



# **Final Report**

**Ethics around the World – Seoul**

**Towards a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics**

**Convention Hall  
Korea Federation of Banks  
Seoul, Republic of Korea**

**16 November 2004**

**Organizers /**

UNESCO

Korean National Commission for UNESCO



**Korean National Commission for UNESCO**

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## Introduction

In placing an emphasis on bioethics by developing ethical principles and exchanging information on the issues at stake, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) jointly organized the Seoul Session of *Ethics around the World: Towards a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics* on 16 November 2004.

Convened within the framework of the rotating *Ethics around the World* conferences being organized by UNESCO in the Member States from 2004-2005, this event marked the sixth consultation of national experts on the universal declaration on bioethics.

This conference aimed not only at providing an opportunity to discuss various issues of relevance in Korea, but offered a chance for Korean viewpoints and perspectives to be reflected in the content of the Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics (Declaration).

Prof. Jens Erik Fenstad, chairperson of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), as well as 33 Korean experts (*see list of participants in Appendix I*) from various fields of academia (medicine, genetics, biotechnology, history and philosophy of science, and ethics), religion, journalism, legal professions, and NGOs attended this intellectual and ethical forum.

The day-long conference saw attendees participate in an opening session, two thematic programme parts and a workshop. In the first part, *UNESCO and Ethics*, Prof. Jens Erik Fenstad, chairperson of COMEST, gave a presentation on his Commission and the various projects it has undertaken in the field of ethics of scientific knowledge and technology. Unfortunately, Dr Henk ten Have, director of the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology of UNESCO, was unable to join the day's proceedings due to family circumstances. Thus, Prof. Fenstad also introduced UNESCO's strategy on bioethics for Korean societies and briefed participants on the progress made in preparing a declaration for adoption at the UNESCO General Conference in 2005.

The second part, *Consultation on a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics*, featured a presentation on the research conducted by six prominent Korean experts in the field of bioethics since June of 2004. Following a question and answer period, all participants were divided into two different working groups for a consultative workshop on the upcoming declaration. The first group dealt with aims, scope, structure and

content of the declaration, while the second group discussed related matters of implementation, education and awareness-raising.

The Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) has consistently sought to identify the primary issues at stake in discussions of bioethics, and to this end organized a Citizens' Consensus Conference on the Safety and Ethics of Genetically Modified Foods in 1998, and another Consensus Conference on Cloning in 1999. In this regard, the Seoul session of *Ethics around the World* was the third KNCU forum to concentrate upon bioethical issues, and encourage lively and productive debate among experts from all sectors of society. I hope that the insights and accomplishments gained from this conference will result in the strengthened development of universal standards in the field of bioethics.

This conference could not have been successful without the generous contribution of all participants. I am particularly grateful for UNESCO's initiative and assistance in working toward the development of a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics.

Samuel Lee  
Secretary-General  
Korean National Commission for UNESCO

## **I. Opening Session**

The dialogues were opened and participants welcomed by **Dr Samuel LEE**, Secretary-General of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU), followed by congratulatory remarks from **Prof. HWANG Sang-ik**, president of the Korean Bioethics Association.

### **Welcoming Address**

Dr Lee welcomed all participants and gave particular thanks to Prof. Jens Erik Fenstad, chairperson of COMEST, as well as six experts who participated in a research project on bioethical issues in Korea. Dr Lee then spoke towards UNESCO's role as an intellectual and ethical organization to reflect upon the bioethics at an international level. He also mentioned KNCU's continuous efforts in exploring ethical responses to meet the primary issues that serve to increase the instability of human lives. He referred to a Korean scientist's breakthrough in the cloning of human cells, and emphasized that with this development Korean society is now facing a slew of ethical questions on this issue as well.

Amidst the maelstrom of a raging controversy on the subject of bioethics, the Secretary-General expressed his hope that today's discussion will provide not only a road map concerning bioethics, through the input of representatives from all sectors in our society, but will enable these actors' viewpoints and perspectives to be reflected in the content of the declaration. Finally, Dr Lee hoped again that through today's reflections and deliberations, pressing challenges in the promotion of bioethics will be identified and discussed as we are empowered to cope with the future more effectively and wisely.

