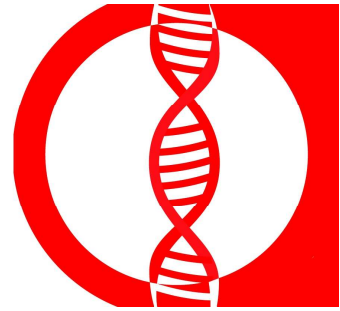


Research Group for Biological Arms Control



News and Activities 9

February 2010

During the second half of 2009 the Research Group became very active in its role of member of the Board of the BioWeapons Prevention Project (BWPP). BWPP is a global network of civil society actors dedicated to the permanent elimination of biological weapons and of the possibility of their re-emergence. BWPP's mission is to increase transparency in all areas related to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) by widely communicating relevant information about the BWC and related biological activities, encouraging expert discussion on these topics, training new diplomats with responsibility for the BWC, promoting universalization of the BWC and monitoring relevant activities within states. The Research Group was actively involved in the restructuring and reorganisation of BWPP which became necessary because of the closure of the BWPP office in Geneva in May 2009. In the future, BWPP will work in a true networked fashion which will be more cost effective and allow great flexibility in assembling groups of network members for individual projects, selected according to the project's needs and the members' capabilities. The Research Group secured financial support for a BWPP Fundraising Lunch in December 2009 and organised and carried out this event in cooperation with BWPP network partners. Additionally, since June 2009 the Research Group has taken on responsibility for BWPP's website.

October 2009 saw the Research Group's redesigned website go online. We hope that our website is now even more accessible, helpful and interesting for colleagues, experts and everyone else interested in bioweapons arms control.

Detailed information on the work of the Research Group, copies of publications and regular activity updates can be found on our new website at the old address: www.biological-arms-control.org.

Ongoing Projects

The following projects were undertaken at the Research Group during the second half of 2009. Detailed information on these projects is available on our website www.biological-arms-control.org:

- ◆ Neither safety nor security without cooperation. Control measures for biological high risk research in European Union states (funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation).
- ◆ Economic, social and legal aspects of biodefence research (funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research).
- ◆ Tracking the global movement of biological dual use items (funded by the MacArthur Foundation).
- ◆ Strengthening the Confidence Building Measure regime under the BWC (currently not funded).

New Publications

2009 Reader on publicly available CBMs

The 2009 CBM Reader provides information on states' participation in the BWC's Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in 2009, summarizes the information contained in the 14 publicly available CBMs, and provides information on recent CBM relevant developments and publications. Following the decision at the Sixth BWC Review Conference in 2006 to limit access to the CBMs to states, we publish the CBM Reader annually to highlight the importance of transparency in the area of biological dual use activities.

Research Group for Biological Arms Control. Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace Research. University of Hamburg, December 2009, <http://www.biological-arms-control.org/publications/CBMReader2009-final.pdf>.

Raising biopreparedness levels in Europe: Towards an all-hazards approach?

This contribution to SDA's Biopreparedness Report looks into the complicated relationship between public health and security. While there is a risk to public health from a lack of security, and *vice versa* a risk to security from a lack of public health, the author cautions against linking public health and bioterrorism preparedness too closely because there is evidence from the past that more money for biodefence does not automatically lead to stronger public health systems, and because of the possible negative effects of securitising non-military spheres of society such as health.

Hunger, in: SDA Biopreparedness Report "Raising biopreparedness levels in Europe", Security and Defence Agenda, Brussels, December 2009, p. 58-60, http://www.securitydefenceagenda.org/portals/7/2009/publications/SDA_Biopreparedness_Report.pdf.

Regulating the worldwide transfer and use of biological dual-use goods: Monitoring the trade of biological dual-use items

This article summarises our concept of a global trade monitoring system for bioweapons relevant equipment. Given the absence of a BWC verification instrument, it is an ongoing challenge to obtain data that are useful in judging compliance of BWC members. The approach of a trade monitoring system foresees the use of trade data as collected by customs services. Comprehensive data on volume, value and time of every trans-border trade is available as open source data in international databases. If the customs code system would identify biological dual use equipment in an appropriate manner, this data could be used to analyse global trade in biotechnology equipment under both non-proliferation and commercial aspects. Since this is not yet the case, a process to amend the customs code system accordingly has been initiated by the Research Group in cooperation with the World Customs Organisation. This process and the proposed amendments of the customs codes are also described in this article.

