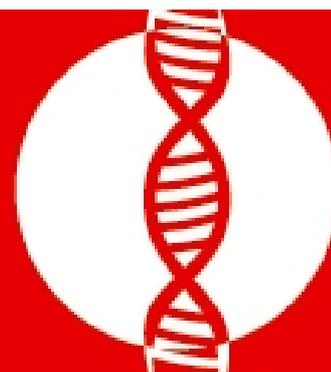


Hamburg Centre for Biological Arms Control



News and Activities 2

July 2006

Since our first Activity Report in December 2005, the Hamburg Centre has gone through one big change and prepared a second one. In February this year, Dr. Jan van Aken left as head of the Centre and handed matters over to Dr. Iris Hunger. We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Jan without whom the Hamburg Centre would not exist. The second big change is the upcoming integration of the Hamburg Centre into the newly established Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace Research at the University of Hamburg. In August this year we will therefore leave our current home, the Research Group on Medicine and Neuroscience, headed by Prof. Regine Kollek, of the Research Centre on Biotechnology, Society and the Environment (BIOGUM) at the University of Hamburg. We would like to warmly thank Prof. Kollek and BIOGUM for their support and hospitality which they have provided us with from the very beginning.

Our new contact detail will be available on our website soon, as are additional information, copies of publications and regular activity updates: www.biological-arms-control.org.

Ongoing Projects

The following research projects continue to be undertaken at the Hamburg Centre. More detailed information on these projects is available on our website www.biological-arms-control.org:

- ◆ Controlling weapons by controlling science? The role of natural scientists in bioweapon programmes of states (funded by the German Peace Research Foundation).
- ◆ Lessons learned from the UN inspections in Iraq (funded by the MacArthur Foundation).
- ◆ Export-import monitoring – Can global trade data be used for biological arms control? (funded by the MacArthur Foundation and the Joint Programme of the Compagnia di San Paolo, the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and the Volkswagen Foundation).
- ◆ Strengthening the Confidence Building Measures under the Bioweapons Convention (funded by the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Research).

New Publications

BWC 2006: Building Transparency Through Confidence Building Measures
In this article the authors examine the past performance of the confidence building measures under the Bioweapons Convention and – with a view to the upcoming Sixth Review Conference of the Bioweapons Convention - discuss different ways to make the confidence building measures system more relevant and more effective.

Isla, Hunger, Arms Control Today Vol. 36 No. 6, p. 19-22, July/August 2006.

Risks of resurrecting 1918 flu virus outweigh benefits

In this Correspondence to Nature, the recent resurrection of the deadly Spanish flu virus is discussed and an in-depth risk-benefit analysis prior to commencing such critical experiments is suggested.

van Aken, Nature Vol. 439 No. 7074, p. 266, January 2006.

The Future of Biological Arms Control – Transatlantic Dissens

In this book chapter (Die Zukunft der biologischen Rüstungskontrolle – Transatlantischer Dissens) the authors assess the bioweapons threat from state and non-state actors, describe the different policy approaches to counter this threat – a combination of nonproliferation, counterproliferation and consequence management in the USA, and “effective multilateralism” in Europe –, and identify possible elements of a bioweapons control system.

van Aken, Hunger, in: Mutz, Schoch, Hauswedell, Hippler, Ratsch (ed.), Friedensgutachten 2006, Berlin: LIT Verlag, 2006.

The Institute for Aerobiology of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and Defence Research in the 1960s

This publication (Das Institut für Aerobiologie der Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft und die Verteidigungsforschung in den 1960er Jahren) describes the foundation, organization and defence research programmes of the Institute for Aerobiology in the 1960s. The volume also deals with Dr. Ehrenfried Petras's public accusation in 1968/69 that the Federal Republic of Germany was developing biological and chemical weapons.

Kirschner, Johannsen, Augsburg: Rauner Verlag, 2006.

