom, with all pages, including forms, numbered consecutively in the upper right corner. The requirements for the English version are the same.

Proposal Content

Each proposal must include all the following materials, in the order prescribed below. Only applications that include this information will be considered.

- **Cover Sheet (Form A).** The cover sheet must contain the original signature of the Project Director and the original signature and seal of the Host Institution Director.
- **Abstract.** In half a page, summarize the objectives of the conference and explain its importance in integrating scientists and engineers from Armenia with the international scientific community.
- **Conference Narrative (4 pages maximum).** Describe:
 - a) The subject area and goals of the planned conference.
 - b) How the discussions and activities planned at the conference will help achieve the conference goals.
 - c) How the individual and combined abilities of the organizers will enable the conference to be carried out.
 - d) How the organizers will coordinate the implementation of the conference.
 - e) The relevant prior work that has been previously carried out by the Armenian organizers and the host institution.
 - f) The benefits of the activity for all participating sides.
- **Proposed Attendee Data (Form B).** Provide data for up to 10 proposed attendees from the FSU countries, Europe and the U.S.
- **Budget (Form C).**
- **Budget Narrative (1 page).** A separate sheet must be included to explain all budget items. This sheet must be clearly marked “Budget Narrative.”
- **Copies of Signed Solicitations.** Letters in Russian or English regarding the participation of organizations or scientists from FSU countries, Europe or the U.S.
- **Letter(s) of Third Party Contribution Commitments from Other Funding Sources.** Required only for applications where financial or in-kind support will be provided from other sources besides NFSAT. Acceptable sources of additional funding include (but are not limited to) the Armenian Institution(s), Armenian Government, for-profit companies, and international organizations. Letter(s) of support clearly referencing the workshop proposal should include the signature of the organization authority.
- **No proposal may exceed 12 pages in length, including all forms. Any proposal exceeding 12 pages in length will be deemed ineligible.**

Allowable Costs

- The total amount requested for conference expenses may not exceed US\$5,000. No proposal requesting more than US\$5,000 will be considered.
- The following costs are permitted under the guidelines for this program:
 - 1. Lodging:** A maximum of US\$2,000 can be requested for lodging for conference participants. The maximum amount requested for lodging should not exceed 50% of the amount required by conference organizers for lodging costs.
 - 2. Meals:** Up to \$10 per person per day for a daily allowance for meals. The maximum amount requested for meals should not exceed 30% of the amount required by conference organizers for meal costs.
 - 3. Materials and Services.** Up to US\$1,400 can be requested. Includes any necessary printing and reproduction costs, including a conference abstract book. Also includes stationery, conference supplies and rental of audiovisual and translation equipment.
 - 4. Local Transportation.** If necessary, up to US\$500 may be requested for daily local transportation expenses for travel of the participants between the lodging and conference site.
 - 5. Communication Services.** Up to US\$300 can be requested for communication costs, including Internet and fax expenses.
 - 6. Other.** Includes interpretation costs.

Evaluation Criteria

The NFSAT Scientific Board and reviewers will use the following criteria in the evaluation of proposals for this program:

1. **Impact:** The likelihood that the proposed conference will identify promising lines of research and or result in collaborative research proposals to NFSAT and other funding agencies.
2. **Mutuality of Benefit:** The likelihood that the proposed conference will result in substantive, mutually beneficial collaboration among the participants. The likelihood of comparable scientific or technical benefits to the South Caucasus.
3. **Performance Excellence:** The capability of the conference organizers and participants to manage and coordinate the conference and the scientific interest and technical soundness of the proposed conference.
4. **Implementation:** The feasibility, soundness and cost-effectiveness of the plan for the proposed conference.
5. **Leverage:** The extent to which the host institution and local officials will help with the general administration of the conference, including operation and management of conference facilities, if applicable, and/or cost-sharing.

Armenian Organizer Responsibilities

- Serve as the liaison between NFSAT and the proposed conference attendees.
- Recommend and recruit the proposed conference participants.
- Oversee the coordination of all local conference arrangements including: conference meeting space, meeting logistics, and visiting attendee lodging accommodations.
- Upon conclusion of the conference, develop a Final Report for submission to NFSAT.

NFSAT Responsibilities

- NFSAT will notify the applicants of the results in writing after the decision process is complete.
- If a proposal is selected for an award, NFSAT will notify the applicants accordingly to begin award activation and payment disbursement.
- Payment for international transportation expenses will be made to the Georgian and Azerbaijani representatives in response to advance payment requests or reimbursement requests. All payment requests must be justified and include all proper documentation, including original receipts and invoices.
- NFSAT will provide award funding in two stages:
 - 10-14 days prior to the Conference, an advance payment of up to 50% of the total amount will be transferred to the host organization's bank account(s).
 - Within 15 days after the conference end date, the Project Director must submit the Final Report to NFSAT. On the basis of the final report, NFSAT will transfer the remaining balance within 3 banking days.

