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19 May 2023
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2023 REGIONAL TRAINING CYCLE ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION FOR MEMBER STATES IN ASIA

1. The OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to invite Member States from Asia to nominate representatives to participate in the 2023 regional training cycle related to assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), which will begin with an online introductory course on responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
2. The entire Assistance and Protection Branch training cycle for Asia will be jointly organised by the Governments of the Republic of Korea and Malaysia, in collaboration with the Secretariat. It will provide training for up to 16 sponsored participants in the basics of assistance and protection, with a focus on responding to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
3. The training cycle for selected candidates will be divided into the following components:
 - (a) an online foundation course, available from 2 to 17 June 2023;
 - (b) a practical, hands-on basic course, from 19 to 23 June 2023, in Seoul, the Republic of Korea;
 - (c) an online course on the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) and the Incident Command System (ICS), in the third quarter of 2023 (exact dates to be determined);
 - (d) a practical, hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise, in the third or fourth quarter of 2023 (dates to be determined), in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and
 - (e) a one-day follow-up webinar, in late 2023 (exact date to be determined).
4. The online foundation course will offer basic theoretical knowledge for all participants about the OPCW, the Convention, chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, personal protective equipment, decontamination and detection, identification, and monitoring. The Secretariat will select up to 16 candidates to participate in the online foundation course, who will continue with the training through the subsequent components of the training cycle.



5. The hands-on basic course will take place in the Republic of Korea and will consist of a combination of theory-based lectures, demonstrations of equipment, and practical training sessions. By the end of the course, the participants will have basic knowledge of chemical warfare agents and their actions, protective equipment and its limitations, detection and decontamination equipment, and procedures.
6. The next component of this cycle is an online course covering the ERG and the ICS, which will provide participants with the tools needed to manage chemical emergencies. This information will be used in successive components of the training cycle.
7. The practical, hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise will deepen the knowledge obtained in the three previous components of this training cycle to enhance and further develop the chemical emergency response capabilities of OPCW Member States. This scenario-based training, which will explore different complex scenarios in combination with the final exercise, is an opportunity to practice and confirm the knowledge and skills acquired during the training cycle. As stated above, participants in this course will be those who completed the online course on the ERG and the ICS, as well as the previous two components, as part of the full training cycle. This component will take place on site in Malaysia.
8. Given the objectives of the training cycle, candidates will be carefully selected and should have a background in the field of chemical emergency response. Preference will be given to officers from emergency response units from institutions involved in civilian defence. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear personal protective equipment during the practical sessions of the course. Please note that a medical certificate may be required to attend the practical parts of the training cycle.
9. Participants should undertake the necessary steps to ensure their participation in the entire cycle by obtaining the required clearances from the relevant authorities based on the invitation letter issued by the Secretariat.
10. Endorsement by a candidate's respective National Authority is a prerequisite to be considered in the selection process. The endorsement process must be completed online **no later than 29 May 2023** via Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>).
11. The Secretariat expects to be able to **sponsor a maximum of 16 participants** for the full cycle. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical insurance, and meals (lunch), and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
12. The Secretariat will seek the most economical options when making travel arrangements for sponsored participants. Sponsored participants are encouraged to use the tickets provided by the Secretariat. Participants are expected to arrive in the host countries for the on-site components of the training cycle no earlier than one day before the beginning of the course and to depart no later than one day after the completion of the course. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or resulting from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for ensuring they participate in the course. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the course.

13. Courses will be conducted in English; therefore, participants are required to have a good working knowledge of written and spoken English. No interpretation services will be provided during any parts of the training cycle.
14. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before traveling to the host countries. Further details regarding logistics and the final programme will be issued to participants at a later stage.
15. Interested Member States are invited to submit their nominations making sure they provide all necessary contact details and valid passport details **no later than 29 May 2023**. Only selected participants will be contacted, within 10 days after the submission deadline.
16. A provisional programme for the training cycle is included as Annex 1 to this Note, and further details will be issued at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the focal points for this training cycle within the OPCW's Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division: Mr Eduardo Herrera Reyes (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3466; Email: eduardo.herrera@opcw.org) and Ms Sonja Pecak (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3498; Email: sonja.pecak@opcw.org)

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Online Foundation Course, 2 to 17 June 2023 – Provisional Programme
- Annex 2: Basic Course for Asian Member States on Response to Incidents Involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 19 to 23 June 2023 – Provisional Programme
- Annex 3: Online Course on the Emergency Response Guidebook and the Incident Command System, Third Quarter 2023 – Provisional Programme
- Annex 4: Integrated Advanced Course and Exercise for Asian Member States on Response to Incidents Involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Third or Fourth Quarter 2023 – Provisional Programme

Annex 1

**ONLINE FOUNDATION COURSE
2 – 17 JUNE 2023**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Contents	
Chapter 1	The Chemical Weapons Convention
	1.1. Historical review 1.2. The Chemical Weapons Convention 1.3. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) 1.4. Article X of the Convention
Chapter 2	Introduction to chemical agents
	2.1. Chemical weapons 2.2. Chemical warfare agents 2.3. Exposure to chemical warfare agents 2.4. Toxic industrial chemicals
Chapter 3	Introduction to personal protective equipment (PPE)
	3.1. Chemical protection suits 3.2. Respiratory protection 3.3. OPCW protection levels
Chapter 4	Introduction to decontamination
	4.1. Decontamination overview 4.2. Decontamination stations and corridors 4.3. Decontamination processes 4.4. Decontamination systems
Chapter 5	Introduction to detection and identification
	5.1. Recognition 5.2. Detection 5.3. Identification

