

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SECURITY POLICY

The AAAS Center for Science, Technology, and Security Policy (CSTSP) fosters broad dialogue, conducts studies, and carries out projects on the scientific dimensions of a wide range of complex security issues requiring exceptional technical expertise. By organizing briefings for policymakers and developing programs to inform the public on such issues, CSTSP seeks to present well-grounded approaches to many global challenges—from resource security to the threat of biological attacks and nuclear dangers.

From the podium, Michael Moodie of the Congressional Research Service described the “historic and potentially precedent-setting” events in Syria in 2013. He was joined at AAAS by (l-r): Christopher Bidwell, Federation of American Scientists; Paul Walker, Green Cross International; and Chen Kane, Monterey Institute Center for Nonproliferation Studies.

SYRIA: CHEMICALS, CONFLICT, AND CHALLENGES

The Center hosted three chemical weapons experts in 2013 to discuss Syria’s accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the challenges involved in destroying Syria’s chemical weapons, and the geopolitical ramifications of the progress made on this issue. Jointly sponsored with the Federation of American Scientists, the purpose of this event was to promote a high-level exchange of information on a pressing

security matter among leading chemical weapons specialists. It was one of ten such public programs organized by CSTSP in 2013 on a wide range of crucial security issues, including those related to energy, space, water, transformative technologies, and nuclear security. The Center also organized twelve additional non-public events designed to facilitate dialogue between government and nongovernment experts on a broad set of biological security issues.



CARLA SCHAFFER/AAAS: OPPOSITE PAGE: COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND



GIVING PEACE A CHANCE

At a public event hosted by CSTSP, mass violence prevention expert David Hamburg called on scientists and educators to combat the threats of genocide, terrorism, and other mass violence. A former president of AAAS and presently a visiting scholar with CSTSP, Hamburg discussed his recent book, titled *Give Peace a Chance: Preventing Mass Violence*. He shared the platform with former Senator Richard Lugar (R-Indiana), famous for his strong stand on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and for the highly successful Nunn-Lugar program that bears his name.

Hamburg recommended that young people be educated away from prejudice, which can drive mass violence, and be taught the value of cooperation and the costs of deadly conflicts. “Scientists and educators, through their most dynamic organizations, can use their deep knowledge and strong influence to enhance research and education on pro-social child and youth development, on ways to minimize the growth of prejudice and ethnocentrism, and on acquiring skills of early conflict resolution.”

He also encouraged scientists to cooperate on shared goals as a means of easing tensions between different regions. In a wide-ranging discussion, Hamburg advocated for improving strategies to spot the early warning signs of conflict; supporting “indigenous democracy,” equitable socioeconomic development and

human rights; and putting “restraints on highly lethal weapons.”

Hamburg mentioned that providing humanitarian assistance to countries in trouble can be a means of preventing mass violence. Although Lugar pointed out that such measures often provoke strong debate on Capitol Hill, he referred to a 1991 agreement in which a Russian delegation was given support for a peaceful transition of power amid the breakup of the former Soviet Union, on the condition that thousands of nuclear warheads aimed at the United States be destroyed.

PRESIDENT OF POLAND HONORS AAAS SCIENCE DIPLOMAT

As the first science attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw in 1967, Norman Neureiter brought many U.S. and Polish scientists together on cooperative research projects. He encouraged collaboration in agriculture, medicine, health care, environmental protection, and clean coal. Even after leaving Poland, Neureiter, who is the director of CSTSP and a senior advisor to the AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy, continued his support of U.S.-Polish science cooperation.

In recognition of his accomplishments, Neureiter in 2013 received the Officers Cross of the Order of Polish Merit, one of the highest Polish State decorations. Accepting the award during a ceremony at the historic Belvedere Presidential Palace in

Above left, David Hamburg, AAAS visiting scholar, and former Senator Richard Lugar teamed up for a CSTSP event that focused on Hamburg’s book, *Give Peace a Chance: Preventing Mass Violence*. Hamburg also spoke about the book in a session organized at the United Nations and attended by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Above right, Norman Neureiter of AAAS receives one of the highest Polish State decorations from the president of the Republic of Poland, Bronisław Komorowski.

Warsaw, Neureiter emphasized the value of strengthening ties between nations through science—even when official relationships are problematic.

“I think your security people thought I was a spy determined to discover your scientific secrets,” Neureiter said at the ceremony. “But, in truth, my mission was just the opposite. It was to build friendly, cooperative relationships with the Polish science community, and to foster cooperative projects wherever funding possibilities and joint scientific interests existed.”

Also in 2013, Neureiter helped to launch a new awards program that will recognize scientists who have advanced science through U.S.-Polish cooperation. The program is administered by AAAS and the Foundation for Polish Science (see page 12).

GLOBAL WATER AT A CROSSROADS

The lack of a reliable water supply can cause profound problems at the local, regional, national, or even global level. Besides the immediate and most evident problems

of drinking-water shortages and lack of sanitation, water insufficiency can result in breakdowns in food production, financial shocks, migration, and political instability.

In honor of World Water Day, research and policy experts specializing in global water issues convened at a public forum co-sponsored by CSTSP, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the National Academy of Sciences, and the Austrian Embassy’s Office of Science and Technology. The more than 100 participants at the event also represented the U.S. State Department, the World Bank, the U.S. Water Partnership and the Commonwealth Science and Industry Research Organization of Australia, among other organizations.

Featured speaker Pavel Kabat, director of IIASA in Vienna, spoke about the acute need for robust science input in the policymaking around complex water issues.

CSTSP publications in 2013 addressed topics ranging from the security of biological research, to nuclear medicine. See: aaas.org/page/science-and-security-publications.

