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MACARTHUR FOUNDATION GRANT WILL SUPPORT RESEARCH AND POLICY EFFORTS ON THE IMPACTS OF DIASPORAS IN REFORMING INSTITUTIONS IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES

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[Philadelphia] The University of Pennsylvania has received \$366,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to support the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI), which will conduct empirically-based case studies of diaspora-home country interactions as highly skilled diasporas contribute to institution-building through multiple incremental contributions to the transformation of private and public sector institutions.

The grant will cover a 26 month study period that will include case study research examining Mexico, Russia, India, and Argentina, as well as fund commissioned papers on institutional, policy and analytical issues for a book, and a workshop to be held in Washington, D.C. at the World Bank. The project puts forth the hypothesis that the increased salience of diaspora networks to home economies goes beyond direct economic impacts alone, either through technology transfer or “knowledge networks.” The project will additionally help to advance the understanding of how such institutional developments inform and advance the policy debate. The findings will be pursued through policy research focused on specific issues and articulation of networks of diaspora professionals.

Devesh Kapur, director of CASI and Madan Lal Solti Professor for the Study of Contemporary India at Penn, is the principal investigator and will lead the India case-study team. He says that the grant will network diasporas to be a bridge institution that connects developing economy insiders to outsiders in command of technical know-how and investment capital.

Some of the case study researchers are from the Higher School of Economics in Russia, Flasco in Mexico, and University of California, Berkeley. The World Bank will provide additional funding for South Korea’s study. One of the project’s main collaborators is Dr. Yevgeny Kuznetsov, Senior Economist in the Knowledge for Development Program at the World Bank Institute.

About the Center for the Advanced Study of India

Founded in 1992, the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania is the only research institution in the United States dedicated to the study of contemporary India. A national resource, it fills an urgent need for objective knowledge of India’s politics and society, rapidly changing economy and emerging major power. The Center’s key goals are to nurture a new generation of scholars across disciplines and to provide a forum for dialogue among the academic, business, and foreign policy communities.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

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