

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and the Institute for Social & Environmental Research - Nepal

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects while reviewing the Proposal Approval Form which then triggered a review by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was developed and approved by the Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Dirgha Ghimire is both an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and the Director and a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Social & Environmental Research - Nepal ("ISER-N"). The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the Board of Regents ("Regents") of the University of Michigan and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote.

Background:

Dr. Dirgha Ghimire, a Research Associate Professor in Population Studies at the Institute for Social Research and Faculty Associate at the Survey Research Center, is also the Director and a member of the Board of Directors of the non-profit company called ISER-N (the "Company"). The University wishes to enter into a subcontract agreement with the Company for the proposal submitted to the Economic and Social Research Council titled "Labor Outmigration, Agricultural Productivity and Food Security," (ORSP# 14-PAF00935), in the Department of Population Studies under the direction of Dr. Ghimire. The purpose of this project is to investigate the consequences of labor outmigration on agricultural productivity in a poor agricultural country persistently facing food security problems. The subcontract with the Company involves data collection activities.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the proposed Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately three (3) years. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$882,017 with a total subcontract of approximately \$350,050. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope. University procedures for approval of these changes will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done as appropriate.

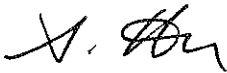
Impact of the Agreement:

The Agreement will support an effort by Dr. Ghimire to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to enable the University to participate in important research efforts to generate high-quality scientific outcomes that will be widely disseminated around the world, including comprehensive panel data with potential to address perplexing methodological problems and empirical evidence of the consequences of labor outmigration, agricultural productivity, and its interplay with gender.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of this disclosure and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve of the University's entering into this Agreement with the Institute for Social & Environmental Research - Nepal.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Interim Vice President for Research

September 2014