

ANNEX 3  
STANDARD TEMPLATE  
TECHNICAL PART OF AN INTERIM REPORT

Contract reference n°.: <b>ASE/B7-301/1997/0178/21</b>
Project Title: <b>ASEAN-EU LEMLIFE: A Collaborative International Training Programme in Law, Ethics and Management in the Life Sciences</b>
Name of Beneficiary: <b>Chulalongkorn University</b>
Period covered by this Interim Report: <b>1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004</b>
Due date of this Interim Report: <b>31 December 2004</b>

**Executive Summary**

- *During the past year, the LEMLIFE Project has accomplished all of the tasks it set itself to do. There were two Project workshops, the first one being held in Bangkok from January 24 to 26, and the second one in Bilbao, Spain from November 19 to 21. These workshops are the occasions where the project participants came to meet in order to get acquainted with one another and to lay out the course of the project as a whole. It is agreed that the participants would join forces to produce a collection of extended syllabi for use in the eventual degree program to be established at Chulalongkorn University, and during the second workshop more details about this book were ironed out and each specific section was assigned to individual members of the project. Apart from these workshops, three meetings were held at Chulalongkorn University in order to disseminate knowledge about bioethics to the general public as well as to create a network of scholars and practitioners in the field in Thailand. These meetings were very successful. Moreover, the Project has so far published three newsletters and maintained a website at <http://www.asean-eu-lemlife.org/>, and it has published a collection of research articles in the field in Eubios: Journal of Asian and International Bioethics.*

**I. Introduction**

- *During the past year, the project achieved most or all of its objectives. It has been very successful.*
- *The main achievements are:*
  - *Meetings: The first workshop in Bangkok in January; the second workshop in Bilbao in November; the meeting on Science in Thai Culture and Society on September 17, 2004; the meeting on Death and Dying: Perspectives from Religions and Science on November 12 and 13; the training session on Introductory Bioethics: Alternatives for Thai Society from November 29 to December 2.*
  - *Newsletter: The Project has published three newsletters, one in English and the others in Thai. The Project has moreover decided to issue only Thai printed newsletters because it aims at disseminating the knowledge about bioethics and news in biotechnology and life sciences to the Thai general public, since most Thai media do not give enough coverage on these issues. The first newsletter, in English, was published in May, and the second, which is the first issue of the Thai newsletter, came out in July. The second Thai newsletter is at the moment in press and will come out by middle January, 2005.*
  - *Website: The Project is maintaining a website at <http://www.asean-eu-lemlife.org/>. Normally the website is accessed daily by more than forty different individuals, so in a month the website is accessed more than 1,200 times. The website contains all the papers related to the Project, including papers presented during the workshops and the meetings, together with newspaper articles and other pieces by project members.*
  - *Publication: The Project has published together a special issue of Eubios: Journal of Asian and International Bioethics, which is published in Japan, and is an internationally recognized bioethics journal. The total of seven papers were published, by Soraj Hongladarom, Somparn Promta, Brigitte Jansen, Jürgen Simon, Minakshi Bhardwaj, and Nikolaus Knoepffler.*

- Public talk: *Dr. Soraj Hongladarom was invited by the Rotary Club to give a talk on bioethics at the Royal Hotel, Bangkok on Tuesday, December 21, 2004.*
- Media visibility: *Dr. Soraj Hongladarom has written a number of articles in newspapers and news magazines aiming at stimulating discussion on bioethical issues and at providing basic understanding of the subject. He also participated in a number of radio programs for the same purposes. In total he has written one article for the Bangkok Post (September 8, 2004), three articles for the Nation Weekly (Issue nos. 638, 645 and 650), and three radio programmes (September 19; September 26; and November 7). The media were also invited to participate and to report on the meetings mentioned above.*

## II. Description of Implementation of Activities

- *Here is the breakdown of the activities of the project compared with its Logical Framework:*

