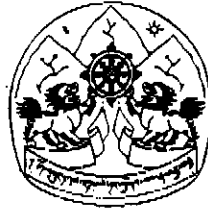


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Secretary to  
HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

20 May 2009

Dr. Modesto A. Maidique  
President  
Florida International University  
University Park  
Miami, FL 33199  
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Modesto A. Maidique,

We have recently learnt that due to budget constraints, you are considering to close down your Department of Religious Studies.

As you probably know, His Holiness has been stressing the importance of the need for understanding of the world's great religions and their roles, especially in today's increasingly global world. In our deeply interconnected world, understanding and appreciation of diversity of religions is critical in fostering a culture of genuine tolerance and peaceful coexistence. If the Department were to close down, it will not be easy to rebuild it.

His Holiness would like to request you if possible to reconsider or find ways of looking for funds from elsewhere. On His part, he will be happy to make a token contribution of around \$100,000.00 (one hundred thousand dollars) and also, if necessary, would be happy to work with you in fundraising efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Chhime R. Chhoekyapa  
Secretary to  
His Holiness the Dalai Lama