### **Congratulatory Remarks**

Prof. Hwang warmly congratulated the Seoul Session of *Ethics around the World*. He then underlined that although the present time marks the age of science and especially the age of life science, it is nevertheless very hard to discern the real spirit of science. He criticized the fact that self-styled scientists scorn "true science" as the cost of courting political power and monopolistic capital. Prof. Hwang urged that the questions be explored of how human rights and the bodies of women can be protected, as we also seek to treat poor and critically ill patients despite the concerns of profit margins. He then urged that we, the experts in the field of bioethics, should first examine ourselves before criticizing others.

Prof. Hwang closed by hoping that this meeting would not be filled merely with flowery words, but would provide the opportunity to sincerely reflect upon ourselves.

## **II. UNESCO and Ethics**

*Moderator: Prof. **SONG Sang-yong**, Member of COMEST*

Prof. Song introduced Prof. Fenstad, an international presenter for the morning session ‘UNESCO and Ethics’, and expressed thanks for his presence at this important meeting.

### **1. Bioethics and UNESCO**

The morning session, divided into four presentations, was presented by Prof. Jens Erik Fenstad, chairperson of COMEST (World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology).

Prof. Fenstad opened the session by presenting the general activities of UNESCO inside the realm of ethics. Referring to what he called the “dual competence” of knowledge in science and ethics, he emphasized that various UNESCO divisions must unite to engage in ethical matters. With the introduction of standard-setting actions, capacity building, and awareness-raising ethical activities, his presentation ended with a call to move away from theoretical ethical principles to actual application in concrete settings. The second presentation then continued with a briefing on the historical purpose and ongoing activities of IBC (International Bioethics Committee).

### ***Discussion***

A question posed by Prof. KIM Ock-joo inquired as to whom the target group recipients of the Ethics Education Program (EEP) should be. In touching again upon the subject of capacity building, Prof. Fenstad answered that the teaching of ethics needed to be distributed among three basic levels: students at the undergraduate (post-high school) level should have greater access to ethics-based education, researchers should be provided intensive training on moral dilemmas, and individuals at the graduate (doctorate) level should possess a dual focus in both scientific matters and ethics study.

### **2. The World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology**

Prof. Fenstad said that as an advisory body of UNESCO, COMEST is an intellectual forum for the exchange of ideas and experience and aims at the detection of early signs or risk situations associated with science and technology, and the promotion of dialogue between the scientific community, decision-makers and the public at large.

Stressing that the COMEST mandate is to reach out to younger generations—making youth more aware of the importance of ethics in science and technology—Prof. Fenstad described a youth forum at the Brazil meeting where there was heated debate on issues in science and technology among young participants. In this regard, he hoped to see a similar engagement of the public including youth at the Bangkok meeting in 2005.

### ***Discussion***

Following more discussion, Mr. LEE Seung-hwan, Assistant Secretary-General of KNCU, posed a question on the response from the scientific community, such as International Council for Science (ICSU), on the Ethical Code of Conduct for Scientists to be prepared by COMEST. Prof. Fenstad replied that the international scientific community hesitated to take a clear stance, adding that scientists would be invited to participate in future discussions. He forecast, however, that the actual practice of the conduct code may be considered a distant goal.

### **3. Towards a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics**

During the final presentation “Towards a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics”, Prof. Fenstad outlined the procedural details of the declaration. Although many parts of the declaration are still under development and its shortcomings were addressed, the presentation ended on a positive note. In line with the UNESCO mission and character, it was suggested that both the scientific and general audience should be active participants in providing much needed input in the drafting of the declaration.

### ***Final Discussion***

More questions and comments ensued after the presentation. Dr LEE Sung-kyu wondered why past conferences had predominantly been held in places other than the main European countries, the United States, or Japan. The explanation was that certain countries had better established ethical mechanisms than others, while many nations simply did not have the capacity for ethical committees; thus, there has been more emphasis on certain countries. Prof. Fenstad further urged that UNESCO foster better contact with the US.

Additionally, Prof. KANG Shin-ik questioned whether bioethical clarification was needed at all, instead suggesting that UNESCO combine medical research and environmental ethics into the single category of bioethics. Subsequently, Prof. Kang commented that the third draft of this declaration was by far the most anthropocentric, at

least concerning such subjects as biodiversity.

