

- Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. I would like to say that it is a great pleasure to see so many here today, where we are talking about the practical implementation of the cooperation mentioned in the BTWC. I hope to see even more of that in the future.
- One of my esteemed colleagues, Robert Pedersen, has contributed to the Biosecurity Textbook of the Bradford project, specifically chapter 11 on the Danish Biosecurity system. Unfortunately Robert couldn't be here today, so I am speaking on behalf of the Danish Centre for Biosecurity and Biopreparedness, or the CBB.
- At the same time as work progressed on the Bradford Biosecurity Textbook, the Danish Centre for Biosecurity and Biopreparedness has written a book about the entire process of biosecurity building from first thoughts to a complete system including legislation and experiences with soft measures. The book is called "An efficient and practical approach to biosecurity".
- Everything in the book is actual hands on experience from the decade long work to create a fully functioning biosecurity system in Denmark. The book covers the initial gap analysis to determine what measures are needed, then goes on to shed light on the lawmaking process, the creation of an agency and the implementation of biosecurity itself.
- The book is meant for authorities with little or no experience and can be used as a step-by-step guide to the creation of a biosecurity regime. More experienced authorities can benefit from our experiences and look at the do's and don'ts of the process. Even though no two countries are the same, I believe the Danish experiences can be used anywhere, since we have created a lean and efficient system, that doesn't take up to many resources.
- As a consequence of our international obligations based on the BTWC and resolution 1540, Denmark has created a law and an executive order regarding biosecurity. This requires firms, universities, clinical diagnostic departments and others, who handle specific agents, related material and intangible technology to apply for a license from CBB before commencing work.
- Even though the biosecurity system in Denmark is based on hard law, most of the work done in the area has to do with the promotion of certain norms and non-legal rules. Specifically we try to promote a good

biosecurity culture in the institutions and companies who deal with dangerous agents, related materials and dual-use technology.

- As it is stated in the book “At its heart, biosecurity culture is a workplace ethic that combines an understanding of why a biosecurity system is necessary with a willingness to make that system work.” Just as a society as a whole is guided by norms and ethics more than laws and police, so the biological field needs to strike a fine balance between free research and security concerns.
- An important part of the Danish approach is the appointment of biosecurity officers at the different institutions and companies. The biosecurity officer is an employee, who is trained on a course at CBB and who handles all liaison with the CBB regarding agents, materials and so on. The biosecurity officer is above all an ambassador for good biosecurity practice.
- The biosecurity officer has the responsibility to ensure that his or her company or institution fulfills its obligations concerning biosecurity, e.g. inventory control. However, the biosecurity officer also has a job promoting biosecurity culture. Or in other words the biosecurity officer is responsible for shaping the biosecurity culture of the institution.
- A great weight is placed on responsible science and education in the Danish system. It is quite simply impossible to control every detail of every company handling agents etc. Just as society as a whole cannot control every move by every single citizen, the biosecurity system has to rely on a high degree of self-control in the biological sector.
- The focus on responsible science and education goes beyond the specific companies and organizations, which handle dangerous agents, however. Outreach efforts in order to increase the understanding for biosecurity are frequently undertaken.
- For example CBB offers courses on "responsible science" for graduate students in life sciences at Danish universities. The objective is to discuss the scientific responsibility to prevent misuse of research results and methods in life sciences. The course includes a historical review of biological attacks and examples of dual use agents. The emphasis of the course is on precautions with regard to biosecurity, including strategies for raising biosecurity awareness among colleagues.

- CBB also has courses in biological preparedness, which are normally offered as either an integrated part of a larger training course or individually depending on the target group. The target groups are primarily health professionals, decision makers, police and emergency services.
- Furthermore, CBB arranges practical training in incident response in an area where the presence of a dangerous biological agent is suspected, whether it is an intentional release of biological warfare agents or caused by an accident.
- Denmark is also strongly committed to international outreach. We have a strong cooperation with Kenya and are deeply involved in the Global Health Security Agenda. Denmark is also a part of the European Biosecurity Regulators Forum or EBRF and in general we strive to implement Article X of the BTWC
- All in all, the Danish biosecurity model stands on two legs: One consists of physical measures such as security installations and access control. The other is the promotion of a healthy biosecurity culture, an ethical code which keeps scientists vigilant in their daily work.
- Thank you very much for your time. I have a few copies of the book with me. They are free of charge of course and when I run out, it will be possible to order one at cbb@ssi.dk.