



NIGERIAN BIOLOGICAL SAFETY ASSOCIATION

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Introducing the Nigerian Biological Safety Association (NiBSA)

The Nigerian Biological Safety Association (NiBSA) was established in 2010 with the inaugural meeting held on November 24, 2010. It is a multidisciplinary, non-governmental, and not-for-profit organization that is registered with the Nigerian Corporate affairs commission with CAC/IT/NO 153131 with the main purpose of congregating practitioners of biological safety for the promotion of biosafety and biosecurity practices, facilitation and sharing of biosafety and biosecurity information in Nigeria and is committed to providing forums for training, issue-based debates, and discussions on concerns related to biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management. A veritable way of achieving this mandate is to create forums for the cross-fertilization of ideas, sharing knowledge, and enhancing skills on this subject matter in form of conferences, trainings, advocacy, public awareness campaigns etc. The foregoing has significant implications for human, veterinary, and environmental health, considering the high need to monitor disease threats, epidemics, and the misuse of biological agents, as well as the safe use of products of modern biotechnology.

The specific objectives of NiBSA are:

- (a). To advance biosafety and biosecurity as a scientific discipline through education and research in Nigeria.
- (b). To enhance collaboration and networking in areas of biosafety and biosecurity, including risk assessment on implementation of these principles among laboratories and similar facilities in Nigeria.
- (c). To identify the training needs of Nigerian Institutions with the purpose of ensuring their proper qualifications for enforcing biosafety and biosecurity principles.
- (d). To design and implement training programs that increase knowledge and skills towards biosafety and biosecurity in Nigeria in-line with the NiBSA Bye-law
- (e). To utilize knowledge and skills in biosafety and biosecurity towards designing and implementing surveillance and molecular diagnostic systems and laboratory practices that strengthens infectious disease detection and responses in Nigeria.
- (f). To seek International collaboration towards reducing the risk of biological threats by developing biosafety and biosecurity standards that are consistent with national and international guidelines, norms and requirements.
- (g)To provide members sustained opportunities for biosafety and biosecurity communication, education and participation in the development of standards, guidelines and regulations for these disciplines in Nigeria.
- (h). To expand biosafety and biosecurity awareness and promoting the development of work practices, equipment and facilities to reduce the potential for occupational illness and adverse environmental impact from infectious agents or biologically-derived materials.

- (i). To promote biosafety and biosecurity as scientific disciplines in national and regional development.
- (j). To create awareness on the need to strengthen training and standard practices of biosafety and biosecurity in the workplace
- (k). To explore partner network in resolving emerging challenges arising from biological and related threats.
- (l). To promote the understanding and regulation of products of modern biotechnology for protection and promotion of human, animal and environmental health in line with ONE HEALTH.

Strategic Approaches

- Recognizing government as partners rather than competitors
- Developing Biosafety Association's Board capacities for providing quality Technical Support to the Government
- Strengthening capacity of members to lead Biorisk Management programs and systems across all professions and disciplines
- Support Country Programs to develop and manage Biosafety and Biosecurity Strategic Plans
- Collaborate with regional and International bodies for capacity development
- Strengthen cohort of Train the Trainers (TtT) for Country Association

Membership

It is a national association, with membership drawn from all states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). We have over 800 registered members from all occupations to include Public health practitioners, Academia, Biotechnology, Medical Laboratory Scientists, Pharmaceutical industries, Regulatory affairs, Security services, Environmentalists, Engineers, Legal practitioners, Administrators, Researchers, Veterinary, Media, Students and any other discipline in biological sciences.

Affiliations and Collaborations: Presently, NiBSA is affiliated to

1. African Biological Safety Association (AfBSA)
2. West African Biosafety Network of WAHO (WABNet)
3. International Federation for Biosafety Associations (IFBA)

Local Collaboration

1. Federal Ministry of Health
2. National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA)

3. National Biotechnology Development Agency
4. Nigerian National Chemical & Biological Weapons Convention
5. Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)
6. Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)
7. PELTOM Global Ltd
8. National Veterinary Research Institute Vom, Plateau State (NVRI)
9. Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN)

External Collaborators

1. Global Affairs Canada
2. Sandia National Laboratory (USA)
3. U.S Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF Global)
4. Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)
5. Health Security Partners (HSP)

Significant Milestone Achievements: For the past 14years, NIBSA has attained great feat. Kindly find a few shared below.

- ☐ In February 2011, attained an observer status at the First Congress of IFBA in Bangkok, Thailand with representation made by Tubi Abiola
- ☐ Participated in the various conferences of AfBSA since March 2011 up to 2015 in South Africa, Ghana, Morocco etc,
- ☐ Hosted at various times, the leadership of IFBA led by the Executive Director, Maureen Ellis
- ☐ Hosted a curriculum development workshop with technical and funding support from Sandia National Laboratories in five universities in Nigeria - Lagos State University, Lagos State, Rivers State University of Science & Technology, Rivers State, University of Benin, Edo State, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Osun State and Bayero University Kano, Kano State.
- ☐ Piloted the integration of BRM into life sciences, agriculture, and biomedical sciences departments at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- ☐ Has the highest number of certified IFBA professionals in Africa with Certifications in BRM(100)Biosecurity(5)Waste Management(10)BSC Certification(1),Risk Assessment(3) and Biocontainment Design, operation and maintenance(1).

- ☐ The Association has also Certified Professionals with the African CDC as Regional Subject Matter Experts, levels 1 and Biosafety/Biosecurity Examination Certification Committee member representation (1)
- ☐ Conducted various trainer development programs since 2013 that produced Trainers of Trainers in Biosafety, Biosecurity, Biorisk management and shipping of infectious biological samples (WHO/IATA).
- ☐ For the past seven years (7Yrs), NiBSA has continued to host its annual conference, which also featured the successful conduct of IFBA Certifications. So far, we have over 120 IFBA Certified Professionals.

Support and Collaboration Required

In order to achieve the set objectives, NiBSA is seeking to collaborate with you to scale up the capacity building efforts in Biosafety and Biosecurity as well as bring low the scourge of emerging and re-emerging disease pathogens in Nigeria and other West African member States.

We strongly request your support and collaboration in the implementation of activities in line with our strategic plan and 2025 workplan as attached.



Signed

Stella N.Udo(PhD)

President(NiBSA)