Regarding Prof. Kang's question and suggestion, Prof. SONG Sang-yong commented that the definition of bioethics varies a lot and some bioethicists include environmental ethics in bioethics and others do not. Since bioethics is a big topic these days, Prof. Song did not agree with merging both environmental ethics and bioethics into one committee. He suggested that two separate committees, that is, IBC and COMEST are reasonable.

Finally, Prof. KWON Ivo asked whether another new declaration was necessary in light of the many existent lists of theoretical principles and guidelines. In response, Dr Fenstad explained that the main purpose of this coming declaration was to have government put authority and power behind the ethical concerns it raises.

The last comment came from Prof. KOO Young-mo who suggested that more communication among the scientific community and general public will increase the chance of reaching a consensus on universal norms on bioethics.



### **III. Workshop**

The afternoon workshop on “Consultation on a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics” split the participants into two groups, with each group consisting of 12 specialists and experts in the field of bioethics. After the discussion, a rapporteur from each group presented a summary of the proceedings.

#### **Group 1           Aims, Scope, Structure and Content of a Declaration**

Moderator: *Prof. CHIN Kyo-hun*, Seoul National University

Rapporteur: *Prof. KWON Ivo*, Ewha Womans Unviersity

#### **1. Scope of the Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics**

In accordance with the scope of the declaration, and especially in regard to the phrase “*human beings have responsibilities and duties towards other forms of life in the biosphere,*” (article 1-i) many opinions and discussions posed questions about the concept of the biosphere and the nature of attendant human responsibility.

What are the objects of bioethics and the exact meaning of the term *biosphere*? Believing that bioethics are implicated in the biosphere or the life of human beings, participants of the first group agreed that concepts of bioethics must be enlarged to include all aspects of the biosphere. They concluded that the objective of bioethics is to gain respect for all forms of life under the influence of human beings.

In this sense, there were doubts as to whether human beings have responsibilities to other forms of life, and if so, how we can take and realize this responsibility. Some participants pointed out that the stress on *human responsibility* is a kind of anthropocentrism that might be influenced by the Western concept of *human* in the Biblical tradition. Human beings do not constitute a unique and individual existence in separation from the biosphere in the context of Eastern traditions, but rather are an integral part of the natural world.

#### **2. Aims of the Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics**

In the context of “*to promote respect for biodiversity,*” (Article 2) participants asked the question of whether it is necessary to promote biodiversity, and wondered if we can destroy pathogens and parasites with the aims of protecting biodiversity. The biosphere is an extension of the concept of biodiversity, while for its part the idea of biodiversity is smaller than the biosphere.

In the context of “*to foster dialogue between scientists, health professionals, lawyers, philosophers....*,”(Article 2) participants indicated that we need the participation of public interest groups when discussing about bioethical issues from a social point of view

Regarding the sentence “*to safeguard the interests of present and future generations*”(Article 2), some people raised a question as to the differentiation of present and future generations. The participants thought that we are part of the future generation, just as we are also constituted by our ancestors. There is no discontinuation between the ancestors and future generations in Eastern traditions, including in Korea, where ancestors, the present generation and future generations are intermingled and connected to each other in a genealogical context. The aims of the declaration are to benefit the present and future generations, and thus the notions of segregation and differentiation should not hold much meaning. Regarding these aims, some people pointed out that we can already see existing declarations of biodiversity and our duty to future generations in Rio Declaration made by the UN in 1992. Thus, we must refer to the fact that the aims of biodiversity and our duty to future generations have already mentioned in many other declarations.

A member of the group pointed out that this declaration neglects a gender-based perspective, especially for women. It is necessary to mention the gender difference and gender specificity in bioethics, because the influence of new biotechnology and medicine will differ according to gender.

### **3. Structure of the Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics**

The term *human person* in article 8 may stimulate complex debate on the exact meaning of this phrase. Scholars and philosophers use this term differently. In this draft, using the terms *human being* and *human person* together may lead to confusion, so participants suggested that the single term of *human being* is more favorable.

