

The 3rd Annual Meeting of the Biosafety Association for Central Asia and the Caucasus (BACAC) was hosted by Georgia on 27-30 September 2011 in Tbilisi with the support of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) of the U.S. Department of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada/G8 Global Partnership Program, UK Ministry of Defence, European Commission, and of the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC). More than 200 participants were in attendance, from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, USA, UK, and Canada.

The conference included training workshops on *Basic Biosafety and Biosecurity*; *Adult Education Strategies for Biosafety Training*; *Occupational Health and Safety*; and *Grant/Proposal Writing for Biosafety Research*, respectively. It also included awareness-raising sessions and roundtables on sustainability of biosafety associations, legal and regulatory issues associated with biosafety/biosecurity, and biological risk assessment/management. The BACAC speakers offered their national perspectives on the challenges and associated national and international approaches for countering biological threats, from educating and training the personnel in public health, veterinary and plant research laboratories; managing risks in epidemiological surveillance and food safety; applied biosafety research; to medical countermeasures and diagnostics development.

International perspectives addressed the implementation of the Laboratory Biorisk Management Standard CWA 15793-2008 and the legal process required for harmonization to international standards, the development of the Global Biorisk Management Curriculum library and the associated Trainers' Network, the European Union's CBRNE Centres of Excellence Initiative and biosafety/biosecurity considerations under the BWC Confidence Building Measures, WHO IHRs and UNSCR 1540.

Select presentations from Georgia (on biosafety/biosecurity and the national public health laboratory network), from Kenya on health security and on biosafety/biosecurity under the BWC CBMs, WHO IHRs and UNSCR 1540, are included here.