EXTENDED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME ON THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION FOR MALAYSIA

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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)


- In Malaysia, Ministry of Defence is the lead ministry while STRIDE is the lead technical agency on BWC.
Expert guidance and assistance was granted to Malaysia through the European Union Extended Assistance Programmes offered as part of the European Union Council Decision 2016/51 in support of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

2 programmes:
• Seminar on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) of the BWC
• Workshop on Laboratory Biosecurity Assessment, Inspection and Monitoring
SEMINAR ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES OF THE BWC

9 April 2018
OBJECTIVES

• To increase awareness on the importance of CBMs in enhancing transparency in research activities and the use of biological agents and toxins to address the threat of biological weapons.

• To provide detailed explanation on the CBMs process and the CBMs Forms.
ATTENDANCE

97 participants from 24 ministries, research institutions, universities and industries.
Opening Ceremony
Officiated by Deputy Secretary General (Policy), Ministry of Defence

Malaysia’s CBM Submission: Status and Challenges
Dr Zalini Yunus, Senior Director, STRIDE
Introduction to EU Extended Assistance Programmes
Mr Daniel Feakes, Chief
BWC Implementation Support Unit

The Importance of CBMs & CBM Forms
Mr József Pete, CWC/BWC Officer,
Government Office of the Capital City Budapest, Hungary
Effective aspect of the Program

- Explanation on how to fill up the CBMs forms.
- Gave awareness as well as emphasised on the benefits and importance of CBMs.
- The Q&A session and discussion helped to clarify the areas of confusion.

The CBM Forms need to be modified according to Malaysian context for national use.
NATIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES (CBM) FORM

Submission of the Confidence-Building Measures (CBM) Form

The Biological Weapons Convention agreed to introduce Confidence-Building Measures (CBM) in order to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions and in order to improve international cooperation in the field of peaceful biological activities. This CBM form will be submitted to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in the Geneva Branch of United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.
WAY FORWARD

Engage and encourage more academic/research institutions to utilise and submit the CBM form.

Follow up workshop to review the effectiveness of the National CBM Form.

Visits to facilities to share experiences, challenges and lesson learned.

Utilise the new National CBM Form for 2019 CBM submission.
WORKSHOP ON LABORATORY BIOSECURITY ASSESSMENT, INSPECTION AND MONITORING

9 - 11 April 2018 (phase 1)
26 - 28 July 2018 (phase 2)
OBJECTIVES

• To enhance Malaysia’s capacity in the area of biosecurity by developing a comprehensive laboratory biosecurity checklist for laboratory assessments and monitoring.

• To assist laboratories in the country that are handling valuable biological materials to develop a comprehensive biorisk management programme (focusing on biosecurity) and give them the necessary support and tools to assess and monitor their laboratory biosecurity implementation.
To assess the current level of biosecurity, identify gaps in the existing biosecurity programme and monitor their biosecurity programme efficiency and effectiveness to ensure they have the necessary biosecurity measures implemented to prevent potentials for accidental and deliberate releases of valuable biological materials.
WORKSHOP - PHASE 1

• 24 Biorisk Professionals from 15 research institutions, universities and industries (public health, veterinary, agriculture and defence sectors).
WORKSHOP - PHASE 1
VISIT TO BACTERIOLOGY LABORATORY AT THE FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
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REFERENCES


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Biosecurity Self-Scan Toolkit & Biosecurity Vulnerability Scan, developed by the Netherlands Biosecurity Office

The self-scan toolkit is a relatively fast scan with a limited number of closed questions that can easily form an indication of strong and weak biosecurity aspects within your organisation.

Dutch: www.biosecurityselfscan.nl

Français: wwwoutilvaluationbiosecurite.nl
WORKSHOP - PHASE 2
VISIT TO KPJ LABLINK MEDICAL LABORATORIES
CHECKLIST PILOT ASSESSMENT AT KPJ LABLINK
MEDICAL LABORATORIES
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MEDICAL LABORATORIES
The checklist covers the eight priority areas of biosecurity:

A. MANAGEMENT
B. BIOSECURITY AWARENESS
C. PHYSICAL SECURITY
D. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MATERIALS
E. INFORMATION SECURITY
F. TRANSPORT SECURITY
G. PERSONNEL RELIABILITY
H. EMERGENCY RESPONSE
WAY FORWARD

Visits to facilities to share experiences, challenges and lesson learned

Seminar/Training programs to introduce the Checklist to more academic/research institutions

Follow up workshop to review the effectiveness of the Checklist

Introduce a peer review system in which external experts from a respective laboratory will carry out a biosecurity assessment within another laboratory
CONCLUSION

• The European Union Extended Assistance Programme for Malaysia has assisted Malaysia in strengthening Malaysia’s commitment to fulfil national obligations and enhance Malaysia’s national capacity to implement the BWC.

• The initiative provided a useful platform for the exchange of scientific knowledge, good practices and to discuss national implementations among subject matter experts which served to enhance international cooperation.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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• Netherlands Biosecurity Office, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
• Government Office of the Capital City Budapest, Hungary
• Malaysian Biorisk Professionals
THANK YOU