

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and the Center for International and Region Studies (CIRS)

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into the Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Division of Research, Development and Administration while reviewing the Research Agreement. This then triggered a review by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed and approved by this Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed Research Agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. Dirgha Ghimire is an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and is Director and a member of the Board of Director's of the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER). The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the executive officers and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote of the Regents of the University of Michigan.

Background:

Dr. Arland Thornton, Professor, Survey Research Center and Research Professor, Population Studies, Institute for Social Research, is the Principle Investigator on the Grant from the CIRS of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar for the study entitled "Migrants to the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries: Values, Behaviors, and Plans," DRDA# 09-PAF01022. Dr. Dirgha Ghimire, Assistant Research Scientist, Population Studies Center in the Institute for Social Research, is the Co-Investigator on the award from CIRS. Dr. Ghimire is also the Director and a member of the Board of Director's of the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER). The CIRS study award includes a portion of survey work that will be done by ISER.

Nature of the Agreement:

This proposed study from CIRS is to understand the impact of Nepali migrants on the countries of the Gulf, with a focus on migrant values and behavior; migrant spending, saving, and remittances; migrant plans concerning their

departures from the Gulf; comparisons of migrants and their influences in the different Gulf countries; and comparison of migrants to the Gulf with their counterparts who did not migrate. The project team believes that this proposed study would provide the foundation for valuable future studies of many aspects of migration to the Gulf.

As a Co-Investigator, Dr. Ghimire will work with the research staff of the ISER in Nepal through the initial data collection period. Dr. Ghimire will then return to Michigan with the notes, interview transcripts and the survey data. The team of investigators will work together to analyze the data.

The grant from CIRS includes a fee for ISER personnel in the amount of \$500 for the project. The terms of the proposed Agreement are acceptable and conform to University policy. The period of performance is July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

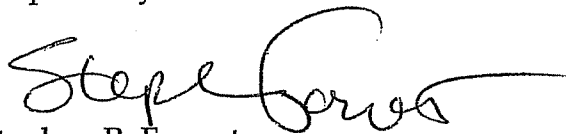
• Impact of the Agreement:

The Agreement with CIRS in cooperation with ISER will allow the University to meet the specific aims of the study originally submitted and approved by CIRS.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of the disclosure made in this document and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University entering into this Agreement with the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER).

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen R. Forrest
Vice President for Research

July 2009