Editorial: ABC6 in Turkey

- Darryl Macer, Ph.D., UNESCO Bangkok, Thailand

The Sixth Asian Bioethics Conference was held in Sanfurlia, Turkey from 14-18 November, 2005, at Harran University. It was a joint Congress between the Asian Bioethics Association and the Turkish Bioethics Association, with simultaneous interpretation between Turkish and English. In the five days of plenary sessions there were many papers presented by a range of authors. Some of the proceedings will be placed on the Eubios Ethics Institute website in the coming months, in the links section to the Asian Bioethics Conferences. Please move your Internet links to the new site: www2.unescobkk.org.org/eubios. Members of the Asian Bioethics Association should renew their subscriptions for 2006, and without payment please accept the Internet versions of the journal only. The voluntary fee contribution of ABA remains determined by the individual means of members, which has a great diversity.

The conference included some hot debates on questions such as the universality of bioethics, with regard to the UNESCO Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, the text of which is also included in this issue of the journal. Please note that the title is not including universal norms, which was in the earlier drafts in 2004 and which was dropped after the feedback during global consultation on the draft. The appropriate cultural implementation of the Declaration will be a focus of a number of meetings in the coming year. I also attended the Fourth World Conference of Bioethics in Gijon, Spain, 21-25 November, which endorsed the UNESCO Declaration.

In this issue is a range of papers reminding us of the diversity of views on bioethics, and topics, and the free expression of views that is the essence of bioethics. Please also see the conference list for news of some forthcoming events which promise forums for reflection and action during 2006.

With greetings as we approach the end of 2005, for the new year, 2006. The January issue will see the return of a News section, which will have a lot of events to mention that have occurred in global bioethics and publications during 2005.

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