

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

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

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to enter into a contract with Institute for Social and Environmental Research – Nepal (University of Michigan employee Dirgha Ghimire, Executive Director and Officer).

Background:

The University of Michigan (“University”) through its Institute for Social Research, seeks approval to enter into a contract with the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (“ISER-N”) for the purpose of research activities.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dirgha Ghimire, Research Professor at the Population Studies Center and Faculty Associate at the Survey Research Center in the Institute for Social Research, is an employee of the University and the ISER-N Executive Director and Officer on its Board of Directors.

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 contract, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The contract 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 contract, 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 contract.
 - 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 to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and ISER-N.
- ii) The contract is for ISER-N to provide sponsored research collaboration services under a sponsored project from UKRI Economic and Social Research Council titled “Supplementing measures of social accountability and enhancing understanding of accountability and students’ achievement during the COVID-19 pandemic”. The performance period is anticipated to be February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024, and is estimated not to exceed \$52,000. The terms of the contract will comply with appropriate University requirements. Since projects are often amended, the contract will include provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University employee Dirgha Ghimire is Executive Director and Officer at ISER-N.

Dirgha Ghimire has met state law requirements with the disclosure of his pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisors of Dirgha Ghimire or UMOR’s Conflict of Interest Committee’s procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University enter into a contract with ISER-N, subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisors of Dirgha Ghimire or UMOR’s Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey S. Chatas
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

May 2023