In terms of the separation between “Fundamental Principle” and “Derived Principle”, the group did not think it was a meaningful distinction as some principles are reiterated. Besides which, some items such as the “Principle of Informed Consent” cannot rightly be defined as “principles” but rather as “procedures.” Thus, the unification of these categories into one statement of “Basic Principles” is recommended. It was also felt that some elements of the “principles” should be included as “procedures” (for instance Articles 11 and 12), and furthermore it is necessary to separate the notions of “principle,” “procedural principle,” and “procedure.”

**Group 2      Implementation, Education and Awareness-raising**  
Moderator: *Prof. PAK Un Jong*, Seoul National University  
Rapporteur: *Prof. LEE In Young*, Hallym University

**1. Discussion on the Character of the Declaration on Universal Norms**

First of all, the second group addressed the question of why UNESCO is even seeking to foster consultation on the universal declaration at this point. The declaration is already comprehensively laid out, and in its current form is not mandated to contain either legally binding force or power of execution. Despite these factors, the participants recognized that it may serve as a practical guideline for domestic cases, and it was felt to be necessary for government to execute it well. In this sense, all discussants agreed on the importance of the role of government.

When the declaration is finally adopted, it was suggested that seminars be held to connect related sectors of academia, institutions and various organizations, in order to disseminate the principles and knowledge of the declaration. From the viewpoint of individual countries, the group thought that all related sectors dealing with bioethics within the government have to cooperate and consider matters of practical implementation in supporting this declaration. While working amidst this process, however, it was warned that the role of civil societies should not be neglected.

**2. Content and Main Group of Bioethics Education**

The second group focused on education for the most part. One scholar suggested that it is easier to start education when dealing chiefly with consensus issues, such as the prohibition of human cloning. Yet non-consensus issues like embryo cloning research should also be the objective of education, and a minimum standard should be presented in the process of educating.

In terms of consensus matters, the participants pointed out that these issues tend to be treated in terms of expert and specialist consensus, and not in light of general opinion. It is true that the public tends to access unilateral information and education through the media, and to address this point it was suggested that a wide variety of educational subject and methods should be emphasized. We should not draw consensus only from the level of experts, but rather should disseminate information and knowledge to promote public awareness. All the participants agreed that education on bioethics will be an opportunity to stimulate researchers, policy makers, students and the public to think over these issues.

### **3. Discussion on Public Information**

Finally, the second group discussed the topic of public information as an action plan when the declaration is adopted. All participants agreed that this universal declaration represents an important chance to balance points of view on science and technology, as in the current state of general discord on ethical issues it was thought that scientific results or benefits tend to be emphasized rather one-sidedly. From the viewpoint on ethical attention, the group concluded that there is a necessity to mobilize various aspects of public information, such as providing a forum of discussion to foster ethical reflection and speculation.

#### **Wrap up**

Prof. Fenstad delivered some comments on the day's events, and expressed his agreement with the observation of many participants on the declaration's status as a rather general document. He also shared his understanding of how the text may be interpreted in terms of uniquely Korean traditions and insights, while stressing his fundamental belief that this document should not be blocked or obstructed in the process of adoption due to country-specific interpretations. In regard to the next step after this type of regional conference, he explained that the results of this meeting would be directly reported to the UNESCO Division of Ethics of Science and Technology and the IBC committee. He noted the helpful contribution of Korean experts in suggesting the revision of key points, and explained that the drafting committee of IBC intends to consider all reasonable arguments for the declaration's amendment.

Prof. Meng, who was the moderator of the second part, referred to the fact that cultural diversity is a crucial issue in every country, and argued for the need to cooperate with the general norms slated to be adopted by UNESCO. After the declaration's adoption, he suggested that each nation must work to set up their own detailed guidelines. In closing, Prof. Fenstad said that respect for cultural diversity is clearly expressed in the declaration (Article 5) as a balance between respect for diversity and respect for universalism, with the intuition of promoting more productive and fruitful discussion.

To summarize the proceedings, Prof. Meng emphasized the importance of the process to create specific guidelines adjusted to meet Korean society, after the Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics is adopted. In this regard, he shared his belief that the role of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO is vital to foster the contents of the declaration in Korea.

