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10 November 2023  
ENGLISH only

### **NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

#### **INVITATION TO APPLY FOR AN ONLINE COURSE ON EXPLOSION PROTECTION AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT IN THE CHEMICAL PROCESS INDUSTRIES UNIVERSITY OF WUPPERTAL 30 AUGUST – 7 OCTOBER 2024**

1. The Government of Germany, the University of Wuppertal, and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wish to inform OPCW Member States about an online course on explosion protection and safety management in the chemical process industries for Member States in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

#### **PURPOSE OF THE COURSE**

2. The online course, supported by the Government of Germany, will be held from 30 August to 7 October 2024 by the University of Wuppertal in Germany, and was developed by the Chair of Chemical Safety and Fire Defence.
3. The course will accommodate a total of 24 participants from OPCW Member States in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. The course is intended for participants with a background in chemistry, chemical engineering, or the chemical industry who are currently working at a chemical or manufacturing industrial facility or who, because of their involvement in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), are called upon to interact with the chemical industry at various levels—for example, in relation to formulating, analysing, or implementing chemical safety policies in their home countries.
5. The course has been designed using the “train-the-trainer” approach for participants who are in a position and ready to share in their home countries the knowledge and expertise gained for the full implementation of the Convention.

#### **DURATION OF THE COURSE**

6. The course will be held from 30 August to 7 October 2024.

## CONTENT

7. The course will be delivered in an interactive online format over a total of 15 sessions. This includes combined parts of lectures, self-learning content, discussions, and group exercises, with a final presentation and final exam at the end of the course. The course will begin with a briefing on the Convention, particularly those provisions related to how it is implemented in terms of the chemical industry. The focus will then shift to the following topics:
  - (a) management of hazardous substances (chemical transportation, handling, and storage);
  - (b) command and control scene management (incidents with hazardous materials);
  - (c) explosion protection (hazard assessment approach, determination of substance properties, zoning, ignition sources, and explosion protection measures, among others); and
  - (d) group exercises (explosion hazard assessment approach, at the Wuppertal mini-plant in combination with real scenarios from the process industries).
8. During the course, participants will be expected to gain the skills they require to implement modern technical safety practices and to fulfil their responsibilities to develop sustainable safety management related to the chemical industry. Moreover, participants will be encouraged to contribute to the development of a culture of safety in their working environments.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

9. Participants are expected to meet the following criteria:
  - (a) hold a degree or diploma in chemistry or chemical engineering, or have extensive experience working or dealing with the chemical industry;
  - (b) be involved in promoting chemical safety management in their home countries or other States Parties;
  - (c) be prepared to disseminate the knowledge and expertise gained during the course for the full implementation of the Convention; and
  - (d) hold membership in a chemical industry association (desirable but not required).
10. All course activities will be conducted in English, and no interpretation services of any kind will be provided. Participants are therefore expected to have a good command of the English language, both written and oral.

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

11. Applications will be carefully screened based on the criteria specified in paragraph 9 above. Eligible candidates from government, industry, or academia who have work experience in or who interact with the chemical sector in their country are especially encouraged to apply through their National Authority.

## ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESS

12. In order to ensure that participants gain a profound understanding of the topics and exercises taught during the course for their subsequent use and dissemination of the methods and techniques learned, a final exam will take place at the end of the course.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

13. Interested applicants are invited to apply online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Applicants should create an account in Eventus and then register for the training course. Only complete applications will be considered. Once applicants have registered for the course in Eventus, they must submit via email ([icb.events@opcw.org](mailto:icb.events@opcw.org) and [leksin@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:leksin@uni-wuppertal.de)) the following documents:
  - (a) a current curriculum vitae, detailing previous work experience;
  - (b) a one-page cover letter that explains why the candidate is applying for the course, the candidate's expectations of the course, and how it would benefit the candidate's work, institution, and country; and
  - (c) a letter of recommendation from the candidate's supervisor confirming his or her qualifications in line with paragraph 9 above, and attesting to the relevance of this course to the work of the candidate's place of employment.
14. Please note that an endorsement from the National Authority must be obtained for candidates to be considered for this event. Upon registration through Eventus, applications will automatically be shared with the National Authority for its endorsement online.
15. Interested applicants who are unable to submit their application online via Eventus are requested to seek further guidance by contacting the Secretariat via email ([icb.events@opcw.org](mailto:icb.events@opcw.org)), copying Dr Alexey Leksin of the University of Wuppertal ([leksin@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:leksin@uni-wuppertal.de)).
16. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.
17. All applications must be received by the University of Wuppertal and the Secretariat **no later than 25 February 2024**. Additional information about the programme may be obtained from Dr Alexey Leksin (Tel.: +49 202 439 2065; Email: [leksin@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:leksin@uni-wuppertal.de)), Mr Taeon Kim, Programme Officer (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3469), or Ms Julia González, Senior Project Assistant (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3239).