Report on the Codes of Conduct in Science and Engineering Workshop held in Tokyo.

Darryl Macer, Ph.D.
UNESCO Bangkok

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This consultation meeting was attended by 55 participants at the Tokyo (Toranomon) Campus, Kanazawa Institute of Technology, as the result of a collaboration between the Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Bangkok, and Prof. Jun Fudano, Applied Ethics Center for Engineering and Science, KIT, who is a member of UNESCO COMEST. The meeting lasted 4 hours in the afternoon, and was generally conducted in Japanese, except for the talk by Darryl Macer. The meeting was chaired by Jun Fudano.

After Welcome and Opening Remarks from Jun Fudano, Darryl Macer gave an Introduction to UNESCO Ethics Programmes and Scientific Responsibility in Society (text of talk is in the appendix 1; which accompanied a powerpoint presentation). Next Jun Fudano spoke on The Needs and Possibility of a Global Code of Conduct for Science and Engineering, which looked at international trends and influences upon the Japanese situation.

Following that Professor Nobuhide Kasagi then spoke on Towards a Code of Conduct for Scientists, with the new Japanese draft code. He is Professor of Mechanical Engineering, the University of Tokyo, and currently president of the Japanese Society of Mechanical Engineers. Dr. Asashima and Dr. Kasagi who attended were chair and vice-chair of the Science Council of Japan's working group that had released their draft code of conduct on ethics on 11 April, in the SCJ session (also attended by Macer and Fudano, a member of that working group). According to the SCJ's definition, "Scienists" include not only engineers but also scholars in any fields (humanities and social science included). 75% of the participants were engineers, with others from a range of disciplines, and the meeting also was broadcast to other KIT campus by live webcast.

In general discussion that followed, there was discussion of the definition of scientists and engineers, and the audience of the codes. Most countries use the word "science" to include philosophies and social scientists, and the International Council Scientific Unions (ICSU), includes academies of social sciences and humanities as well. However many scientists and technologists are in private sector, not as academics anymore but technologists, so the term scientist and engineer is probably most appropriate.

There was general support for the core virtues and ethical principles like honesty, meticulousness. Possibly common core documents could be used to develop or help different associations develop specialized documents. The meeting supported the idea of a common core element of codes of ethics as something that will be useful. However, there was concern about whether professionals read the codes. The Science Council of Japan's draft document includes some basic elements.

There were few detailed comments on the 1974 recommendations. Participants supported the initiative of UNESCO to place much attention on ethics of science in a range of disciplines. The UNESCO charter starts with the right for quest of knowledge,

freedom of knowledge, for the right to do science. Participants agreed to try to promote both freedom of science and serious consideration of the consequences of science and ethical areas of the background under which society is constructed. So we have to balance both sides of the ethics of doing good, which is pursuing science and technology, and ethics of not doing harm, and the ethics of individual freedom of research, innovation of technology to progress, versus sharing the benefits of risks and justice.

Science and engineering projects are international, so international agreements are useful as they use the international samples, have international businesses, sign international contracts, and work in building projects in different countries. The development of codes of ethics are not only applicable to Japan, but also apply for researchers from Japanese industry working overseas.