<b>Activities in the Logical Framework</b>	<b>How it is done during the first year of the project</b>
<b>Activity 1: Organizing introductory workshop</b> This is to set the stage for future work in the project in detail.	<i>This workshop has already been organized from January 24 to 26, 2004. All the project participants from eight university came to meet and charted out the course of the entire project.</i>
<b>Activity 2: Preparing the Course Material on Bioethics</b> This is to produce the course material which will be disseminated internationally through traditional and electronic means.	<i>The course material on bioethics will be prepared by the working group in the area; and the team has prepared draft syllabi for comments and discussion during the Bilbao workshop. The members agree to produce the final version of the course material for another round of comments and discussion during the Berlin workshop in May, 2005. It is planned that the material produced here will be distributed both traditionally and electronically in the latter half of 2005.</i>
<b>Activity 3: Preparing the Course Material on Biolaw</b> This is to produce the course material which will be disseminated internationally through traditional and electronic means.	<i>The course material on biolaw will be prepared by the working group in the area; and the team has prepared draft syllabi for comments and discussion during the Bilbao workshop. The members agree to produce the final version of the course material for another round of comments and discussion during the Berlin workshop in May, 2005. It is planned that the material produced here will be distributed both traditionally and electronically in the latter half of 2005.</i>
<b>Activity 4: Preparing the Course Material on Biomanagement</b> This is to produce the course material which will be disseminated internationally through traditional and electronic means.	<i>The course material on biomanagement will be prepared by the working group in the area; and the team has prepared draft syllabi for comments and discussion during the Bilbao workshop. The members agree to produce the final version of the course material for another round of comments and discussion during the Berlin workshop in May, 2005. It is planned that the material produced here will be distributed both traditionally and electronically in the latter half of 2005.</i>

<p><b>Activity 5: Organizing two workshops</b>          These two workshops are for the three working groups to meet and to share ideas and results</p>	<p><i>As previously mentioned, two workshops were organized during the past year of the project.</i></p>
<p><b>Activity 6: Running a Training Session</b>          This is to disseminate the produced course material to the students, who are expected to come mostly from the relevant professions in the ASEAN region. This training session will be a seed for future development into a graduate degree program.</p>	<p><i>The meetings on Death and Dying, organized on November 12 and 13, and on Introductory Bioethics: Alternatives for Thai Society, were intended as training sessions. However, these two meetings were intended to provide knowledge to primarily to Thai audience, and hence the language was in Thai. It is planned that another training session, conducted in English, will be held sometime later in 2005.</i></p>
<p><b>Activity 7: Organizing final workshop</b>          This is to take stock of all the activities so far and to evaluate the work that has been done, as well as chart a course for future activities after the project has been concluded.</p>	<p><i>The project members agreed during the Bilbao workshop that the final workshop be held at Chulalongkorn University from September 16 to 18, 2005. And it is also planned that an international conference will also be organized in conjunction with the workshop, in cooperation with the Regional Unit in Sciences and Human Sciences in Asia-Pacific of the UNESCO office in Bangkok.</i></p>

### III. Partnership

*The roles of the partners in the project are as follows:*

- Lüneburg University/European Academy of Environment and Economy – *The main roles are to coordinate the project from the European side, to organize the third workshop in Berlin in May, 2005, and to participate in producing the course material, especially in biolaw and biomanagement.*
- University of Philippines, Diliman – *The main role is to participate in producing the course material, especially in bioethics and biolaw.*
- Lancaster University – *Main role is to participate in producing the course material, especially in bioethics and biomanagement.*
- Vietnam National University – *Main role is to participate in producing the course material on scientific background of genetics, which is part of the material on bioethics.*
- University of the Basque Country – *Main roles are to organize the second workshop in Bilbao in November 2004 and to participate in producing course material in biolaw.*
- Universiti Sains Malaysia – *Main role is to participate in producing course material in biomanagement.*
- Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena – *Main role is to participate in producing course material in bioethics.*
- *The partnership of the project has been excellent. The lead partner has received strong cooperation and willingness to work together for the success of the project as a whole.*

