



American Biological Safety Association  
54<sup>th</sup> Annual Biological Safety Conference  
Oct 27-Nov 2, 2011

# Biosafety Professional Recognition: A Preliminary Assessment of Needs and Challenges from the International Community

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# 2011 Year of Building International Biosafety Communities

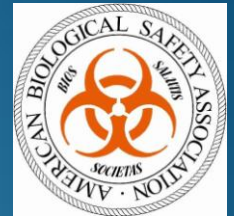
- IFBA has established a Biosafety Professional Accreditation Program/ Recognition working group
- Membership includes wide range of international members representing countries with and without biosafety associations and existing accreditation programs

# Initial IFBA Tasking

- IFBA is interested in developing an international accreditation program to recognize recipients as having sufficient knowledge and experience to qualify as a biosafety professional
  - Assemble a working group to further define the concept and feasibility of IFBA's biosafety accreditation program
  - Engage leaders of existing credentialing efforts to collaborate towards the realization of IFBA's biosafety international accreditation program

# Existing Accreditation Programs

- American Biological Safety Association (ABSA)
  - Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP)
  - Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP)
  - International Credentialing Task Force
  
- ISTR Accreditation and Registration Scheme for Biosafety Professionals
  - Biosafety Practitioner (Level 1) – launched 2009
  - Biosafety Professional (Level 2) – launched 2010



# Existing Accreditation Programs

- Japanese Biosafety Specialist Programs by Biomedical Science Association(BMSA)
  - Basic Biosafety Specialist
  - Managing Biosafety Specialist
  - Fellow of Biosafety and Biosecurity (FBB) by Japanese Biological Safety Association(JBSA)
- Other National Level Recognition Programs may exist
- Is there a need for an International Program or coordination?

# Biosafety Professional Competency Framework

- The CWA 16335 Biosafety professional competence recently been published to define the tasks and competency requirements of the biosafety professional
- Annexes contain model roles, tasks and training specifications
- Accreditation scheme is NOT provided, but may provide a framework to facilitate biosafety professional certification and education



# Considerations

- IFBA is working together with existing national accrediting organizations (ABSA, ISTR, JBSA) and CEN WS 53 participants to explore potential options for Biosafety Professionals Accreditation/Recognition Programs to minimize duplication of efforts
  - There may not be any one accreditation scheme that works for all countries
  - There is not an immediate, one-size-fits-all solution

# Considerations

- Many questions and concerns remain, such as:
  - What is the value of certification and is it the same for each country?
  - Should individuals be able to demonstrate both local and international understanding of application and implementation of regulations and guidelines?
  - Who will determine the competencies and will they be the same for each country?
  - Who will assess the competencies of participants and sustain the program?



# Outreach Questionnaire

- Outreach campaign to all IFBA members, observers and interested parties
- Solicit feedback on level of interest, status of existing efforts in accreditation/recognition, etc.

# Outreach Questionnaire

- Does international accreditation interest your organization? Why or why not?
- Would international accreditation be of value to your members and/or country? Why or why not?
- Do you currently have efforts underway in biosafety professional and/or biosafety practitioner recognition? If so please explain.

# Outreach Questionnaire

- Would your association be able to provide a preliminary assessment of how one in your country would meet the criteria that will be proposed in CWA 16335 (i.e. what types of training courses are available (local (university), regional, international), what type of experience is typical of biosafety professionals in your country)? If so, how?
- Would your association be able to establish a credentialing board (and/or utilize a local Government Board of Education) to provide a systematic, fair and consistent review of applications? If so, how?

# Outreach Questionnaire

- Is your organization familiar with the total level of effort and costs associated with professional credentialing? Can you provide an example of the costs incurred by any other organizations in your country (medical, veterinary, etc.) which have established a credentialing board? Please discuss if your organization is able to sustain those services and costs or if there are other locally available sources of support and funding.
- Would your association (and/or local Government Board of Education) be willing and able to work with IFBA to ensure that your country's credentialing process meets internationally-acceptable standards such as CWA 16335?

# Preliminary Results

- Benefits

- Fills a void when a national-level accreditation is not available
- Affiliation with international community lends credibility
- Raises awareness about the profession
- Validates competency

- Challenges

- Not fully aware of level of effort to establish accreditation
- Don't have existing government boards or associations capable of establishing or managing program

# Preliminary Results

- Countries specifically interested include Morocco, Philippines, Georgia, Sweden , India, China, Pakistan, ICLS (MENA Region), AALAS (516 International Members)
- Many countries/associations have training opportunities that could serve as the introductory level

# Cooperative Biological Engagement Program

- Global Biorisk Management Curriculum (GBRMC)
  - Building biorisk management capacity
  - Based on international best practices and sustainable training techniques
  - 50+ courses with three role-focused tracks
  - Configurable & customizable to meet local considerations
- Trainers' network
  - Quality & document control
  - Shared experiences & problem solving
  - Available upon request



# GBRMC Course Content

- Design Document
  - Course objectives, pre-requisites (for students & trainers), course outline, etc.
- Instructor's Guide
  - Detailed notes
  - Instructions and materials for interactive exercises
  - Handouts, if used
- Slide Deck
- Student Guide
  - Student workbook
  - References & resources
- Instructor and Student Evaluation materials
- References & resources
- Other materials as needed





# Next Steps

- Assign working group members as liaisons to specified countries/regions to ensure good communication and follow up
- Continue working with leaders of existing credentialing programs to examine feasibility of implementing an international credentialing scheme based on CWA 16335

# Biosafety Professionals Accreditation Working Group Member List

- Michelle McKinney, USA
- Shahida Qureshi, Pakistan
- Juliana Kinkese, Africa
- Willy Tonui, Africa
- Esmeralda Prat, Belgium
- Stefan Wagener , Canada
- Brad Goble, Canada
- Maureen Ellis, Canada
- Tsutomu Kurosawa, Japan
- Katsuaki Shinohara, Japan
- Edgar Sevilla-Reyes, Mexico
- Alberto Diaz, Mexico
- Bira Tsatsralt-Od , Mongolia
- Maqboola Dojki , Pakistan
- Ai Ee Ling, Singapore
- Heather Sheeley , UK
- Betty Kups kay, USA
- Paul Meechan, USA
- Rodrick Frazier, USA
- Jonathan Richmond, USA
- Tim Trevan, USA
- Hillary Carter , USA
- Susan Caskey, USA
- Rich Rebar , USA
- Nguyen Than, Vietnam
- Hoang Thi Thu Ha , Vietnam

# Thank you and Questions?

- Biosafety Professionals Accreditation Working Group Co-Chairs
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