Jeremias, Micromaterials and Nanomaterials No. 10 (2009), Fraunhofer Institute IZM Berlin, p. 32-36.

Statement to the 2009 meeting of the States Parties to the BWC

In its 2009 statement to the meeting of BWC States Parties in Geneva, the Research Group made a plea for transparency as the guiding principle for all biological weapons control efforts. Whether it is in the form of protecting the tradition of transparency and cooperation in health research globally which is threatened by recent efforts to turn public health into a security issue; the improvement of existing transparency building measures in the field of biological arms control such as the confidence building measures under the BWC; or the use of other sources of data which could increase transparency in bioweapons relevant activities.

Research Group for Biological Arms Control. Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace Research. University of Hamburg, December 2009, <http://www.biological-arms-control.org/publications/0912MSP-Statement-Final.pdf>

Workshops and Seminars

Annual Meeting of the German Working Group on CBW Disarmament and Nonproliferation

The Research Group was co-organizer of the annual meeting of the German Working Group on CBW Disarmament and Nonproliferation, which took place on 23 November 2009 in Berlin and dealt with „Threats to the global norms prohibiting biological and chemical weapons“. After short reports from the 2009 BWC and CWC meetings in Geneva and The Hague, presentations were made and discussions centered on three topics: state and non-state activities to acquire or use chemical or biological weapons, synthetic biology as a threat to the bioweapons ban, and the potential of non-lethal weapons to undermine the chemical weapons prohibition.

Teaching

During the second half of 2009, members of the Research Group were engaged in the following teaching activities:

- ◆ Lecture “Contributions of the natural sciences to peace research”, University of Hamburg;
- ◆ Lecture “Monitoring and verification of international treaties”, University of Hamburg;
- ◆ Seminar “Ethics for Biologists”, University of Hamburg;
- ◆ Seminar “Ethics for Engineers”, Technical University Hamburg-Harburg;
- ◆ Seminar “Natural Science and Peace Research”, University of Hamburg.

