

Editorial

Executive Editor

Rajiv Nayan

Consulting Editor

Ajey Lele

Associate Editor

Vivek Kaushik

Even though the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) are not currently facing severe crises, challenging developments continue to trouble the international community. On one hand, the West and Russia accuse each other of violating the principles of both conventions, while on the other, concerns persist about China and its bio-labs.

The international community remains unsatisfied with the responses from the Chinese government and parts of the scientific community. A think tank focused on biological weapons highlighted ongoing activities in labs associated with the Chinese People's Liberation Army in its report, which was based on open-source information.

Non-state actors and new scientific advancements are also causing concern globally. The potential use of Artificial Intelligence for bioterrorism has sparked a worldwide debate. The scientific and security communities are divided on this issue, but the role of AI in creating deepfakes and sowing confusion and panic, especially in democratic societies, has garnered significant interest in the literature.

In their paper, Kathryn Millett, Malcolm Dando, and Lijun Shang examine the framework, methodology, and insights from the International Nuclear Security Education Network and the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. They propose a similar framework for creating an International Biological Security Education Network that could be adopted for biosecurity education by civil society and incorporated into the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

Vivek Verma, S. Kulshreshtha, and W. Selvamurthy emphasize that synthetic biology is revolutionizing the redesign of organisms using computing power. Emerging trends in bio-design and generative design are set to transform health, agriculture, and energy sectors, introducing innovative ideas that may have unintended consequences and increase asymmetric threats. They also stress that India needs to protect its national security by implementing a comprehensive biosecurity policy.

Kathryn Millett, Malcolm Dando, and Lijun Shang, in another paper, reiterate the need for sustained education and awareness-raising about dual-use research issues. They discuss previous efforts in educating scientists and summarize further strategies for progress. Abhishek Yadav reports that the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) led by the Organization for the

Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has determined, after a thorough investigation of munitions remnants, samples, testimonies, and documentation, that there are reasonable grounds to conclude that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) used sulphur mustard, a banned chemical warfare agent, in attacks on Marea, Syria on September 1, 2015, using modified artillery projectiles.

This issue of the CBW Magazine also comprises other features like ChemicalBiological News. With our readers' feedback, we wish to publish issues in the future that focuses on a subject of particular concern. Kindly address contributions and feedback to: cbwmagazineeditor@gmail.com.