

Appendix B

Summary of Board Activities

In determining how the U.S. can best move forward as a full partner in the current international scientific enterprise, representatives of the Board's Task Force first met informally with individual federal agencies, NGOs, foundations, and other organizations. The Task Force then convened a formal public Roundtable Discussion in May 2006 at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. This forum enabled the Board to gain insight on the current and potential role of the U.S. Government in supporting international science and engineering.

The Task Force also met with the leadership of NSF and OISE to assess NSF's progress with the recommendations from the prior Interim Report *Toward a More Effective NSF Role in International Science and Engineering*.¹ The Task Force was pleased to find substantial progress with all nine recommendations from the Interim Report and additional progress in such areas as, the new Partnerships for International Research and Education program, a new international cyberinfrastructure program, IPY, and other such large-scale research programs. There has also been significant participation by NSF in multilateral/international organizations engaged in science and engineering, such as the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis; OECD; ICSU; the Human Frontier Science Program; the WMO; UNESCO; and the Organization of American States.

With respect to international partnerships, the Task Force was encouraged to learn of many bilateral S&E programs involving OSTP, the Department of State, USAID, NSF, and various Federal Agencies to help achieve foreign policy objectives. In addition to the U.S., nations participating in these S&E programs include Pakistan, India, Israel, China, Brazil, and Iraq. The NSF Inspector General also provided valuable insights in the challenges that governments face on research integrity and in handling allegations of misconduct in research. Through the Global Science Forum, members of OECD have developed a strategy to promote integrity and deter misconduct throughout the scientific enterprise.

Based on the information obtained from the discussions and meetings in the U.S., the Task Force met formally and informally with scientists and engineers around the world in order to gather additional insight on S&E initiatives and international partnerships that would help formulate the Task Force's subsequent findings and recommendations. To obtain diverse perspectives, meetings were set up in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

The first of three international gatherings was held in September 2006, when Task Force members traveled to Singapore to hold a round table discussion with representatives of the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation economies. This discussion provided important insights on the value of international S&E partnerships to other, particularly developing nations, and identified challenges faced by Asia-Pacific economies in developing and sustaining these partnerships.

A second discussion forum was held in March 2007 in Brussels with representatives from the European Commission and leaders in science and technology from the European Community to discuss European experiences with international partnerships. Interestingly, the new EU 7th Framework Programme

(2007-2013) makes an explicit budgetary provision for international partnerships with developing countries and seeks to “mainstream” international cooperation throughout the programme. Discussions were also held with representatives from the ICTP and TWAS to learn their unique perspectives on the value of international S&E partnerships to improve the quality of life of, environmental protection and scientific capacity in, and relationships with, developing countries.

The final set of discussions were held in July 2007, when Task Force representatives traveled to the Middle East to better understand the power of science diplomacy to improve relations in this troubled part of the world. Discussions were held with the Board of Governors of the U.S.-Israel BSF in Jerusalem; representatives from the Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization; the Director and staff of the Bibliotheca Alexandria (the modern successor to the ancient Library at Alexandria); HRH Princess Sumaya and the staff of the Royal Scientific Society in Amman, Jordan; and with many other individual scientists, university leaders, and government representatives in Israel, Palestine, Egypt, and Jordan to learn of their experiences and needs in international science and engineering partnerships.

Following these international gatherings and discussions, the Task Force drafted a report outlining goals and recommendations to increase U.S. Government support for international S&E partnerships. The Board approved this draft report for a formal public comment period at its October 2007 meeting in order to receive further input from stakeholder communities. The Board subsequently approved and finalized the report in its current form.

¹ National Science Board Interim Report, *Toward a More Effective NSF Role in International Science and Engineering* (NSB-00-217), (Arlington, VA: December 14, 2000).