

National Science Board

International Science and Engineering Partnerships:

A Priority for U.S. Foreign Policy and Our Nation's Innovation Enterprise



February 14, 2008



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**International Science and
Engineering Partnerships:
A Priority for U.S. Foreign Policy and
Our Nation's Innovation Enterprise**



February 14, 2008

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February 14, 2008

MEMORANDUM FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

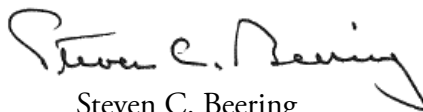
SUBJECT: *International Science and Engineering Partnerships: A Priority for U.S. Foreign Policy and Our Nation's Innovation Enterprise*

The National Science Board (Board) established the Task Force on International Science (Task Force) in September 2005 to examine the role of the U.S. Government in international science and engineering (S&E) partnerships. The Task Force was charged to focus on: facilitating partnerships between U.S. and non-U.S. scientists and engineers, both in the U.S. and abroad, and in developed and developing countries; and utilizing S&E partnerships in improving relations between countries and to raise the quality of life and environmental protection in developing countries.

The Task Force conducted a series of four roundtable discussions and meetings held in Washington, D.C. in May 2006, Singapore in September 2006, Brussels in March 2007, and the Middle East in July 2007 for Board Members to consult with the scientific community and science policy officials from U.S. Federal agencies and countries around the world. Throughout these discussions, the Task Force obtained a wide range of perspectives on the U.S. Government's role in supporting international S&E partnerships.

The Board, established by Congress in 1950, provides oversight for, and establishes the policies of, the National Science Foundation (NSF). It also serves as an independent body of advisors to the President and Congress on national policy issues related to S&E research and education.

We hope you will join the Board in supporting U.S. leadership in international S&E partnerships, which is crucial to global prosperity. Successful international S&E partnerships can build S&E capacity and expertise around the world and energize U.S. innovation, but the U.S. Government must now enhance a global strategy to support international S&E partnerships as new tools to strengthen diplomacy and foster capacity building in developing countries. This report presents the goals and recommended actions for the Nation, as well as guidance for NSF, to support international S&E partnerships.



Steven C. Beering
Chairman
National Science Board

Acknowledgments

The National Science Board (Board) thanks the many members of the science and engineering community, both home and abroad, who generously contributed their time and intellect to the development of this report. A list of participants in roundtable discussions and meetings of the Task Force on International Science is provided in Appendix C, and categorized by the locations of those discussions and meetings in Washington, D.C., Singapore, Brussels, and the Middle East. The individuals who responded to requests for public comments to the draft report are listed in Appendix D.

The Board Office staff, led by Dr. Michael Crosby, Executive Officer and Board Office Director, provided essential support and contributions throughout this project. Especially deserving of recognition are: Ms. Clara Englert, Ms. Amanda Slocum, and Ms. Tami Tamashiro, who served as Executive Secretaries to the Task Force on International Science; and Ms. Ann Ferrante, for editorial and publishing support.