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Harmony and Ethics

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Deadline for the November 2008 issue is 31 October, 2008.

Editorial: Harmony and Ethics

This issue of *EJAIB* (Number 107 if still counting), starts with a proposal for creation of a harmonized society. Kayo Uejima in her article describes the work of her NGO Lablink which has this ambitious goal, and her attempt to integrate different spheres of thought into practical reality. The topic of what is a harmonious society is one that has often arisen in philosophy and social policy, but is not defined nor achieved in reality. It is a worthy and critical goal, and consistent with the goal of eubios (“good-life”).

The term “harmony” has been used to describe the Asian ethos, although as we can see from the articles in this issue there are many sources of disharmony currently. Medical tourism in Thailand is typical of efforts also being repeated in other countries to attract patients to a country that offers private medicine to the rich, but has significant gaps with its public medicine. Although Thailand does offer some form of universal free health care to all citizens, there are many illegal immigrants and poor who do not have access to this. The situation is worse in some other countries also selling medical care to the rich, while not providing care to most in their country. We also see migration of skilled medical staff to rich countries, affecting the accessibility to personnel in the countries they came from – although the remittances they send back home can be considerable sources of income.

This issue of *EJAIB* also includes a suggestion of euthanasia for Nigeria, which awaits a response from readers in the spirit of dialogue. Global warming and energy are the topic of other articles.

There are reports of two of the recent UNESCO Conferences on Ethics of Energy Technologies: Energy Flow, Environment and Ethical Implications for Meat Production (Working Group 13) from Yokohama, Japan; and Ethical Views of Nature (Working Group 2), held in Seoul, Korea. More are on the UNESCO Bangkok website. Obviously we need to seek greater harmony with each other and with the other living beings that we inhabit this oasis, our planet. As reports evolve we hope that many readers will join the over 200 persons now members of working groups to contribute your wisdom to cross-cultural scholarship.

-Darryl Macer