### IV. Links with other projects/programmes (if any)

*The project has strong ties with a number of bioethics projects both inside and outside of Thailand as follows:*

*As for the domestic ties, the project has links with the Project for Ethics of Life Sciences and Advanced Medical Sciences, organized by the National Health Foundation (<http://www.thainhf.org/>). This is a foundation supported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health and is aimed at promoting health in the Thai society. The Project for Ethics of Life Sciences and Advanced Medical Sciences share many of the same objectives as the LEMLIFE Project, but the former is focused more on promoting awareness of the issues rather than conducting academic research and developing programs of study, which are among the main aims of the LEMLIFE Project.*

*The Project also has links with the Forum for Ethical Review Committees in Thailand (FERCIT), which is a body overseeing the works of ethical review committees in life and medical sciences in the*

country. Dr. Soraj Hongladarom is also a member of an ethical review committee at the Faculty of Dentistry, Chulalongkorn University.

Another domestic link is with the Institute for Thai Studies, Chulalongkorn University. The participation is conducted mostly through Dr. Soraj's capacity as the deputy director of the Institute. The Project has joined hands with the Institute in organizing the training session on Introductory Bioethics from November 29 to December 2 last year, and the partnership will continue for 2005 also.

Apart from these, the Project also enjoys a number of international collaboration. Both the European and ASEAN partners already have their own existing networks, which can well result in further collaborative work. In addition, the Project is maintaining good ties with the Regional Unit of Sciences and Human Sciences in the Asia-Pacific (RUSHSAP), which is a unit of the UNESCO, based in Bangkok (<http://www.unescobkk.org/>), that seeks to promote understandings of sciences and bioethics in the region. The Project and RUSHSAP plans to hold an international conference on bioethics together in September this year.

## V. Assessment of the project

Use the information given to present a synthesis of the project so far:

- What has been the initial impact of the project?
  - The initial impact was rather strong, considering that bioethics was little known in Thailand before the project came to existence. Even though other projects such as the Project for Ethics in Life Sciences and Advanced Medical Sciences had been in operation for some time before this project, public awareness of bioethical issues remained rather weak. However, after the project was implemented, it seems that public awareness has increased quite significantly. This can be seen from the fact that Dr. Soraj Hongladarom, the ASEAN co-ordinator, has been invited on many occasions to give talks and lectures on bioethics. Other concrete indications include the number of people attending the meetings organized by the Project – the meeting on Death and Dying in particular attracted more than two hundred participants from diverse backgrounds and regions in the country. The meeting on Introductory Bioethics attracted more than forty people, even though they had to pay a rather high fees for attendance, whereas the meeting on Death and Dying did not charge a registration fee. The number of people accessing the project website is also a clear indication; more than 1,200 different IP addresses are having an access to the website every month.
- Are the expected results being achieved/were achieved? Were they achieved in the planned time? Explain the reason for any difference.
  - It appears that the planned results are materializing as expected. The meetings were well conducted and well attended. Also everything has been achieved more or less according to the time envisioned. The term 'more or less' is used because the project participants themselves agreed to move certain activities according to their needs, but that does not mean that those activities will not be implemented. For example, the second workshop of the project was scheduled to be held in October, but actually it was held in November because some of the participants were not available at that time.
- Have the assumptions made in your logical framework revealed true? If not, which measures have been taken to overcome possible problems?
  - Please refer to the following table:

Assumptions from the Logical Framework	How they came about during the first year of the Project
<p>What are the factors and conditions not under the direct control of the project which are necessary to achieve these objectives? What risks have to be considered?</p> <p>(1) Demand for knowledge and skills in this area remains steady;</p> <p>(2) Public understanding in the area increases through other programs;</p> <p>(3) Participants receive continued support from their respective institutions.</p>	<p>(1) It seems that demand for knowledge and skills in bioethics has remained steady and is in fact increasing. This can be inferred from the fact that the advances in life sciences and biotechnology are very rapid, and the impact on society and culture has been very strong and poignant. Issues on GMOs, for example, have attracted tremendous public interest, and they are in need of a clear and comprehensive program that enable them to deliberate on the issue on a sound basis.</p>

