Improving Biorisk Management Through Project Based Mentoring

International Twinning Program

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OUTLINE

• Background Information
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• Twinning Project
  • Objectives
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• Outcomes
• Become a Mentor
“MENTORING IS A BRAIN TO PICK, AN EAR TO LISTEN, AND A PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.”

JOHN C. CROSBY

© Lifehack Quotes
WHY TWINNING?

Eilyn Fabregas, APHIS, USDA and Anissa Choikha, Institute Pasteur Tunis
INTERNATIONAL TWINNING PROJECT

OBJECTIVES

• Establish life-long working relationships, and develop a network of professional BRMAs (BSOs) throughout the world

• Plan and execute a BRM related project to benefit twin’s institution or country

• Enhance the profession of biorisk management: Identify opportunities for improvement, collaboration and professional development

• Share best practices.
BENEFITS

WESTERN TWINS

- global perspective in biosafety
- new opportunities to expand knowledge and experience
- return to the roots of biosafety
- develop and network with all the twins
- building partnerships and future collaboration with far reaching impact

EASTERN TWINS

- develop new programs to benefit institutions and nations
- improve existing systems
- increase awareness of biosafety as a profession
- access to a professional network
- establish Biorisk management as a professional pursuit
“This has been the most rewarding experience of my biosafety career”

Melissa Morland, Biosafety Officer, UMB and Dr Mohamed Ben Moussa, Lab Director, Military Hospital of Tunis

“I’ve learned more about biosafety from being a twin than anything else ”

Dr. Betsy Matos, ISU Biosafety Officer, and Egyptian counterpart Dr. Emad Rizkalla
TYPICAL TWINNING PROJECT TIMELINE

January 2015 Kick-off meeting
Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt

January 2015 – June 2015
Project execution

July 2015 Wrap-up meeting
Amman, Jordan

MENA II & III 28 July 2015 Amman, Jordan
Why Project based?
I hear and I Forget
I see and I Remember
I do and I Understand
- Confucius
OUTCOMES

• 7 rounds of twinning have been held to date.
• 51 Eastern twins from the following countries have participated: Kenya, Uganda, Mali, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Somalia, Iraq, and Yemen.
• 22 Western twins, all members of ABSA from the US, Canada and Great Britain have served as mentors.
• 45 projects related to both biosafety and biosecurity completed
• Six posters have been presented at past ABSA conferences.
• Six additional posters will be presented today
How are twins selected?

Work with sponsors to identify priority countries and laboratories

US Department of State Biosecurity Engagement Program
What Makes a Good Twin?

- Communication
- Kindness, patience, enthusiasm
- Communication
- Organized
- Communication
- Interest in learning new things
- Expert knowledge but doesn’t know everything
- Willing to share and connect with a wide network
Conclusions – Project Based Mentoring

• Provides a vehicle for creating life-long partnerships and networks
• Increases the knowledge, skills, abilities of all involved
• Enhances the profession of biosafety/biosecurity;
• Creates tools and resources that can benefit not only institutions and countries beginning to embrace biorisk management concepts but everyone in the biosafety profession.
THANK YOU!