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Ethics and Climate

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Editorial: Ethics and Climate Change Project in Asia & Pacific

This final issue of EJAIB for 2011 includes papers on environmental and medical ethics topics, and comes soon after the review meeting of the Ethics and Climate Change in Asia-Pacific (ECCAP) project in Bangkok.

The first paper in this issue is from the Repository of Ethical World Views of Nature, which developed as a Eubios Ethics Institute project in coordination with the Sikh Human Rights Group (UK) from working group 2 of the ECCAP project, and Napat has explored the views of nature with an illustration of Thailand. The paper follows a set format that calls for further contributions towards a repository of ethical world views of nature. The outline is printed below.

There is a book review of a new book by Richard Evanoff on Bioregionalism and Global Ethics. There are two papers on water ethics, with the paper by Gregor applying the concept of ableism to this area.

Funda and Selim give an overview of empirical ethics research in Turkey, surveying trends in themes of medical ethics publications over the past few decades. Chandralekha explores the process of a conference to discuss a GMO, Bt eggplant in India, with the Asilomar conference. The final paper looks at the ethics of blogging in Tamil.

At the ECCAP review conference 50 participants from over 20 countries explored the current status of the working group reports of the ECCAP project. There was consolidation of some working groups, and a focus on the reports expected to be published in the remainder of 2011, which are:

- Energy Equity and Environmental Security (WG7)
- Ethics and Biodiversity (WG16)
- Ethics of Nuclear Energy Technology (WG12)

Those reports which may be further developed in the future include:

- Adoption and Development of Energy Technologies: Ethics and Algal Technology (the only Case Study completed under WG9)
- Gender, Environment and Energy technologies (WG15)
- Educational Frameworks for Environmental Ethics (WG11)

- Visions and Hopes of the Future (WG3)
- Ethical Frameworks for Research Agendas and Policy (WG10)
- Ethics and Aquaculture (WG13)
- Ethics and International Investment in the Energy Sector, and the Environment (WG17)

Outline of report and call for contributions to ECCAP WG2: World Views of Nature

The following aspects need to be considered in addressing for further discussion.

1: What is the broader framework that influences ethics among the people

Dharma: It is a generic word for Indian traditions, philosophies and ways of life. They tend to be holistic and can mean anything from the nature of a substance, a life form to the place of human within the entire cosmos and even scientific rules.

Religion: Mostly revelations and mostly Abrahamic.

Evolved traditions: traditions that may or may not have any religious or theoretical explanation, for instance many tribal practices.

Secular theories: most of the ideas inherent within international conventions. Utilitarian, altruistic, instrumentalist etc.

Democracy: whether democratic consensus determines a worldview or policy, irrespective of its benefits or threats to environment.

2: What is the broader outlook of the environmental concepts within the tradition? Is it one of the ones listed below or a combination of them or others? (ref WG1 for detail)

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Anthropocentrism | Biocentrism |
| Ecocentrism | Cosmocentrism |

3: What are the human –environmental relationships? Are they... (refer to ECCAP WG1)

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| Apathetic | Apocalyptic |
| Symbiotic | Integrationist |
| Managerial | |

Examples of Applications of World Views to Modern Technology / Globalization

Is the world view compatible with modern technological advances, Does it already have some position and ethical guidance on human relation to technological advances. Are there principles that can be developed? Do main practitioners or proponents of the worldview think about modern advances and their impact on resources, human relations, society and other species. For instance increasing dependence on technological mobility (cars, planes etc) or transplant surgery and possibilities of cloning? Increased age expectancy, larger populations in cities, reduced agricultural land, impact on climate change with energy emissions and consumption.

Impact of globalisation on smaller communities, on traditional ethical values, on interaction with larger world. And whether there already are ideas of interacting and coping with globalisation trends.

Conclusions

The conclusions should indicate whether the worldview is a living set of concepts, whether a set of values can be developed from it, whether it is largely reflected in the current conventions, whether a distinct document for that particular worldview would benefit greater compliance to goals to achieve better sustainable environment. Conclusions could suggest whether more work is needed and whether communities can be encouraged to develop perspectives that can stand on their own and help the larger population in that community to take ownership of environmental concerns through the prism of their worldview.

Please send contributions and/or outlines for contributions by 30 September 2011 to:

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