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To:

Professor Mohmoud Sakr
President
Academy of Scientific Research and Technology
Cairo, Egypt

April 16, 2018

Ref. Sultana N. Nahar Prizes for the best research publications in Astronomy and in Geophysics by NRIAG members

Dear Professor Mahmoud Sakr,

Assalamu alaikum.

I am an atomic astrophysicist professor in the Astronomy Department of the Ohio State University in USA. This letter is to seek advice or suggestion or help to the existing annual recognition program at the National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG) for the best research publications in Astronomy and in Geophysics. The program was established in 2016 after long communications on the criteria of selection guidelines and usage of endowment fund. At the suggestion of the Minister of Scientific Research and Technology during his meeting with the Board members of NRIAG on July 14, 2016 it was decided to deposit the endowment fund (\$12400) in a bank in US dollar and use its annual profit in US dollar for distribution for the two prizes. The reason for the decision in US dollars was higher stability in value of the dollars. The minister approved the prizes at the same meeting and praised the gesture of the recognition.

The first prizes were given at the concluding ceremony of the international Arab Conference on Astronomy and Geophysics (ACAG) Assembly 5 held during October 2016. Since the endowment did not earn any profit that time I provided the \$600, \$300 each, for the honorarium of per prize.

For the 2017 prizes there was no profit. Opening a dollar account in a bank became an issue for NRIAG. The bank asked NRIAG for the physical presence of the sponsor at the bank and go through the bank process and sign documents. I was in the US. For the security of the money, NRIAG deposited the endowment in 2017 in the Central bank with no interest rather paying a small fee for the account. I sent additional \$600 in 2017 to give to the two winners of 2017.

I am in Egypt now until April 20, 2018 and would like to complete the bank process. I would like to add another \$600 to make the current endowment to \$13000. However, the Central bank now informs NRIAG that the new rule prohibits earning any profit from an account where the fund was donated by a foreigner. The President Prof. Hatem Odah and Prof. Somaya Saad (Vice President of the National Committee of Astronomy) of NRIAG feel that Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) could help in establishing the endowment account such that annual profit earned from the endowment can sustain the recognition program which brings inspiration in raising the bar of excellence. We are willing to choose Egyptian pounds instead of US dollars for the account.

Prof. Somaya Saad and I came to Academy of Scientific Research and Technology on April 12 and discussed the issues with Mrs. Amany. She suggested that I should present the objectives and details of the prizes along with CV and connections to Egypt to you.

I have attached these items, i) MOA of the prize guidelines with objectives, ii) my CV, and iii) my connection to Egypt. I have made some modifications in the existing guidelines of the MA for clarity, particularly the handling of the fund based on the current situation, while the contents of the original remains basically the same. Mrs. Amany has a copy of the original guidelines.

Thank you for the help and cooperation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sultana N. Nahar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Prof Sultana N. Nahar

Memorandum of Agreement for the prize guidelines:**Two annual Sultana N. Nahar Prizes for the Best Research Publications in Astronomy and in Geophysics at NRIAG****1. Purpose:**

To encourage and recognize the excellence and high quality research and publication in journals by the members of the National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG)

It is crucial to carry out research and publish them for advances in science.

2. Funding:

The prizes are funded from the profit of the endowment given by sponsor Professor Sultana N. Nahar of the Ohio State University from her personal income. She gave a total fund of US\$13,000 of which \$12400 was used as the capital amount of the endowment fund and \$600 was used as prize honorarium for the two winners of 2016.

Out of the total profit earned from the endowment fund such as through investment certificate, 90% will be used for the annual prizes and 10% will be kept in the account for sustenance and future increment of the honorarium. When sufficient fund will be accumulated from the 10% saving, a new investment certificate can be bought. The endowment fund may remain in USD or converted to Egyptian pound based on convenience and higher profit.

3. The Endowment Account:

The endowment account should have three names, i) the current President of NRIAG Professor Hatem Odah which will be changed by NRIAG with the name of the next president at the end of the current Presidency term, ii) one responsible member such as, Professor Somaya Saad which NRIAG will change when she will not be able to serve, and iii) the sponsor, Prof. Sultana N. Nahar or her appointee. When Prof. Sultana N. Nahar or her appointee will not be available, the current Chair of Astronomy or Geophysics in main campus of the NRIAG can be named. Any withdrawal from the endowment account can be done with two signatures of the three names.

4. Prizes:

There will be two annual prizes:

- i) "Sultana N. Nahar Prize for the Best Research Publications in Astronomy",
- ii) "Sultana N. Nahar Prize for the Best Research Publications in Geophysics",

Each winner will receive a Certificate of Excellence with the name of the prize and a citation, and an honorarium of the half of the available fund. The certificates will be signed by the President of NRIAG. The following is an example of citation but can be modified with the topic of the research.

Citation: In recognition of outstanding research publications in in Astronomy/Geophysics by a NRIAG member."

In case of two candidates either from Astronomy or from Geophysics with close points of merit, both can be selected to be winners. In such case, both winners will receive the Certificate of Excellence but half of the allotted fund for the field.

5. Terms and Conditions:

The criteria of selection for the research publication prizes will depend on papers published during the past 5 years from the year of application, such as, during the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2016:

- i) Number of publications in peer-reviewed journals - more points for larger number of readers, such as, western journals.
- ii) Impact/importance of the work (should be described in the statement by the candidate,
- iii) number of publications in national journals with less readers than international journals and conference proceedings,
- iv) Percentage of contributions of the candidate in multi-authored papers. Single author paper will carry 100% credit. Multi-authored papers will carry fractional credits, such as, first author position gets 60%, 2nd author gets 50%, 3rd author gets 40% etc,

To encourage the productivity of NRIAG facilities, such as Kottamia Observatory, a publication containing results from them, may carry an additional weight, such as 5% out of total in the evaluation process.

The same publications can not be used twice to win the prizes. Hence a winner of the prize will wait for five years from the date of his/her application to apply again for one of the two prizes.

An announcement, in the form of a circular or notice or advertisement, of the prizes should be made for the members of NRIAG in all labs and locations. Applicants will be asked to submit to the office of NRIAG President or to an appointed person by the President the following items:

- i) full CV,
- ii) full list of publications with complete references,
- iii) a separate list of published papers during the past five years from the date of application, such as, during the period of July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2016,
- iv) reprints of five papers from the list of past five years,
- v) One page statement on the importance and impact of the five years published research (may not exceed 3 pages),

The President will form the prize committee of three or five members of NRIAG to oversee the selection process. But for the neutrality of the evaluation process, the President may choose one or two non-NRIAG scientists. The prize committee itself and using other experts in the field will evaluate the submitted applications and along with the President or an appointee by him/her select the winners. The President and members of the prize committee are also eligible for the prizes. If any of the prize committee member is a candidate for the prizes, then for objectivity the President will include more members in the prize committee.

6. The Prize Board:

The Board will consist of the President of NRIAG, three to five members of NRIAG, such as the Heads/Directors, as appointed by the President, and the sponsor, Professor Sultana N. Nahar.

For the best of motivation or encouragement, the Board members of NRIAG may suggest modifications or adjustment of the process. Any decision on the modification of the terms and conditions or relevant issues on the prizes can be made by three members of the Board with consent from the sponsor.

7. Prize Ceremony:

To honor the winners and inspire others to make the best effort, it is suggested that the annual prize ceremony will be held with some other events of NRIAG where the largest number of audience will be present and the news of the winners will be published in a news media.