Globethics Repository



New landscape for ethical practice

This page was generated automatically upon download from the Globethics Repository. More information on Globethics see https://www.globethics.net. Data and content policy of Globethics Repository see https://repository.globethics.net/pages/policy.

Item Type	Article
Authors	Tsai, Duujian
Publisher	Eubios ethics institute
Rights	With permission of the license/copyright holder
Download date	2026-11-07 13:59:23
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/176636

New landscape for ethical practice: lessons for living lab development

Duujian Tsai, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of the Graduate Institute of Humanities in Medicine, Taipei Medical University, President of Taiwan Bioethics Association, President of Taiwan Bioethics Association
Email : dj.tsai@mas.hinet.net

Overall, there is immaturity in civil society in Taiwan and considerable deficiency in social infrastructure; this project seeks to consolidate civil society with sustainable city planning at the same time. We use Hsinchu City, a center of the computer industry in north Taiwan, as a model for the ―Eco-City smart living technology center‖ developed by National Chiao Tung University to establish an ICT infrastructure with the goal of integrating health needs and city planning.

This plan, based upon the idea of group consent as a basis for ethical governance, a framework developed for the Taiwan Bio-bank, implements the concept of participatory governance by first establishing a mutual assistance health promotion database in the community. Following, a database for living activities and cultural affairs is assembled to enrich daily life in the associated communal area. Finally, a large-scale ecological and environmental databank will be established for sustainable regional planning. These databanks with community-based benefit-sharing are a feature of infrastructure for developing a knowledge environment. National Chiao Tung University(NTCU), coordinating with other universities, research institutes, and the industrial science park, will create the knowledge architecture to forge user innovation as a key element for each knowledge cluster in the ICT product design process. The knowledge hub will thus become a medium for forging innovation in everyday life.

To this end, we have placed the blueprint and model of the Hsinchu eco-city planning in the Vision Hall of Wind City (Hsinchu). With support from the City Government, more and more people have come to visit the open house of the Eco-City Smart Living Technology Centre in NTCU. We have also recruited volunteers to experience the ICT project and provide valuable feedback for ongoing product design in users‘ labs. Moreover, we successfully established living labs by working with community leaders to mobilize neighborhood networks and bring prototype products to residents‘ real lives, gaining innovation partnerships. Beginning with using Tele-care technology to support health promotion and ―aging in place‖, neighborhood residents are willing to take a part in product design or feedback. This community thereby becomes a basic unit in developing self-sustained business and in integrating neighborhood health information. Such neighborhoods may turn out to be mobilization units and living labs for gathering data on

local cultural contexts and eco-region planning. Through integrating communities with model cases of green university, Eco-science park, eco-tourism, sustainable environments, health city and eco-city planning, these community partnerships are units for developing knowledge clusters. The whole city space therefore becomes comprehensive knowledge hubs. These communities featuring ―living labs‖, can formulate the knowledge architecture and bioethical governance framework for sustainable urban planning in Hisnchu.

To sum up, this project demonstrated a broad spectrum of bioethical community engagement from disadvantaged populations to eco-urban planning, through applying knowledge management under an information communication and bioethics governance platform. Lessons regarding the development of regional RECs contextualized with communal life experiences as well as geographic features are discussed. Areas of bioethical concern detailed will cover community mental health, ecological regional planning, environmental and electronic engineering, and research involving biomedicine and post-genomic public health in a emerging information society.