

# The University of Michigan Regents Communication

## Request for Action

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

**Action Requested: Authorization for the university to transact with the Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N) (University of Michigan Employee, Dirgha J. Ghimire, Director)**

#### **Background:**

The University of Michigan Institute for Social Research Department, Survey Research Center, seeks approval to transact with Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N) for room charges, vehicle rental, domestic tickets, and food expenses.

The proposed transact falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Dirgha J. Ghimire is employed by the University as a Research Professor with Institute for Social Research Department, Population Studies Center, and would be a party to the transaction as director of Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N).

However, the Statute allows the university to enter into such contracts if the following conditions are met:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
  - a) The name of each party involved in the contract.
  - b) 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.
  - c) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (3) above:

- a) The parties to the transaction are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Institute for Social Research Department, Survey Research Center, and Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N).
- b) The transaction is for two purchases at a total cost not to exceed \$1,813. Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N) will supply the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical to those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar contracts entered into by the Regents.
- c) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Dirgha J. Ghimire, is director of Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N).

Dirgha J. 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 by the supervisor of Dirgha J. Ghimire under the Institute for Social Research Department, Survey Research Center or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

**We recommend** that the Board of Regents approve the contract between the University of Michigan and Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N) subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Dirgha J. Ghimire or the Institute for Social Research Department, Survey Research Center, or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



**Robert A. Hewlett III**  
Interim Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

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