

In 2004, Canada supported a number of seminars and workshops that brought together scientists and other experts from Canada and the FSU countries to discuss respective and shared priorities, exchange ideas and examine possibilities for collaboration in the biological sector:

- The Canadian Biological Sciences Colloquium, held in Moscow from September 15 to 17, enabled 17 officials and scientists from Canada to discuss this country's biotechnology and life sciences research priorities with former BW scientists from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia and Tajikistan. At the colloquium, representatives from the Canadian government, academia and the private sector met with nearly 120 scientists from priority biological institutes in the region, with a view to developing collaborative projects.<sup>7</sup>
- The Biosafety, Biosecurity and Non-proliferation Workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from September 20 to 21. This training workshop, co-organized by the Monterey Institute of International Studies and Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, was attended by 70 scientists and government officials from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. It also included officials from DFAIT, Health Canada, the World Health Organization and the Monterey Institute.

- A second workshop was organized in Almaty by the Kazakh Scientific Center for Quarantine and Zoonotic Diseases from September 22 to 24. The International Workshop on Plague Surveillance brought together for the first time since the dissolution of the Soviet Union all the institutes that were part of the anti-plague system in the FSU.

Representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan attended, as well as officials from DFAIT, the National Microbiology Laboratory (Winnipeg) and the World Health Organization. This meeting represented a first step toward re-establishing contacts between the various anti-plague institutes and coordinating disease surveillance across the region.

- Health Canada's Workshop on Biosafety in High Containment Laboratories, held in Winnipeg from October 11 to 15, involved 13 scientists from the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia and Tajikistan who work directly with highly pathogenic organisms and biosafety issues. The workshop enabled Canadian and FSU experts to learn about best practices in biosafety, exchange views on a wide range of biocontainment issues, and pursue discussions on current and potential collaboration through the ISTC.



Participants at the "International Cooperation on Plague Surveillance" conference held September 22 - 24, 2004 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The conference was funded by Canada through the International Science and Technology Center

<sup>7</sup> A broad range of biotechnology and life sciences subjects were discussed during the colloquium under four areas: health care; ecological, water and food safety; agriculture and veterinary; and biosafety and biosecurity.