BWC Implementation perspectives from the region:

The Experience of Fiji
• History of BWC for Fiji
• Assessing domestic requirement
• Setting up the BWC National Authority
  – Proposed Framework
  – Bio threat Matrix
  – Government Machinery to Respond
  – Threat level – Biological attack
• Assistance and cooperation opportunities
• Challenges and
• Way forward
History of BWC for Fiji

• The BWC opened for signature in 1972, Fiji signed in the same year and ratified on 1\textsuperscript{st} October 1973
Domestic Requirements

• In complying with the Convention, Fiji enacted a legislation in 2011 namely the Biological and Toxin Weapons Decree (now referred to as an Act)
• Regulation to implement the BTW Act
The Ministry of Defence and National Security is mandated by his Excellency, the President of Fiji to provide a safe and secure environment.

The core responsibility of the Ministry is to manage the nation’s security through formulation and implementation of policy initiatives, programmes and projects on matters of Defense and national Security.
Proposed Structure for Fiji’s Biological & Toxic Weapons

**National Authority**
- Biological & Toxic Weapons Convention
- Annual Report to BWC
- Enforcement of Biological & Toxic Weapons
- Decree 2011
- Member of the MATAG
- National Assessment/Advice
- Coordinate National Response
- Bilateral Cooperation under the BWC Convention
- Liaise with BWC for inspection and declaration

**National Security Council**

**Ministry of Defence**

**Research/Scientific Advice**
- Fiji National University

**Analysis & Detection**
- Min of Health Bacteriological Lab

**Detection/Mitigation**

**Multi-Agency Taskforce Advisory Group (MATAG)**
(MoH, MoD, SPC, WHO, FPF, RFMF, MoFA, FRCA, BAF)

**Border Detection/Mitigation/Containment**
- Initial Response
- Deployment of resources
- Quarantine/Treatment
- Monitoring/Surveillance
- Implementation of SOP/WHO referrals
- Technical Assistance under the BWC
- Maintenance of secluded rooms for special cases
- Victim counselling

**NATIONAL SECURITY**
- State’s Declaration of Emergency in terms of Bio Terrorism
- Unmanageable epidemic outbreak at national level
- Public Disorder on the use of Toxic chemicals
- National Interests on Bacteriology and Chemical Threats

**RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT**
- Research and Development
- Specialised Training in line with the BWC
- Mitigation strategy
- Scientific Advice in consultation with MOH
- SOP for Treatment
- Bacteria sample containment
- Toxicology testing
- Confirmatory tests (DNA)

**GOVT SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS**
- Collection of Samples
- Bacteriology Risk Analysis
- Appropriate Advice to Authorities
- Liaison with WHO for technical assistance
- Containment Strategy
MATAG envisages to formulate SOPs for every component of the above threat matrix in order to effectively respond to such threats.

For Ebola, a SOP was formulated detailing processes of response by agencies.
Government Machinery to Respond

NSDC - Declaration of State of Emergency

NSDC
National Security & Defence Council

National Authority

NA

Multi Agency Taskforce Group

MATAG

Senior Officials

WHO
- Expertise
- Medical
- SOPs
- Resources
- Border monitoring

MoH
- Med kits
- Specialised wear (clothing)
- UN Resources

Virus Lab
- MOH
- Verification
- Virus containment
- Specimen
- Testing

Isolation Rooms
- Isolation
- Treatment
- Containment
- Observation

Military /Police
- Restrict movement
- Escorts
- Monitoring
- Border Security

BAF
Biosecurity Authority of Fiji
- Plants analysis
- Verification
- Border Security

Fiji National Uni
- Research and development
- Biology Lab
- Policy advice

Responsive Mechanism

FNU
- Medical
- SOPs
- Resources
- Border monitoring
Threat Level - Biological Attack

- Although Fiji is the hub of the Pacific, the threat/risk level for an imminent is still low but there is a need to be ready and put in place necessary machinery.
- In 2014, MATAG conducted a mock exercise at the Nadi International Airport in response to Ebola. Police contingent from Liberia withdrawn.
- SOP and necessary medical procedures in place
- Isolation Rooms with restrict movement at Hospitals
- Decontamination process – proper disposal of clothing after contact with victims
- Police and Military deployment to contain areas of isolation
- In terms of Plants, BAF provides analysis and verification of virus, bacteria that might harm organic materials and plants.
Assistance and Cooperation Opportunities

• The MATAG, through the Min of Health has established rapport with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in terms of assistance in areas of medical expertise, specialized wears, resources and medicines.

• Australian assistance in terms of medical resources and experts

• Further treatment in Australia if victim’s condition deteriorates
Challenges

• Enforcement of the BTW Act – commencement and subsequent amendment required to reflect empowerment of agencies under the framework
• MATAG needs to be empowered under the Act
• Need for a Regulation to operationalize the Act
• SOPs
Way Forward

• MOU with the Fiji National University – Bio Lab in terms of Research and Development
• SOPs to be developed to respond to various risks
• Tabletop and Mock Exercise on annual basis
• National Workshop and request BWC for resource personnel
VINAKA VAKALEVU!!