Annex 2

**BASIC COURSE FOR ASIAN MEMBER STATES
ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS
AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA
19 – 23 JUNE 2023**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Day	9:00 – 12:00	13:00 – 16:00	Venue
Day 1 Mon, 19 June 2023	- Orientation and opening - The Convention and the OPCW - Cultural brief (Korea Tourism Organization)	- Medical treatment - Terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD)	Hotel
Day 2 Tue, 20 June 2023	- Chemical warfare agents - Personnel protection	Chemical detection techniques	
Day 3 Wed, 21 June 2023	Decontamination	Consolidation facility	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense Command (WMD training site)
Day 4 Thu, 22 June 2023	Counterterrorism, part I	Counterterrorism, part II	
Day 5 Fri, 23 June 2023	Course feedback and closing	City tour	Seoul

Annex 3

**ONLINE COURSE ON THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK
AND THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM
THIRD QUARTER 2023**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Contents	
Chapter 1	Technical aspects for attending emergencies with toxic chemicals
	1.1. Physical and chemical properties of substances 1.2. Toxicological values applied to the management of emergencies with chemicals 1.3. Dispersion of pollutants in the environment after an event with chemicals 1.4. Safety distances and planning zones
Chapter 2	Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)
	2.1. Introduction 2.2. The yellow pages 2.3. The blue pages 2.4. Operational guides (the orange pages) 2.5. The green pages
Chapter 3	The Incident Command System (ICS)
	3.1. Introduction 3.2. Characteristics and principles of the ICS 3.3. Roles and responsibilities 3.4. ICS structure 3.5. Facilities and resources 3.6. Command

Annex 4

**INTEGRATED ADVANCED COURSE AND EXERCISE FOR ASIAN MEMBER STATES ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
THIRD-FOURTH QUARTER 2023**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Day 1: Venue – Hotel

Time	Programme	Type	Responsibility
08:00 – 08:30	Registration		
08:30 – 08:45	Introductions	-	All
08:45 – 09:30	Opening ceremony and group photo	Presentation	Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (FRDM), National Authority, OPCW
09:30 – 10:00	<i>Coffee break</i>		
10:00 – 10:15	Course overview	Presentation	FRDM
10:15 – 10:45	FRDM hazardous materials (hazmat) chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) preparedness and response	Presentation	FRDM
10:45 – 11:15	Article X, the Convention, and the Online Self-Assessment Tool (OSAT)	Presentation	OPCW
11:15 – 11:45	Chemical warfare agents chemistry	Presentation	FRDM
11:45 – 12:15	Field detection	Presentation	FRDM
12:15 – 13:00	Personal protective equipment (PPE) for hot zones	Presentation	FRDM
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
14:00 – 14:30	Evidence collection	Presentation	FRDM
14:30 – 15:00	A-Z of decontamination	Presentation	FRDM
15:00 – 15:45	WISER ¹ and ERG	Presentation and practical	FRDM
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>		
16:00 – 17:00	Malaysia Case Study (VX incident of 2017) – Introduction to chemical warfare agents, evidence collection, forensics, lab analysis and court trial	Presentation	
End of Day 1			

¹ WISER = Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders.

Day 2: Venue – Hotel

Time	Programme	Type	Organisation	Remarks
08:30 – 10:00	Personal protective equipment for hazmat	Demo and practical	Participants and FRDM	CBRN suit donning and doffing
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee break</i>			
10:15 – 13:00	Evidence collection	Demo and practical	Participants and FRDM	
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>			
14:00 – 15:30	CBRN detection and identification	Demo and practical	Participants and FRDM	
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>			
15:45 – 17:30	Excursion		All	
End of Day 2				

Day 3: Venue – Fire Training Academy, Central Region, Kuala Kubu Baru

Time	Programme	Type	Organisation	Remarks
07:15 – 08:30	Departure to training academy			
08:30 – 09:00	Basic medical screening for participants			
09:00 – 09:15	<i>Coffee break</i>			
09:15 – 10:00	Gas mask fit test using CBRN suits	Practical	Participants and FRDM	
10:00 – 12:00	Decontamination procedures in mass casualty incidents	Demo and practical	Participants and FRDM	
12:00 – 13:00	Scenario-based field exercises 1 to 3	Table-top exercise (TTX)	Participants and FRDM	TBC
13:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>			
13:30 – 14:00	Briefing on field exercise 1 and groupings			
14:00 – 16:30	Scenario-based full field exercise 1, with a focus on detection and identification	Practical	Participants	Individual detection training with simulants of chemical warfare agents, including debriefing – TBC
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Coffee break</i>			
16:45 – 18:00	Departure to hotel			
End of Day 3				

Day 4: Venue – Fire Training Academy, Central Region, Kuala Kubu Baru

Time	Programme	Type	Organisation	Remarks
07:15 – 08:30	Depart to Fire Training Academy			
08:30 – 09:00	Basic medical screening for participants			
09:00 – 09:15	<i>Coffee break</i>			
09:15 – 09:30	Briefing: field exercise 2			
09:30 – 12:00	Scenario-based full field exercise 2, with a focus on evidence collection	Practical	Participants	Scenario-based full exercise, including debriefing: Public transport incident (LRT / Bus) – TBC
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>			

13:00 – 13:15	Briefing: field exercise 3			
13:15 – 15:15	Scenario-based full field exercise 3	Practical	Participants	Scenario, including debriefing: Poor lighting conditions in a clandestine laboratory / Improvised explosive device – TBC
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>			
15:30 – 16:00	Training feedback session and evaluation	Discussion online	Trainers and participants	
16:00 – 17:00	Closing session and ceremony to hand out certificates		All	
17:00 – 18:15	Departure to hotel			
END OF PROGRAMME				

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