



**National Defense  
Medical College**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BRADFORD**  
MAKING KNOWLEDGE WORK

---

**STATEMENT BY**  
**DR MASAMICHI MINEHATA**  
**ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDICAL COLLEGE**  
**AND**  
**UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD**  
**TO**  
**THE SEVENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO**  
**THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT,**  
**PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING**  
**OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)**  
**AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

**Tuesday 6 December 2011**

Mr. President and Distinguished Representatives.

It is a great honour to be invited to make a Statement to the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) which I am doing on behalf of the National Defense Medical College in Japan and the Department of Peace Studies of the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom with the explicit endorsement of the Vice President of the National Defense Medical College and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Bradford.

Mr. President

It is now widely recognised that very few of those engaged in the life sciences have any knowledge of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention or of their responsibilities and obligations under the Convention. For that reason, at their meeting in December 2008, the States Parties agreed on the value of a series of educational and awareness-raising measures that could improve this abysmal level of awareness. More recently, in April 2011, at the Preparatory Committee meeting the JACKSNNZ group of States and Sweden have said, (BWC/CONF.VII/PS/INF.4) that *the frequent lack of awareness of aspects related to biosecurity and the obligations of the Convention among life scientists has to be addressed more urgently, strategically, and comprehensively*;

It is recommended that the States Parties in their consideration of Article IV at this Review Conference address how best to ensure that those engaged in the life sciences within all States Parties are aware of their obligations and responsibilities under the Convention. Consideration needs to be given to what actions might be taken by the States Parties nationally and collectively to ensure that all those engaged in the life sciences whether in government, industry or academia are aware of the Convention. Consideration needs to be given by the Review Conference to what further action should be taken in regard to the substantive outcome of the Meeting of States Parties in 2008.

Action is needed by both the States Parties and by civil society so as together to improve the awareness and education of those engaged in the life sciences and thereby to quickly develop best practice – that should be declared by States Parties in amended CBMs regarding their national implementation of Article IV.

There are certainly new initiatives to improve awareness and understanding underway at the present time. For example, the National Defense Medical College of Japan and the Bradford Disarmament Research Centre have:

Carried out, and assisted colleagues in other countries, in surveying the present biosecurity/dual-use university-level education of life scientists in Europe, Japan, Israel, and the Asia-Pacific region, and most recently Ukraine;

Produced an open-source Education Module Resource which is now available on the internet in English, French, Georgian, Japanese, Spanish, Polish, Romanian-Moldovan, Russian and Urdu;

Developed and implemented a Train-the-Trainer programme with US State Department funding in order to support the Education Module Resource;

Conducted courses in biosecurity/dual-use education for undergraduate and graduate-course students at the NDMC of Japan, and performed outreach activities with Keio and Waseda universities in Japan;

Begun to develop, partly with UK Global Partnership Programme funding, a series of country-specific courses using the Education Module Resource in six countries in South America, the Middle East and Asia.

A number of other such initiatives are being undertaken by other groups and we urge that the States Parties agree that such efforts shall be reported annually and made available to the annual Meetings of States Parties.

We believe that there is much that civil society and the life science community can do to help raise the level of awareness and education of all those engaged in the life sciences, and thereby to strengthen the implementation of the Convention through the establishment of a culture of responsibility in all those engaged in the life sciences, whether in government, industry or academia. We urge that States Parties address this issue during the Review Conference and show leadership in taking effective action to ensure that the implementation of Article IV is urgently advanced amongst all those engaged in the life sciences.

Thank you Mr. President and Distinguished Representatives.