

DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

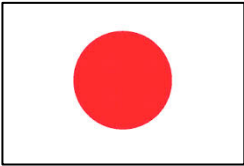
**Remarks delivered by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro**  
**Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament**  
**Ninth Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference**  
**Side event “Efforts to Strengthen the Implementation of the Biological**  
**Weapons Convention in Southeast Asia”**  
**8 December 2022**

Excellencies, distinguished guests, and ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to participate in this side event, co-organized by Japan, the Lao PDR, and the Philippines. I would like to thank President Bencini for his participation.

I am encouraged to hear from my previous speakers about the recent brilliant progress made by ASEAN countries in the areas of response capacities to CBRN incidents and CBM submissions, including the reinvigorated CBM submission process in the Lao PDR and the provision of technical support related to CBMs through intra-regional cooperation.

It has been a great pleasure for Japan to accompany the ASEAN member states in their efforts in this crucial field. In 2017, Japan contributed approximately 900,000USD to the ISU and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs to strengthen the capacity of BWC National Contact Points (NCPs), build capacities to prepare for and respond to the deliberate use of biological weapons, and improve the preparedness of the UN to investigate allegations of the use of chemical,



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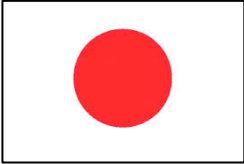
biological and toxin weapons. Since 2018, a series of workshops and seminars have been implemented as a capacity-building initiative to support the BWC Southeast Asian States Parties in their efforts to enhance the national implementation of the BWC; the concluding workshops were held in Geneva in March 2022.

These workshops helped participants to develop a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of National Contact Points and to facilitate the process of preparing BWC CBMs. It also successfully provided a forum for exchanging technical and policy related views and created a positive learning environment to enhance the implementation of NCPs' duties, with wide ranging participation from representatives of ASEAN countries, international academic institutions, international organizations, and NGOs.

I would like to share with you the following main takeaways from the workshops. First, the workshop attendees acknowledged the importance of BWC national implementation legislation and agreed that a generic model for draft legislation could assist States Parties to develop their legislation.

Second, the discussions on CBMs highlighted that, considering the challenges faced by States Parties in submitting their first CBM, it was suggested that a progressive "step-by-step" approach may be helpful, that is to submit each CMB Form separately and gradually. Even submission of partial CBM reports would help to build confidence among BWC States Parties.

Finally, the participants also highlighted the potential risks posed by recent



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advances in life sciences and relevant technology, particularly through their potential misuse by individuals or non-State actors. The need for adequate penalties to deter such misuse in the national implementation legislation was also stressed in the workshop discussions.

The organisers of these workshops produced a brochure summarizing the results of the workshops and seminars, and on our part, Japan submitted two Working Papers about this initiative to the Review Conference (BWC/CONF.IX/WP.1 and BWC/CONF.IX/WP.18). Copies of both the brochure and the Working Papers are available near the entrance of this room. Please feel free to take them for your further information.

Japan hopes that the activities of the project have contributed to enhancing understanding of the role and responsibilities of NCPs and the importance of the preparation and submission processes for CBMs. We further hope that these workshops will be used as a model for other regions. Japan will continue to spare no efforts to cooperate with the ASEAN countries to strengthen their implementation of the BWC.

Thank you for your attention.