

## Nanoethics and science policy: UNESCO programmes on Nanoethics

Darryl Macer, Ph.D.,  
Regional Adviser in Social and Human Sciences for Asia and the Pacific,  
Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSHSAP),  
UNESCO Bangkok, 920 Sukhumvit Road, Prakanong, Bangkok 10110, THAILAND  
Email: [d.macer@unesco.org](mailto:d.macer@unesco.org)  
[www.unescobkk.org/rushsap](http://www.unescobkk.org/rushsap)

There have been debates in almost every corner of the globe over the ethical issues of science and technology, and nanotechnology is one of the emerging areas of technology that has been the subject of debate. The topic has been addressed in two UNESCO reports, and further publications, which will be reviewed in this paper. The World Commission on the Ethics of Science and Technology (COMEST) also took up the issue again in its 2009 session, and feedback will be sought on what issues are a regional priority for intergovernmental consideration. Given the role of nanotechnology in many industrial and environmental sectors already, internationalization of the issues is important. This paper will discuss the situation relating to implementation of ethical standards on nanotechnology, and the accompanying debates, in particular in the Asia and Pacific region.