Collaborative Workshop, CBEC, Karachi and CBMH, Indonesia
October 17 to 19, 2016, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

The Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture (CBEC) SIUT, and The Centre of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (CBMH) of the University of Gadjah Mada in Indonesia entered into a collaboration to conduct two workshops in their Centres in Yogyakarta and Karachi. This collaboration was facilitated by Dr. Beth Rivin, Adjunct Research Associate Professor, Bioethics and Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle, who is also Visiting Professor at the University of Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta.

CBEC and CBMH are currently the only Centres dedicated to bioethics education and research in their respective countries, Pakistan with a population of 200 million and Indonesia with 250 million inhabitants. The first collaborative workshop between the two, in October 2016, was held in the picturesque city of Yogjakarta. The nine member CBEC delegation included faculty members Dr. Farhat Moazam, Dr. Aamir Jafarey, Ms. Anika Khan, Dr. Bushra Shirazi, Dr. Nida Wahid Bashir and Research Assistant Ms. Sualeha Shekhani. Accompanying them were CBEC Associate Faculty Dr. Saima Pervaiz Iqbal from Islamabad, and CBEC PGD alumni Dr. Mariam Hassan and Dr. Natasha Anwar from Lahore.

The objective of the workshop was for the Centres to learn about each other's experiences in teaching and researching bioethics in two Muslim majority countries with different social, cultural and legal environments. The first day's sessions focused on sharing information about the functioning of each Centre and understanding the scope of each other's activities. The subsequent two days were devoted to hands-on sessions in which CBEC faculty and alumni described their experiences in translating bioethics theory into practice and led animated discussions on research and clinical ethical dilemmas and the ways in which they are shaped by indigenous values and social and religious systems. Members from CBMH also acquainted the audience about the activities at their Centre, including the development and practice of bioethics curriculum in Indonesia. They also spoke about their aspirations to expand bioethics education within their country. In the closing session of the last day faculty of both Centres met to discuss the content, format, and organization of the second collaborative workshop which will take place in CBEC in Karachi in the first half of 2017.

Each day, academic sessions were followed by cultural and culinary forays organized by the hosts who displayed the legendary Jogja (as Yogyakarta is affectionately called) hospitality towards their guests. One evening the guests were treated to a spectacular legendary Ramayana Ballet at a beautiful Hindu temple. On the second day of the workshop, a 4.00 am trip to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Borobudur Temple was organized to experience the sunrise of a lifetime.