	<p>(2) Other programs, such as those done by the National Health Foundation, have successfully increased public awareness to a certain extent. However, this is not viewed as a potential competitor to the LEMLIFE Project, as they are more partners for a common goal.</p> <p>(3) Many participants attending the teaching sessions organized by the Project receive support from their own institutions in terms of leave of absence or funds for registration; so there is not a serious problem in this regard.</p>
<p><i>What external factors and conditions must be realized to obtain the expected outputs and results on schedule?</i></p> <p>(1) Steady policy and support by the Applicant to the Project;</p> <p>(2) Higher education institutions that are expected to send their teaching staff for training may decide not to do so – commitment by these institutions.</p>	<p>(1) Chulalongkorn University has supported the Project through allowing the participants to work for it. However, monetary support has not been forthcoming, though there are talks among the administrators about this.</p> <p>(2) So far many such institutions have shown rather strong interests in sending their personnel to attend the meetings and training sessions.</p>
<p><i>What preconditions are required before the project starts? What conditions outside the project's direct control have to be present for the implementation of the planned activities?</i></p> <p>(1) Permission and support from the university;</p> <p>(2) Cooperation among the partners;</p> <p>(3) Grant from the European Commission.</p>	<p>(1) Permission and support of Chulalongkorn University is crucial to the success of the Project. Right now the university is considering how the Project could be sustained, and one thing on the agenda is to create an agency that deals with research ethics and bioethics in general which is internationally recognized.</p> <p>(2) Cooperation among partners has been excellent throughout.</p> <p>(3) Grant from the European Commission is instrumental to the success of the Project, as Chulalongkorn University has limited funding and most of it has been allocated to some other prior commitments.</p>

- *What are the potential areas for project success?*
  - *These are: 1) providing training sessions, workshops, or seminar to the public; 2) Publishing newsletters and other publications for the public; and 3) Maintaining a fast and easily accessible website.*
- *What lessons, both positive and negative, can be drawn from the experience of the project to date? What action will be taken as a result? and any emerging issues relating to sustainability.*
  - *There have been many positive experiences, mostly arising from the excellently cooperative and friendly relations among the partners. This has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience. However, the negative experiences may be seen arising from the lack of understanding among the faculty members at Chulalongkorn University on the need for interdisciplinary thinking and action. Many of the ASEAN co-ordinator's colleagues in the philosophy department, for example, still view the Project as a diversion, even though it lies at the center of current academic effort to understand the social and legal impacts of biotechnology and the life sciences. The administrators of Chulalongkorn have been somewhat supportive, though they have not committed the funds for their own twenty percent of the budget.*
  - *Among the actions that will be taken to solve the problem of lack of understanding is continued action and promotion of bioethics. As for the administrators, they will support once they see the future of the project and the need for some kind of recognized institution within the university to take on these issues. So the problem does not look too serious.*

- *The Project plans to continue proposing to the administrators of the university for continued support for bioethics action and the push toward realizing the degree program. Meanwhile the Project will also stir up grass-root level action through the co-ordinator's personal relationships with faculty members in various fields.*

**VI. Annexes**

- *Provide supporting documentation to clarify any issues in the report.*
- *Provide one copy of all publications and media materials produced. This includes leaflets, posters, videos, radio tapes and newspaper articles, as well as the internet address of the project website etc.*
- *One additional document providing explanations and justification on any discrepancy that may have arisen as well as a brief reminder of the reallocation made within budget headings and between budget headings (if any) following the 15 % rule (refer to point 6.4.3 of the Guide to Beneficiaries) during the period under review.*

Signature .....  
(Dr. Soraj Hongladarom)

Date: January 11, 2005