## **IV. Summary of Research on Bioethical Issues in Korea**

*Summarized by Prof. KOO Young-Mo, University of Ulsan*

### **1. Beginning and end of life**

- REEM Jongsik, Researcher, Catholic Institute of Bioethics

### **2. Genetics and molecular biology**

- LEE In Young, Professor of Law, Hallym University

### **3. Health care system and public health**

- MENG Kwang-ho, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Catholic University of Korea

### **4. Intellectual property rights**

- SHIN Hyun-Ho, Lawyer of Shin & Partners / Medical Law Attorneys

### **5. Human genetic data and other personal healthcare data**

- KOO Young-Mo, Professor of Medical Ethics, University of Ulsan

### **6. Organ and tissue transplantation and research**

- KWON Ivo, Professor of Medical History and Ethics, Ewha Womans University

### **1. Beginning and end of life**

#### **Abortion**

Although there are approximately 1.5 million abortions carried out each year in South Korea (versus some 600 thousand births), abortion has not been a critical social issue until now. The Mother and Child Health Law, which was enacted in 1973, allows the procedure of abortion within a broad legislative mandate. A reported 60% of married women have undergone an abortion, and the number of unmarried mothers seeking abortions is on the rise due to an increase in premarital sex and ignorance of contraception methods.

#### **Discontinuation of Medical Treatment**

In May 1998, two neurosurgeons were charged with murder after discharging a patient that subsequently died, but who may have recovered under prolonged medical care. Although the doctors were reluctant to release the patient, they finally gave in to the repeated pleas of the man's wife. In the final trial in June 2004, the Supreme Court reaffirmed its first decision of finding them guilty of homicide and aiding and abetting. Once again, this may trigger a debate on when to discontinue medical treatment. Under the medical insurance system of Korea, where the patient has to pay most of the medical

bills, there is a need for a system of affordable long-term low interest loans for low-income patients.

## **2. Genetics and molecular biology**

### **Genetic Screening and Testing**

A person's genetic information contains a biological record not only of their own physiology, but also encodes the genetic history of their family. Thus, great care must be taken to ensure that this information remains private and confidential. It would be unjust to deny someone a job or insurance policy just because they carry a disease-related gene. A national management system should be set up so that the genetic information obtained by governmental agencies or research institutions is not utilized for purposes other than disease research. Individual human rights must be carefully safeguarded to prevent any violation of privacy due to the unauthorized disclosure of genetic information.

### **Gene Therapy**

It is necessary to protect the rights and safety of the patient by limiting the application of gene therapy, as the techniques employed are still experimental and their safety has not been conclusively proven. The research and application of gene therapy on germline cells should be prohibited. Gene therapy should only be used in the treatment of diseases, not for genetic enhancement.

The long-term monitoring of clinical trial results is crucial as well. The rights of the subjects of clinical trials should come before the advancement of gene therapy or development of new drugs, and written consent should be obtained alongside the gathering of sufficient information.

### **GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)**

The public should be able to easily access information concerning the development, distribution, consumption, and research of GMOs, and the government should guarantee consumer choice through a reasonable labeling system of applicable products. Practical regulations should be exercised to protect consumers from the potential threat of GMOs, and GMO-related problems including safety must be properly publicized. An analysis of ethical, environmental, social, and economic consequences needs to be reviewed before further research on GMOs is conducted.

## **Cloning**

Reproductive cloning should strictly be prohibited. Any acts to induce or financially aid reproductive cloning must be prohibited as well. Mixing human embryos with animal embryos, and/or splicing human embryos with different DNA information should not be allowed. More participation from civic groups and ethicists is needed in the composition of a National Bioethics Committee, stipulated in the Bioethics and Biosafety Act, which will become effective in January 2005. To mediate conflicts among various groups and build a social consensus, international bioethical standards should be followed and transparency in the research process ensured.

### **3. Health care system and public health**

#### **Access to Healthcare**

In Korea, legal support for people's rights to medical and public health resources are well laid out, and medical personnel and healthcare facilities are distributed nationwide. Thus, it is agreed that access to healthcare and healthcare benefits are satisfactory compared to other countries.

#### **Allocation of Healthcare Resources**

As most healthcare resources are privately owned, more public services are required.

#### **Rights of Vulnerable People**

People who fall into one of the following three categories may not be receiving decent medical services: those under the care of government or public institutions; those who have been institutionalized due to financial or physical vulnerability; and the thousands of immigrant workers in Korea.

