

MEMOS ON INTERNATIONAL
BIORISK MANAGEMENT NETWORKS

International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA)

Purpose

IFBA seeks to strengthen biosafety around the world by creating an international advisory board on biosafety, establishing regular and formal communication of biosafety standards, fostering a network of biosafety associations, and supporting biosafety-related research and education.

Members have the opportunity to network with other regional and national biosafety associations; join other associations in regional and international forums in advocating for stronger biosafety standards; participate in IFBA online platforms to share best practices and lessons learned; and participate in IFBA meetings and decision-making through voting.

Formation

IFBA was formed in 2001, with 30 initial participants from 11 countries.



Structure

IFBA is a non-governmental organization made up of national and regional biosafety associations. IFBA has a formal governance body, sponsors and donors, member associations, and observer organisations.

The **Certification Body** forms a key component of the IFBA governance structure, and acts as the primary administrative unit charged with managing IFBA's certification programs. The Certification Board includes representatives from different regions of the world and is independent from IFBA's formal governing structure.



Membership

Member Associations

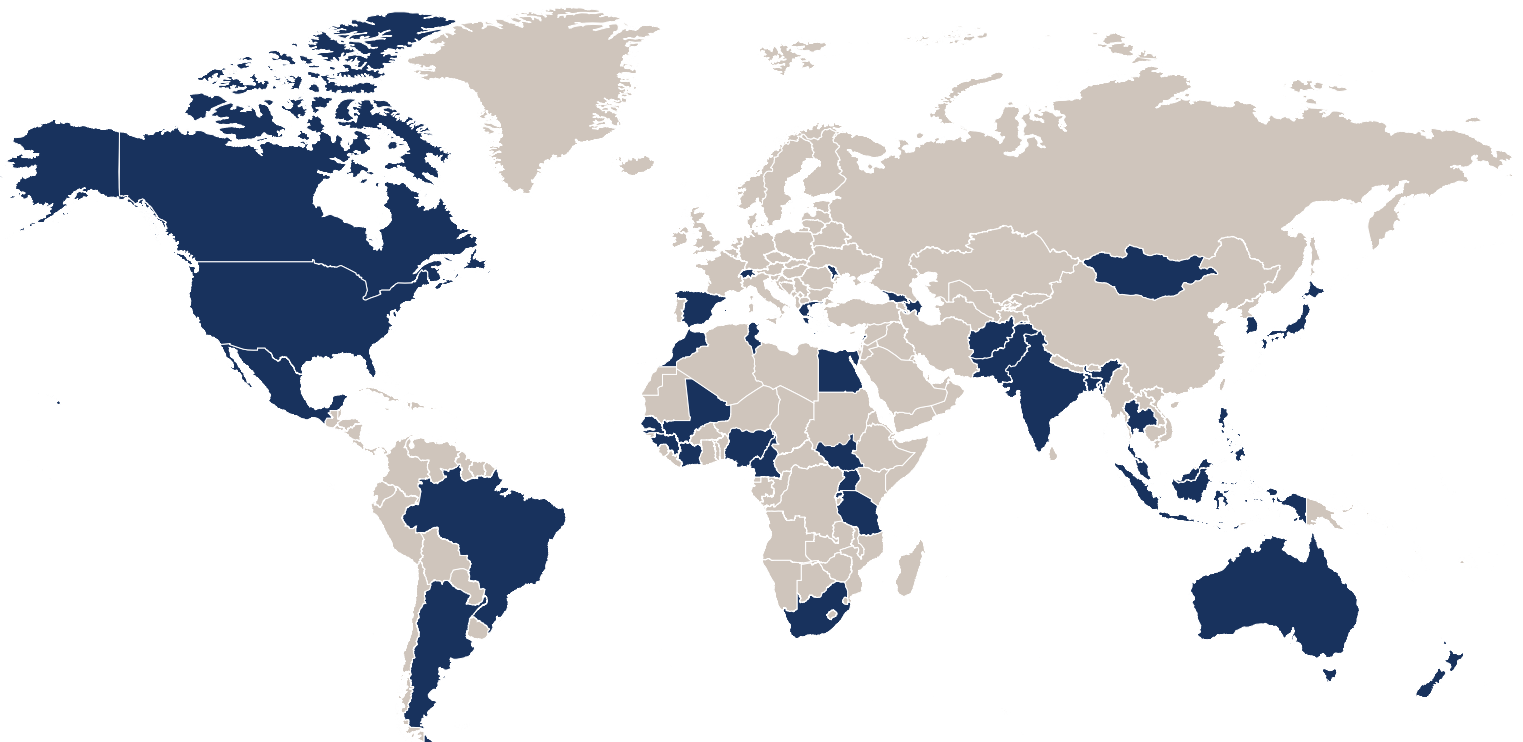
The countries represented in IFBA by member associations are:

Afghanistan
Argentina
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Brazil
Cameroon
Canada
Cote D'Ivoire
Egypt

Georgia
Greece
Guinea
India
Indonesia
Japan
Lebanon
Malaysia
Mali
Mexico

Moldova
Mongolia
Morocco
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pakistan
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Rwanda
Senegal

Singapore
South Africa
South Sudan
Spain
Switzerland
Tanzania
Thailand
Tunisia
Uganda
United States



Key Activities

Certifications

One of the key activities IFBA engages in is professional certification of individuals, verifying their biosafety knowledge, skills, and abilities in several biosafety disciplines. Each certification and exam conforms to ISO/IEC 17024:2012, a standard for measuring individual professional competency. The professional certifications offered include:

- ♦ Biorisk Management
- ♦ Biosecurity
- ♦ Biological Waste Management
- ♦ Biosafety Cabinet Selection, Installation, and Safe Use
- ♦ Biocontainment Facility Design, Operations, and Maintenance
- ♦ Biological Risk Assessment

Mentorship

Another major activity is the IFBA Global Mentorship Program. The motivating rationale for the program is to connect individuals on a regional basis, allowing for regionally- and locally-relevant exchanges of best practices and lessons learned. Mentors and mentees are further matched based on professional certification subject areas.

Biosafety Heroes Awards

IFBA also runs the Biosafety Heroes awards program. The program awards individuals who have expanded and brought attention to biosafety and biosecurity in their country, often where there are limited resources and government capacity for doing so. Nominations for the awards can be made by anyone, with preference given to individuals with unique skillsets and accomplishments and who operate in environments with limited funding where biosafety is not a priority.

Key Resources

IFBA website

internationalbiosafety.org ▶

IFBA certification programs

internationalbiosafety.org/certification/certification ▶

Biosafety Heroes Award

internationalbiosafety.org/program-activities/biosafety-heroes ▶

Global Mentorship Program

internationalbiosafety.org/program-activities/mentoring/ifba-global-mentorship-program ▶

