



Editorial

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Librarians,

Six billion human individuals presently living on all lands above sea level, exposed to the rigors of climates uncommon for mammals of the same size, is by itself a sign of efficiency of which we are proud.

Pride in his control over nature and his stubborn persistence against the elements is a characteristic that has always distinguished Man and has constantly spurred him to overcome every difficulty. Pride and stubbornness have at the same time been the stimulus and the effect of his physical evolution and of his cultural progress. The technological civilisation in which we live today and which we appreciate is only one aspect of this unceasing adaptation.

The evolution and physical differentiation of our species therefore cannot be separate from our technological and cultural differentiation, since they are continuously integrated in constant interdependence.

The development of biotechnologies (such as contemporary technological progress in general) do not always, however, hold in great esteem the interaction between Man, the Earth, Animals and Plants. In our opinion, we must develop, codify and diffuse new ethical concepts which goes beyond economism that still inspires the relationship between Man and Nature. Researchers, in order not to reduce his role to that of a simple 'technician', cannot avoid asking himself questions of social, cultural and ethical nature: in fact every aspect of the science (whether they are practical or theoretical) involve the problem of their use by a part of society of which the researcher should not forget that he is an integral part.

Physicists had this experience with the use of their research by colonial regimes; biologists now are about to repeat similar experiences with the development of biotechnologies. A new ethic that, without dogmatism, affronts the problems connected to the precarious equilibrium between Man and the other elements of Nature is urgently called for today since it appears necessary to give a positive and logical arrangement to the evaluation of concept of good-evil, just-unjust, correct-incorrect, obedience-disobedience and obligation-liberty and of the general principles which justify the application of this concepts even to the Natural World. These are the inspiring principles of the Journal "Global Bioethics", founded in 1992 under inspiration of Rensel Van Potter on the previous Italian journal "Problemi di Bioetica".

It is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary forum open to everyone interested both in fundamental and applied reflection on bioethical problems.

Global Bioethics conceives bioethics as: a secular ethics based upon respect for freedom of conscience and the inalienable dignity of each and every person; a pluralistic and universalistic domain, one not restrained by moral conventionalism, political biases, religious persuasions, social uses or cultural habits, but open to the values carried by the former; a critical and autonomous field distinct from juridical regulation, professional deontology and denominational morals.

For local difficulties "Global Bioethics" had some delays in publication in the last two years. From 2005 on, it will be published by the Firenze University Press regularly with one issue every year.

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