

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

Approved by the Regents

October 15, 2009

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to make Payments to the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (University of Michigan Employee Dr. Dirgha Jibi Ghimire, Director and Board Member)

Background:

The University of Michigan Institute for Social Research ("ISR") seeks approval to make payments to the Institute for Social and Environmental Research ("ISER") to conduct research in the Chitwan Valley of Nepal. ISER will assist in conducting interviews and collecting data for three separate research projects. ISER is uniquely qualified and experienced to provide these local services.

The proposed payments fall under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Dr. Dirgha Jibi Ghimire is a University employee and would be a party to the contract as Director and a member of the Board of Directors of ISER. However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such contracts if the following conditions are met:

- a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.
- c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
 - i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
 - ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.
 - iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties involved in the agreement for payment are the Regents of the University of Michigan, ISR and ISER.

- ii) The payments to ISER are for conducting research in the Chitwan Valley of Nepal for three separate projects for a total of \$19,841: \$8,856 to study migration during armed conflict, \$6,715 to gather information on village elders and \$4,270 to study social exclusion and marginalization.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that Dr. Dirgha Jibi Ghimire, University of Michigan employee as Associate Research Scientist in ISR, is Director and a Board Member of ISER.

Dr. Dirgha Jibi Ghimire has met state law requirements with the disclosure of his pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable under the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the payments between the University of Michigan and ISER subject to requirements, if any, that either the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. Slottow
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

October 2009