CBEC hosted an international conference in collaboration with Indonesia’s Centre for Bioethics and Medical Humanities (CBMH) in April 2017. Conference sessions included formal talks, tools for teaching bioethics and a case development workshop.

The inaugural session, “Promoting Bioethics in Pakistan and the Region,” focused on regional and local strategies for enhancing bioethics education. Speakers included Dr. Abha Saxena of WHO, Dr. Ahmed Mandil of WHO/EMRO and Dr. Susan Vize of UNESCO. The three speakers elaborated on efforts by their organizations to promote and strengthen bioethics.

In her plenary talk, Dr. Saxena also announced that CBEC was in the process of being designated the 9th WHO Collaborating Centre for Bioethics. The final announcement is pending approval from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Pakistan.

Dr. Farhat Moazam spoke about the challenges involved in developing Pakistan’s first bioethics centre, and Dr. Aamir Jafarey discussed CBEC’s efforts to build bioethics capacity through its academic programs. In the last talk of the session, Dr. Shahid Shamim discussed the role of formal assessment of bioethics education.

The conference also offered sessions, limited to registered participants, on the theme “Tools for Teaching Bioethics.” These included an Ethics Case Development Workshop and sessions on the use of images and videos as teaching tools. Another workshop was used to demonstrate role play in instructing students on the working of Hospital Ethics Committees.

The last day of the conference dealt with “Ethical Issues in Public Health Research.” The sessions focused on the science and ethics of dengue virus control via vector genetic manipulation. Also presented was an ongoing study on dengue control in Indonesia involving community engagement and the difficulties in obtaining ethical informed consents.