



S/2049/2022
26 April 2022
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
GLOBAL ANALYTICAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Purpose of the course

1. The OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform Member States that it will hold a global analytical skills development course (ASDC) at the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) in Hyderabad, India, from 5 to 16 September 2022. The course aims to assist qualified analytical chemists from any Member States of the OPCW with economies that are developing or in transition in acquiring and enhancing experience and practical knowledge in the analysis of chemicals related to national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”).
2. Additional aims of the course are to build awareness vis-à-vis the applications of analytical chemistry, to enhance national capacities in analytical chemistry for personnel from industry, academic institutions, and government laboratories, and to facilitate the adoption of good laboratory practices. It is also hoped that the course will help to broaden the pool of human resources from which National Authorities and the Secretariat can draw in the future.

Course content

3. The ASDC will have two parts:
 - (a) The first week will focus on basic training and gaining hands-on experience in gas chromatography (GC) and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS). Participants will receive theoretical and practical training in GC and GC-MS, covering hardware, system validation and optimisation, and troubleshooting.
 - (b) The second week will focus on the preparation of environmental samples and GC and GC-MS analyses of such samples for chemicals related to the Convention. During this week, participants will be provided with intensive hands-on training in the preparation of different sample matrices for subsequent analysis by GC with element-selective detectors and by GC-MS in electron-impact and chemical-ionisation modes. Participants will also be introduced to a range of extraction, clean-up, and derivatisation procedures.



4. The ASDC will accommodate and sponsor a maximum of 20 participants from Member States of the OPCW with economies that are developing or in transition. The Secretariat will select the participants based on their qualifications and experience. Only selected candidates will be notified by the Secretariat. The Secretariat encourages qualified female candidates to apply for this course.

Sponsorship

5. The cost of the course, as well as accommodation for all sponsored participants, will be covered by the Secretariat. In addition, the Secretariat will pay for international travel, meals, and medical and travel insurance for all sponsored participants.
6. The Secretariat will not pay for medical assistance. Therefore, participants should be fit to travel. All participants taking prescribed medication should arrive with sufficient supplies for the duration of the event.
7. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. The Secretariat will purchase tickets and send them to the participants.
8. Sponsored participants are required to obtain the necessary visas before commencing their travel for the course to the IICT in India. The Secretariat will cover the cost of these visas by reimbursing sponsored participants upon production of the original receipts.

Admission requirements

9. The course is open to those who:
 - (a) have a minimum of a first degree (BSc or equivalent) in chemistry or analytical chemistry from a recognised university or institution, with relevant practical and theoretical experience in analytical chemistry, especially in GC and GC-MS;
 - (b) are citizens of Member States whose economies are developing or in transition; and
 - (c) have been working in a chemical laboratory or research institution in their home country for at least five years.
10. The course will be conducted entirely in English. Candidates must therefore have a strong command of both written and spoken English. Any candidate who is found not to meet this requirement upon arrival may not be allowed to continue with the course.

Selection procedure

11. Applications will be carefully screened against the criteria specified in paragraph 9 above. Only the most suitable applicants will be selected. Applicants who have previously participated in ASDC programmes organised by the Secretariat will not be considered for selection.

Application procedure

12. Interested applicants are invited to apply online through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>).

13. Only duly completed applications received through Eventus will be taken into consideration. All applications must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 6 June 2022**.
14. The contact persons for the course in the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division are: Mr Saurabh Bhandari, Programme Officer (Email: saurabh.bhandari@opcw.org; Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3489) and Ms Ting Zhang, Senior Administrative Assistant (Email: ting.zhang@opcw.org; Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3534). They can also be contacted at icb.events@opcw.org.

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