Timetable

- NFSAT must receive applications no later than 30 calendar days prior to the intended date of conference.
- NFSAT will announce the results on approximately **15 calendar days** prior to the intended date of conference.
- The proposed conference must occur sometime between August 1, 2011 and July 01, 2012.

Confidentiality

NFSAT will treat all proposals as confidential material and will require all reviewers to respect the confidentiality of proposals. However, proposal authors are advised that successful proposals will be treated as being in the public domain. Therefore, at the author's discretion, specific information in the proposal which is business-confidential and not intended for public dissemination should be clearly labeled as such at the top and bottom of the applicable paragraph(s) of the proposal. Such pages will be withheld from public distribution if the proposal is successful. Proposals which do not result in awards are not subject to public dissemination by NFSAT.

Regulations and Policies

NFSAT complies with all Armenian laws and regulations pertaining to export control and the participation of foreign nationals or institutions in these activities. NFSAT reserves the right to restrict the participation of any individual or institution in our programs.

Applications should be sent directly to

Grigory Manasaryan, Program Manager
 NFSAT
 International Scientific Meetings or Conferences Support Program
 Yerevan
 26, Azatutian Ave
 Tel: 28 81 92
 Email: gmanas@nfsat.am

Checklist of Application Contents

<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Cover Sheet (Form A)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Abstract</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Conference Narrative</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Proposed Attendee Data (Form B)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Budget (Form C)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Budget Narrative</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Copies of Signed Solicitations</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Letter(s) of Third Party Contribution</u> <u>Commitments from Other Funding Sources</u> <u>(optional)</u>

Appendix 1**FORMER WEAPONS RESEARCHER CODE LIST**

Former Weapons Researcher – Former weapons researchers are defined as project participants who are currently or were formerly actively engaged in weapons research including at a current or former weapons laboratory or institution. Five categories of former weapons researchers are listed below (Categories B, C, and D are classified as Weapons of Mass Destruction researchers):

CATEGORY A: MISSILE TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS	
CODE	DESCRIPTION
A1	Design, construction and performance of air, space, surface and underwater - launched missiles. Materials and technologies for these missiles. Production of engines, fuels, composites, integrated elements, radio-electronic equipment, different testing devices for missiles.
A2	Techniques for guidance and control of missiles from launching to impact. Includes optical guidance, television guidance, wire guidance, present and terminal guidance, internal guidance, command guidance, and homing guidance.
A3	Missile handling and launching, including transportation, storage, and preparation for launching. Air, space, surface and underwater launching and support equipment and technologies; Checkout equipment and procedures. Guided missile ranges.
A4	Techniques and systems for tracking missiles as defensive measures. Can be from surface installations or air and space-borne platforms.
CATEGORY B: CHEMICAL WEAPONS EXPERTS	
B1	Design and performance of missile warheads and rockets for delivery of chemical weapons.
B2	Materials, facilities and performance processes needed for the production of chemical weapon agents and their key precursors.
B3	Dissemination of chemical weapon agents.
B4	Basic knowledge on CW design and their effect on human system.
CATEGORY C: BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS EXPERTS	
C1	Design and performance of missile warheads and rockets for delivery of biological weapons.
C2	Biopolymer production related to biological warhead capabilities.
C3	Dissemination of biological weapon agents.
C4	Basic knowledge on BW design and their effect on human system.
CATEGORY D: NUCLEAR WEAPONS EXPERTS	
D1	Basic knowledge of Nuclear Weapons design, construction, characteristics and the effect on human system,
D2	Design, construction and performance of missile warheads for delivery of nuclear weapons.
D3	Design, construction and performance of the equipment and Components for Uranium and Plutonium separation.
D4	Design, construction and performance of the equipment connected with Heavy Water Production.
D5	Design, construction and performance of the equipment for Development of Detonators.
D6	Design, construction and performance of Explosive Substances and Related Equipment.
D7	Design, construction and performance of the equipment and Components for Nuclear Testing.
D8	Design, construction, performance and operation of production-type nuclear reactors for fissile and tritium-content materials production (breeding).
D9	Design, construction, performance of nuclear reactors and units for submarine and for military space program.
CATEGORY E: OTHER	
E1	Design, construction, and performance of powerful laser facilities for military applications.
E2	Design, construction and performance of accelerator facilities for military applications in space programs
E3	Others