#### **Quality of Care**

Due to the low level of medical insurance in Korea, compared to other industrialized countries, it is estimated that some physicians may be conducting unnecessary medical examinations, while certain pharmacists are prescribing excessive medication to patients.

## **Policies Regarding Vulnerable Populations**

By making the public healthcare centers situated across the country entirely responsible for public health, the government should be able to offer improved medical benefits to vulnerable people and immigrant workers. At the same time, the medical insurance system needs to be reformed. Reasonable expenses should be paid to medical centers in an attempt to improve the quality of healthcare, and opportunities in professional ethics education for medical personnel should also be made available.

## **4. Intellectual property rights**

### **Microorganism Patenting**

In regard to the invention of new microorganisms, there is no stated provision specifically concerning their legal registration under the Patent Law. However, As far as may be determined by precedent through past decisions of the Supreme Court and provisions from the Patent Law, a microorganism can be accepted as the subject of a patent application.

### **Animal Patenting**

In regard to the invention of new animal species/hybrids, there is no stated clause specifically concerning whether or not an animal may be subject to patent regulations. The Patent Court has recently decided that such invention may take place only after conclusive proof has been offered that animals with similar characteristics are regularly reproduced. The Korea Industrial Property Office stands by its position of not awarding patents to a list of inventions that contravene good public order and morality.

### **Gene Patenting**

In regard to the invention of new DNA, this type of research has faced both ethical and social resistance because of its direct relationship to human lives. There are no relevant clauses in the present laws of Korea. To date, it appears that the only new DNA to gain official recognition are those separated and artificially confirmed from living organisms, and those that have exposed their functions and utilities.



## **5. Human genetic data and other personal healthcare data**

### **Human Genetic Data**

Even after the Bioethics and Biosafety Act goes into effect in 2005, DNA testing and banking by government agencies will remain outside legal boundaries, as will the use of DNA information in the process of identifying an individual. Many problems have been encountered in the procedures employed by criminal investigation agencies for the collection, storage, and disposal of DNA. There is also a problem of DNA privacy in regard to personal identification on the part of bio-venture industries. A systemic approach is needed to educate medical personnel, researchers, entrepreneurs, and the public. Special caution is required to protect personal genetic information in Korea, due to the nation's comprehensive resident registration system.

### **Personal Healthcare Data**

Although numerous acts and regulations exist to protect healthcare data, medical records administrators as well as the general public are not well apprised of its significance. Strategic education is needed to enhance awareness of medical information and human rights, and to provide information on the protection of medical information for students, field specialists and the general public. As well, a web site assessment system should be constructed to assess the quality of healthcare information posted over the Internet.

## **6. Organ and tissue transplantation and research**

### **Organ and Tissue Transplants**

Organ transplants have been regulated by the Organ Transplantation Act (1999), while tissue transplants are controlled by the Human Tissue Safety and Management Act (2003). Brain death is legally accepted as the criteria for an organ donation to commence, but the declaration of brain death and subsequent transplant procedures must follow strict standards. Thus, the number of cadaver donations is continuously shrinking. In contrast, the number of living organ donors is increasing, and efforts should be made to strike a balance on this matter. It is hard to deny the illegal sales of domestic organs, although buying illegal organs from overseas (China and other third world countries) has recently become a serious problem.

## **Research on Human Subjects**

The legal and systemic structures for clinical trials in Korea are well stipulated, including such documents as the Drug Affairs Act and Korean Good Clinical Practice. As well, guidelines by the Korea Food and Drug Administration dictate the national policy on gene therapy. In reality, however, the execution of this research remains poor, due mainly to the public's inadequate understanding of clinical trials, lack of IRB experience, and the shortage of well-trained field specialists. To overcome these hurdles, public education on the meaning of participation in clinical trials, training programs for field specialists, and local IRB standard operating procedures are required.

## **Embryo Research**

Korean researchers have established an embryonic stem cell line. Although social consensus has not been reached on this matter, the Bioethics and Biosafety Act of 2003 leaves room for controversial therapeutic cloning. In consequence, Korea is somewhat inclined in favor of embryo cloning technology. As the technology advances, research should be mandated under strict control with a well-managed system and close monitoring by civil society.

## **Behavioral Research, International and Transnational Research**

There are currently no special guidelines or regulations on human research other than within the medical field, and this deficiency needs to be addressed. For international research, Korean medical scientists are required to observe ICH-GCP.

