



15th World Congress on Public Health

3-7 April 2017 Melbourne Australia www.wcph2017.com

Global security, sustainability and public health: Chemical, biological and nuclear threats and responses

Thursday 6 April 2017, 1600 - 1800, Plenary Hall 2

Lead Paul Walker, Green Cross International

Speakers Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Dr Robert Matthews, Australian Government

Dr Lassina Zerbo, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization

The recent use of chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals in the Syrian civil war, with thousands of innocent civilians killed and injured, has once again illustrated the threat of inhumane, indiscriminate, and banned weapons of mass destruction to humankind, the environment, and public health. And numerous industrial accidents and occasional catastrophes such as the nuclear reactor meltdown at Fukushima, Japan in 2011 underline the extreme importance of safety and security for high-risk commercial sites, facilities, and transportation.

This panel includes well-known experts from the global non-proliferation and threat reduction world, including the deputy head of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the director of threat reduction and Global Partnership activities for the US State Department, and the head of safety and security for the nuclear safeguard organization in Vienna. It will be chaired by the head of security and sustainability at Green Cross International who was awarded the prestigious Right Livelihood Award, otherwise known as the "Alternative Nobel Prize," in Stockholm, Sweden in 2013.

These experts will discuss current threat assessments, covering nuclear, radioactive, chemical, biological, and related toxic materials and also address the many responses in progress, including the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC), the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the IAEA Safeguards Agreement and related physical security and counter-terrorism efforts, and ongoing national and multilateral suggestions for minimum standards for safety and security. The need for facility risk assessments, peer reviews, and on-site inspections will be addressed as well.





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Dr. Paul Walker of Green Cross International will provide an overview of the close relationship between international security, environmental protection, public health, and sustainability, links often overlooked in traditional academic analyses.

Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao will address the importance of the Chemical Weapons Convention to building a world free of chemical weapons as well as ensuring that prohibited chemical weapons never re-emerge. Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins will focus on global biosecurity, especially current efforts in Africa, and relationships with the World Health Organization, disease surveillance, and public health. Dr. Raja Adnan from the IAEA in Vienna will address the need for global minimum standards for physical security, operational practices, and personnel responsibility regarding civilian and military nuclear sectors, fissile material, and radioactive sources. He will also discuss the recent IAEA conference on nuclear security and the four Nuclear Security Summits.

