Kaleidoscope

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

In an effort to curb the proliferation and production of biological and chemical weapon and raising awareness on related issues the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is the leading institute. SIPRI has its headquarters at Solna, Sweden. It was founded in 1966 to commemorate 150 years of unbroken peace in Sweden.[1]

The Chemical and Biological Security Project is one of the major projects at SIPRI. The thrust of the project is "developments regarding chemical and biological weapons, including efforts to establish effective and equitable disarmament regimes, allegations of their use, and measures to stem their proliferation and prevent their use by terrorist and criminal organizations".[2] This project is also one of the longest running projects of the institute. This project has a dedicated team of researchers and probes issues related to disease surveillance and response with a focus on Asia, the security implications of dual-use research and technologies in the life sciences etc. SIPRI findings and insights are useful for policy makers, students and researchers.

The research findings are published in SIPRI Yearbook chapters on CBW, SIPRI CBW Studies ("Scorpion" books), fact sheets etc. The early years of the CBW Project saw the publication of the six-volume series, The Problem of Chemical and Biological Warfare by Julian Perry Robinson and Milton Leitenberg. This volume is regarded as the standard reference work on the subject of chemical and biological weapons. "This book presents a description of the main lines of development in the technology underlying CBW and in the constraints affecting the use of CB weapons. The period covered is approximately 1914–1945, although more recent developments in CW technology are also described. In addition, the volume includes an account of all instances known to SIPRI when CB weapons have been used in war, or when their use has been alleged; in this case the time-span is 1914–1970".[3]

The SIPRI-Saskatchewan-Frankfurt Research Group produced a number of papers and factsheets on certain aspects of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention between 1993 and 1996.[4]

Recently, in collaboration with Bradford University, SIPRI is running a Joint Bradford - SIPRI: Chemical and Biological Warfare Project. This project is hosted by the university of Bradford, Department of Peace Studies in the School of Social and International Studies. The project aims to provide a better means to disseminate information on the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and related chemical and biological warfare issues.[5] In addition, the project aims through pooling of their Internet resources in providing a better dissemination of information on the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and allied chemical and biological warfare issues. On-line resources involve use of the Bradford and SIPRI databases concerning bioweapons and chemical weapons proliferation, containment and disarmament".[6]

With its commitment to 'the understanding of the preconditions for a stable peace and for peaceful solutions of international conflicts' SIPRI has contributed significantly in spreading awareness regarding the issues of biological and chemical weapons. The previous writings and recent research at SIPRI explore the intricacies of chemical and biological weapon issues and generate momentum for both State and non-state actors n their efforts to curb the production, proliferation and use of biological and chemical weapons.

Endnotes:

1 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SIPRI

2 http://www.sipri.org/contents/webmaster/research

3 http://books.sipri.org/product_info?c_product_id=254#

4 http://www.sipri.org/contents/expcon/cbwarfare/cbw_research_doc/compl_projects/SSF-cwc/ssf-cwc-papers.html view?searchterm=history%20cbw%20project

5 http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/sbtwc/home.htm

6 http://www.scielo.cl/fbpe/img/ejb/v2n3/2/table3.html