## Annex I



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
Korean National Commission for UNESCO

### **Ethics around the world – Seoul: Towards a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics**

**November 16, 2004**

**Convention Hall, Korea Federation of Banks, Seoul, Korea**

#### **Programme**

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

#### **Opening Session**

9:00 – 9:30 **Welcome address**

**Dr Samuel LEE**, *Secretary-General of the Korean National  
Commission for UNESCO*

**Congratulatory remarks**

**Prof. HWANG Sang-ik**, *President of the Korean Bioethics Association*

#### **Part I: UNESCO and Ethics**

Chair: **Prof. SONG Sang-yong**, *Member of COMEST*

9:30 – 10:30 **Bioethics and UNESCO**

**Prof. Jens Erik FENSTAD**, *Chairperson of COMEST*

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:15 **The World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and  
Technology (COMEST)**

**Prof. Jens Erik FENSTAD**, *Chairperson of COMEST*

11:15 – 12:15 **Towards a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics**

**Prof. Jens Erik FENSTAD**, *Chairperson of COMEST*

12:15 – 12:30 Discussion

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

## **Part II: Consultation on a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics**

Chair: **Prof. MENG Kwang-ho**, *Catholic University of Korea*

*14:00 – 14:30*    **Report: Research on the Bioethical Issues in Korea**  
- Presenter: **Prof. KOO Young-Mo**, *University of Ulsan*

*14:30 – 16:00*    **Workshop:**  
**Consultation on a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics**

### **Group1 : Aims, Scope, Structure and Content**

- Chair: **Prof. CHIN Kyo-Hun**, *Seoul National University*  
- Reporter: **Prof. KWON Ivo**, *Ewha Womans University*

### **Group2 : Implementation, Education and Awareness-raising**

- Chair: **Prof. PAK Un Jong**, *Seoul National University*  
- Reporter: **Prof. LEE In Young**, *Hallym University*

*16:00 – 16:30*    Coffee Break

*16:30 – 17:30*    Report of the Workshops and Discussion

*17:30 – 18:00*    Conclusion and Close

*Language: English (Plenary) and Korean (group discussion)*

## Annex II

### List of Participants

#### International Participants

**Prof. Jens Erik FENSTAD** Chairperson  
World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific  
Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)

#### Korean Participants

**Prof. CHIN Kyo-Hun** Philosophy, Seoul National University  
**Mr CHO Bok Shin** General Manager, Public Information Division  
Korea Qualification Association  
**Mr CHO Deok-Je** Secretary General / Attorney At Law  
Korean Christian Bioethics Association (KCBEA)  
**Mr CHO Hong-Sup** Environment Correspondent  
The Hankyoreh (Daily newspaper)  
**Ms CHOI Kukhee** The Korean Christian Times  
**Mr HAN Jae-Kak** Democratic Labor Party  
**Dr HONG Suk Young** Philosophy, Seoul National University  
**Prof. HWANG Sang-ik** Medicine, Seoul National University  
President, Korean Bioethics Association  
**Mr JEON Sam H.** Reporter, Science Times, Korea Science Foundation  
**Mr JI Bang-Hyeon** Producer, Korea Educational Broadcasting System  
**Ms JUNG Jung-Sook** Vice-chief, Edification Division  
The Central Headquarters of Chondogyo  
**Prof. KANG Shin-Ik** Medicine, Inje University  
**Dr KIM Dong-Kwang** Director  
Center for Democracy in Science & Technology  
People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy  
**Mr KIM Giltae** Reporter, Science Times, Korea Science Foundation  
**Mr KIM Hyung-geun** Reporter, Science Times, Korea Science Foundation  
**Prof. KIM Jang-han** Medical Humanities & Social Sciences  
University of Ulsan  
**Mr KIM Jung Tae** Secretary-General

<b>Prof. KIM Ock-Joo</b>	The Association of Biotechnology Genetics (ABG)
<b>Prof. KOO Young-Mo</b>	Medicine, Seoul National University
	Medical Ethics, Medical Humanities & Social
	Sciences, University of Ulsan
<b>Prof. KWON Ivo</b>	Medical History and Ethics, College of Medicine
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