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ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024 REGIONAL TRAINING CYCLE ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION FOR MEMBER STATES IN ASIA

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite Asian Member States to nominate representatives to participate in the 2024 regional training cycle related to assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (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 30 April to 26 May 2024;
 - (b) an in-person hands-on basic course, from 27 to 31 May 2024, in Seoul, the Republic of Korea;
 - (c) an online course on the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) and the Incident Command System (ICS), from 18 June to 18 August 2024;
 - (d) an in-person hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise, from 19 to 23 August 2024, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and
 - (e) a one-day follow-up webinar, in late 2024 (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 then continue 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 4 March 2024** via Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org/>).
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 that they participate in the course. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the course.

13. The 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 part 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 information and valid passport details **no later than 11 March 2024**. 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 point 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).

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Online Foundation Course, 30 April – 26 May 2024: 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, 27 – 31 May 2024: Provisional Programme
- Annex 3: Online Course on the Emergency Response Guidebook and the Incident Command System, 18 June – 18 August 2024: 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, 19 – 23 August 2024: Provisional Programme

Annex 1
ONLINE FOUNDATION COURSE
30 APRIL – 26 MAY 2024
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
	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
27 – 31 MAY 2024**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Day	9:00 – 12:00	13:00 – 16:00	Venue
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orientation and opening - The Convention and the OPCW - Cultural brief (Korea Tourism Organization) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medical treatment - Terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD) 	Hotel
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chemical warfare agents - Personnel protection 	Chemical detection techniques	
Day 3	Decontamination	Consolidation facility	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear
Day 4	Counterterrorism, part I	Counterterrorism, part II	Defense Command (WMD training site)
Day 5	Course feedback and closing	City tour	Seoul

Annex 3

**ONLINE COURSE ON THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK
AND THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM
18 JUNE – 18 AUGUST 2024**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Contents	
Chapter 1	Technical aspects of 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
	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
19 – 23 AUGUST 2024**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Day	8:30 – 12:00	13:00 – 17:00	Venue
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course opening and orientation - The OPCW, the Convention, and Article X thereof - The Fire and Rescue Department, Academy of Malaysia (FRDM), hazardous materials (HAZMAT), and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) preparedness and response - Chemical warfare agents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal protective equipment for hot zones - Field detection - Evidence collection - A-Z of decontamination - Case study 	Hotel
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal protective equipment for HAZMAT - Evidence collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBRN detection and identification - Excursion 	
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic medical screening for participants - Gas mask fit test using CBRN suits - Decontamination procedures in mass casualty incidents - Basic medical screening for participants - Scenario-based full field exercise 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scenario-based full field exercise 2 - Basic medical screening for participants 	
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic medical screening for participants - Scenario-based full field exercise 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scenario-based full field exercise 3 (continuation) - Basic medical screening for participants 	FRDM
Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic medical screening for participants - Scenario-based full field exercise 4 - Basic medical screening for participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback and session closure 	