**Form A. Cover Sheet for “International Scientific Meetings and Conferences Support Program”
APPLICATION****I. ISMCS ACTIVITY**

- a. TITLE of ACTIVITY _____
- b. FIELD _____
- c. DURATION of ISMCS ACTIVITY _____
- d. NUMBER of PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS ____ e. NUMBER of PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSIDE ARMENIA ____
- f. INCLUDING: FSU COUNTRY _____; From EUROPE _____; From U.S. _____.
- g. BRIEF DESCRIPTION of PROPOSED ACTIVITY _____
- h. QUANTITY of ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN ISMCS ACTIVITY (number of solicitations) _____
- i. NUMBER of SCIENTISTS INTERESTED IN ISMCS ACTIVITY (number of solicitations) _____

II. HOST INSTITUTION

- a. FULL NAME _____
- b. FULL ADDRESS _____
- c. CONTACT DATA: Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____
- d. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INSTITUTION’S MAIN FIELDS of ACTIVITY _____

III. INSTITUTION DIRECTOR

- a. NAME: Last _____ First _____ Patronymic _____
- b. HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED _____ Field _____ Year _____
- c. OFFICE PHONE _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____
- d. PROFESSIONAL TITLE _____
- e. PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION _____
- f. MAILING ADDRESS _____
- h. _____
- SIGNATURE; SEAL of ORGANIZATION* (*Only one application may be submitted from each institution*) _____ DATE _____

IV. PROJECT DIRECTOR– *The Project Director is the primary person responsible for organizing the ISMCS activity*

- a. NAME: Last _____ First _____ Patronymic _____
- b. DATE of BIRTH (date/month/year) _____
- c. HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED _____ Field _____ Year _____
- d. OFFICE Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____
- e. PROFESSIONAL TITLE _____
- f. PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION _____
- g. MAILING ADDRESS _____
- h. DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE IN WEAPONS RESEARCH? Yes ____ No ____
If “Yes,” please provide the appropriate defense code from **Appendix 1** describing this individual’s experience and provide a brief description of the weapons research experience in the space below. Weapons Researcher Code _____
- _____
- _____
- SIGNATURE* _____ DATE _____

*** By signing this application, I certify that I meet all the eligibility requirements in this announcement and that I will honor all conditions of the program.**

National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT)

26, Azatutyun Ave., Yerevan, 375014, Republic of Armenia

Voice: (374-10)-28-81-92; Fax: (374-10)-28-13-80; Internet: http://www.nfsat.am

FORM B: PROPOSED ATTENDEE DATA

(For up to 10 Proposed Attendees from the FSU countries, Europe and U.S. Please copy this page as necessary.)

Last Name, First Name, Patronymic Name #1		Institution Name Complete Mailing Address	
		Sex (Male or Female)	
Email Address		Highest Degree and Year Awarded	
Does the listed individual have experience in weapons research?			Yes No
If "Yes," please provide the appropriate weapons researcher code from Appendix 1 and provide a brief description of the weapons research experience in the space below.			

Last Name, First Name, Patronymic Name #1		Institution Name Complete Mailing Address	
		Sex (Male or Female)	
Email Address		Highest Degree and Year Awarded	
Does the listed individual have experience in weapons research?			Yes No
If "Yes," please provide the appropriate weapons researcher code from Appendix 1 describing this individual's experience in the area to the right and provide a brief description of the weapons research experience in the space below.			

Last Name, First Name, Patronymic Name #1		Institution Name Complete Mailing Address	
		Sex (Male or Female)	
Email Address		Highest Degree and Year Awarded	
Does the listed individual have experience in weapons research?			Yes No
If "Yes," please provide the appropriate weapons researcher code from Appendix 1 describing this individual's experience in the area to the right and provide a brief description of the weapons researcher experience in the space below.			

Last Name, First Name, Patronymic Name #1		Institution Name Complete Mailing Address	
		Sex (Male or Female)	
Email Address		Highest Degree and Year Awarded	
Does the listed individual have experience in weapons research?			Yes No
If "Yes," please provide the appropriate weapons researcher from Appendix 1 describing this individual's experience in the area to the right and provide a brief description of the weapons research experience in the space below.			

**FORM C:
BUDGET FORM FOR ISMCS ACTIVITY APPLICATION**

	Amount Requested from NFSAT	Amount Contributed by Institution	Amount Contributed by Other Sources	Total
Expenses for International Participants				
1. International Transportation Expenses				
2. Lodging Expenses				
3. Meals				
4. Local Transportation				
5. Other (Specify)				
Total				
Organizing Expenses, including:				
1. Materials and Services				
2. Communications Expenses				
3. Other (Specify)				
Total				
Salary for Organizers				
1.				
2.				