Staff Activities

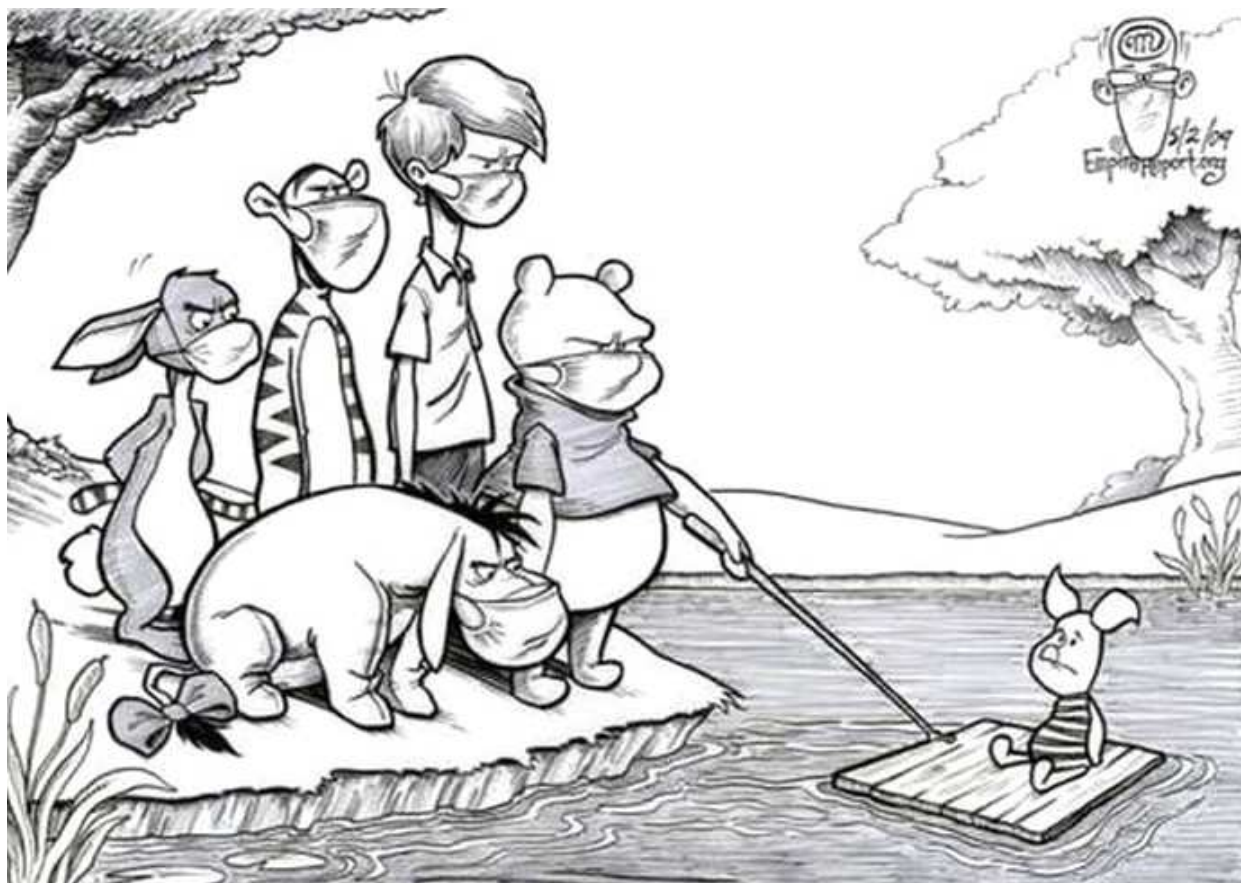
Jan Hoppe dedicated most of his time to the creation of our Research Group’s new website. He is responsible for the maintenance of our own as well as the website of the BioWeapon Prevention Project. Jan has contributed to preparatory work for a new project on raising awareness of biosecurity aspects in life science research and taken on administrative tasks of the Research Group.

Iris Hunger continued work on her project “Economic, social and legal aspects of biodefence research” besides managing the Research Group in all its aspects. In August and December, she participated in the Geneva Forum workshops on “Options and proposals to strengthen the CBM mechanism of the BWC” in Switzerland, speaking on civil society’s role in transparency and confidence building. She gave a presentation on “Economic, social and legal aspects of biodefence research“ at the German-French Summer School „Science and war“ in September in Strasbourg, and on “Biological weapons and arms control” at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in November in Berlin. Iris travelled to Geneva for the BWC Meeting of Experts in August and the BWC Meeting of States Parties in December, discussing BWPP issues with network partners and supporting Gunnar in his activities on the trade monitoring concept.

Gunnar Jeremias continued his work on the trade monitoring project, focussing on outreach activities. In August at the BWC Meeting of Experts, Gunnar presented the trade monitoring concept during the poster session and discussed it with diplomats from various BWC delegations. In October, he travelled to the U.S.. In Washington, Gunnar presented the concept and discussed it with staff of relevant US authorities, such as the U.S. International Trade Commission, the Department for Customs and Border Protection, the State Department, the Department of Commerce, and the National Security Council. At the United Nations in New York, he introduced the concept to relevant UN bodies, such as the Statistics Division, the Office of

Disarmament Affairs, and the 1540 Committee. During his trip to the U.S., Gunnar also spoke at a well attended seminar at Global Green headquarters and discussed the trade monitoring concept with a number of non-governmental experts. Back in Europe, he continued his trade monitoring advocacy activities, contacting delegations to the World Customs Organization (WCO), relevant EU bodies and individual EU member states in regard to the upcoming session of the WCO's Harmonized System Committee. In December in Geneva, Gunnar presented the trade monitoring concept at a Pugwash workshop and delivered the Research Group's statement to the BWC Meeting of States Parties.

Anna Zmorzynska delved into her new research project "Neither safety nor security without cooperation. Control measures for biological high risk research in European Union states". She also was responsible for compiling and analysing the data from the publicly available BWC confidence building measures for the 2009 CBM Reader. In October, she attended the Medical Biodefence Conference in Munich.



Picture taken from: <http://9gag.com/gag/13492/>

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