Transparency in Past Offensive Biological Weapon Programmes: An Analysis of Confidence Building Measure Form F 1992-2003

In this first issue of our Occasional Paper series the author presents the data declared by states on their past bioweapon programmes under the confidence building measure system of the Bioweapons Convention and compares this data with information from open sources. It is found that in many cases only a limited level of transparency is provided and that often data declared are neither complete nor accurate.

Isla, Occasional Paper No. 1, Hamburg Centre, June 2006.

When Risk Outweighs Benefit. Dual-use research needs a scientifically sound risk–benefit analysis and legally binding biosecurity measures

Taking the resurrection of the Spanish flu virus as an example, this article outlines criteria for a biosecurity risk-benefit analysis and makes the case for an internationally harmonized, legally binding and all-inclusive biosecurity review system.

van Aken, EMBO Reports Vol. 7 Special Issue, p. 10-13, 2006.

Workshops and Seminars

Lunchtime Seminar on Civil Society Support for the BWC

On 27 April 2006, the Hamburg Centre co-hosted a lunchtime seminar for state representatives and non-governmental organisations in Geneva. Daniel Feakes (Harvard Sussex Program) presented ideas on BWC universality. Angela Woodward (Verification Research, Training and Information Centre) spoke on national implementation. Nicolas Isla from the Hamburg Centre presented ideas on how to improve the confidence building measures mechanism under the BWC.

Teaching

During the first half of 2006, members of the Hamburg Centre were engaged in the following teaching activities:

- ◆ Course on “Natural Sciences and Peace Research”, in co-operation with the Hamburg Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH);
- ◆ Lecture on “Natural Science, Peace Research and International Security”, Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace Research at the University of Hamburg;
- ◆ Seminar on “Ethics for Engineers”, Technical University Hamburg-Harburg.

Staff Activities

Iris Hunger took over as head of the Hamburg Centre in February 2006. Besides managing the Centre in all its aspects, she travelled to South Africa in April and to the USA in June to conduct interviews and do work in archives for her project “Controlling weapons by controlling science?”. She spoke on non-lethal weapons at the BUKO Congress in May in Berlin and briefed Member of Parliament Rene Röspel on current issues in bioweapons development and control in June. Iris has been appointed as an Advisory Member of the Directorium of the newly established Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace Research at the University of Hamburg in July.

Nicolas Isla has been working on his project “Strengthening the Confidence Building Measures under the Bioweapons Convention”. Together with Iris Hunger he published an article on the confidence building measures under the Bioweapons Convention in *Arms Control Today*. Nicolas authored the Hamburg Centre’s first Occasional Paper which analyses the data declared by states on their past bioweapon programmes. On 27 April, he gave a presentation on how to improve the confidence building measures mechanism under the Bioweapons Convention at a lunchtime seminar during the Preparatory Committee for the 6th Review Conference of the Bioweapons Convention. Nicolas also managed the development of our new logo.

Gunnar Jeremias has been working on his project aimed at the development of a concept for a global export/import monitoring system for bioweapons relevant items. He analysed the export/import monitoring system of UNSCOM/UNMOVIC and UNEP Ozone Secretariat’s monitoring regime concerning the trade with ozone depleting substances. Gunnar also contacted a number of international organisations and private industry suppliers of biotechnology equipment to discuss the feasibility of a global trade surveillance system. Together with Nicolas Isla, he managed our website.

Jan van Aken left as head of the Hamburg Centre in February 2006 but continued to work for us on a contract basis. In April, he participated in a meeting of the Working Group on Biological Dangers of the German government’s Protection Commission (Arbeitsgruppe Biologische Gefahren bei der Schutzkommission des Bundesinnenministers). In June, he visited scientists and victims of biological warfare in different places in China with a view to gather information on Japanese biowarfare activities in occupied China before and during World War II.

The Hamburg Centre for Biological Arms Control

The aim of the Hamburg Centre for Biological Arms Control is to contribute, through innovative research and outreach activities, to the universal prevention of biological weapon development, production and use. The development of new strategies, concepts and methods for verification and ensuring compliance is the core research area of the Hamburg Centre.

Contact

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