

The world has lost a Bridge between Bioethics and our Future
Prof. Dr. Umar Anggara Jenie, Apt, Msc
22 August 1950 – 26 January 2017

Darryl Macer, Ph.D., Hon.D.
President, American University of Sovereign Nations (AUSN), USA
Secretary, Asian Bioethics Association
Former UNESCO Regional Adviser for Asia and the Pacific

The world has lost a leading scientist and bioethicist, and I have lost a teacher and friend. Professor Umar as he was fondly known to thousands of scholars around the world, was the public face of bioethics from Indonesia. Umar and his wisdom, inquiring mind, love and mediation, will be deeply missed by his colleagues around the world in many disciplines.

In his position as Chairman of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), founding Chairman of the Indonesian National Commission on Bioethics, and his position as Vice-President for South-East Asia, and Vice-President for Indonesia, of the Asian Bioethics Association, Professor Jenie acted as a central bridge between development of research policy and practice for the development of bioethics through Asia and as an interface between Asia and the Global Community. For a decade he was the interface of Indonesia and Asian Bioethics, also chairing the Annual Meetings of the Asian Bioethics Association in Indonesia in 2008 and 2016. He attended the annual meetings all around the world inspiring his colleagues from different countries to work together, and to conduct research of glocal (global and local) relevance. In discussion of international policy, we have to articulate and rediscover values of Indonesia to take a leading role in a moderate approach to building a global order that is fair to all countries, not one dominated by the former colonial powers and the rich countries. Umar always supported and mentored young scholars to look to themselves and their culture to find solutions that are enduring and equitable.

Umar also served as a bridge between the natural science and social science fields that is critical for sound policy making in the emerging

use of science and technology. Several of his informative talks are available for all to learn from on youtube, and Umar Jenie also provided his time freely for public service as AUSN Visiting Professor in Medicinal Chemistry and Bioethics. Experts, students and the public could all learn from him how to share wisdom from diverse fields of genomics, medicinal chemistry, history, philosophy, and cross cultural communication and policy making.

Prof. Jenie's service to UNESCO as a member of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee on Bioethics, as well as numerous roles as an international expert on Science, was instrumental to the implementation of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, into laws in Indonesia, ASEAN and globally. As former UNESCO Regional Adviser to Asia and the Pacific, and the former and founding member of UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee from New Zealand, I had the pleasure to work with Umar on the translation of mere words of governments and the United Nations into practices that save the lives of vulnerable people, and protect our biodiversity and biosphere. Future generations will appreciate the foresight of policies that he helped formulate. He not only fought to protect people, but also animals and plants that our world is blessed with. Umar served us all, and the world was blessed to have him with us for 67 years – still too short for his friends and colleagues. God has blessed us to have Umar among us, and may you rest in peace sure that your wisdom will continue to inspire others.



Jogyakarta 2008



Beppu, Japan, 2015