



S/2285/2024
14 May 2024
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON
THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION AGAINST
CHEMICAL WEAPONS
XI'AN, CHINA
14 – 18 OCTOBER 2024**

1. The Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) wishes to invite States Parties to nominate participants for a training course on the medical management of persons affected by the use of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. The training course will be jointly organised by the National Authority of China and the Secretariat and will take place in Xi'an, China, from 14 to 18 October 2024.
2. The purpose of this training course is to strengthen medical preparedness and response capabilities at hospitals in the aftermath of an attack involving chemical weapons agents or toxic industrial chemicals. It will also promote the exchange of experience, therapeutic approaches, and treatment protocols, as well as strategies for addressing gaps in medical capabilities.
3. The course will address the following: general concepts of chemical weapons agents and toxic industrial chemicals; the identification, diagnosis, treatment, and medical management of persons affected by chemical weapons agents and toxic industrial chemicals; lessons learned from incidents involving chemical weapons agents and toxic industrial chemicals; hospital preparedness and response; and medical follow-up for individuals dealing with the long-term effects of exposure to chemical weapons agents or toxic industrial chemicals.
4. The Secretariat expects to sponsor a maximum of 20 participants from interested States Parties. The profiles of interested candidates should meet the criteria listed below:
 - (a) This training course is designed for medical professionals who work at hospitals that may attend to victims in a chemical emergency, or those working at medical facilities designated for this purpose.
 - (b) Physicians from all OPCW regions may apply, including professionals from civilian and military hospitals; medical institutions may also apply.
 - (c) Candidates should have background experience in one of the following: emergency medical care, anaesthesia, toxicology, neurology, dermatology, internal medicine, surgery, burns and plastic surgery, intensive care, haematology, ophthalmology, or medical profession dealing with emergencies involving toxic industrial chemicals.



5. States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support nominations and endorse the applications of suitable female candidates for the training.
6. Only applicants who have completed their application through Eventus, the OPCW's event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>), will be considered for the selection process. A complete application should include:
 - (a) all personal information fully completed in the applications form (using the national passport as a reference for the names);
 - (b) endorsement of the candidate by the respective National Authority (specifying whether sponsorship is a condition of their participation);
 - (c) a curriculum vitae, as well as any other additional relevant information uploaded in Eventus; and
 - (d) valid passport information (including an uploaded copy of the personal identification pages). **Passports must be valid for at least six months from the start date of the event** (14 October 2024).
7. Additional information provided by candidates in the Eventus platform will be carefully considered. This may include: previous experience and participation in emergency training (including emergency chemical training); accreditation in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) and programmes on medical treatment in disaster situations; participation in previous national or regional events in a relevant subject; roles and responsibilities in regard to emergency-related medical education, coordination, preparedness, response, and follow-up.
8. Candidates must be proficient in English, as the course will be conducted entirely in English and no interpretation services will be provided.
9. For selected participants, the Secretariat and China will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical and travel insurance, and meals. In addition, a limited subsistence allowance will be provided (after the event) to cover sundry expenses.
10. The Secretariat will seek the most economical options when making travel arrangements for sponsored participants. Participants are expected to **arrive no earlier than Sunday, 13 October 2024** and to **depart no later than Saturday, 19 October 2024**. The Secretariat will not cover expenses that are not related to the course or that result from unauthorised changes in travel arrangements. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for ensuring their participation. In the case of unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officers responsible for the course (see contact information in paragraph 13 below) and subsequently submit a formal letter explaining the reasons of the cancellation. In addition, all necessary visas (if required) should be obtained by the participants before travelling to China.
11. Interested applicants are requested to register their nomination online through Eventus **no later than 21 June 2024**, including obtaining the endorsement of the respective National Authority of their country.

12. Only selected participants with an OPCW acceptance letter will be allowed to participate in this course. Candidates who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline. States Parties are requested to inform the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of any administrative or other problems that may arise in relation to the attendance of any selected participant.
13. For technical matters, the focal points for this training course are Mr Eduardo Herrera (Tel: +31 70 416 3466; Email: eduardo.herrera@opcw.org) and Ms Toko Okazaki (Email: toko.okazaki@opcw.org). Administrative questions relating this training course may be addressed to Ms María Elena Bruno-Pousadela (Tel: +31 70 416 3217; Email: mariaelena.bruno-pousadela@opcw.org) in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF
ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS
XI'AN, CHINA
14 – 18 OCTOBER 2024**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Presenter
<i>Sunday, 13 October 2024</i>		
	Arrival of participants	
<i>Monday, 14 October 2024</i>		
08:30 – 09:10	Opening ceremony	OPCW and Chinese representatives
09:10 – 09:30	<i>Group photo</i>	
09:30 – 10:00	Introduction of participants	All participants
10:00 – 10:40	The Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) and Article X on assistance and protection	Eduardo Herrera, OPCW
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
11:00 – 11:30	Briefing on implementation of the Convention in China	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
11:30 – 12:00	China's national protection programme and assistance efforts under Article X of the Convention	Ministry of National Defence of China
12:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Chemical threat: Chemical weapons, chemical industrial accidents, and chemical terrorism	Wei-hua Yu, Chun-xu Hai
15:00 – 16:00	Classification, properties, and routes of exposure to chemical weapons agents	Jiang-zheng Liu, Xu Xin-yue
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
16:15 – 17:40	Visit to the training room and laboratory of the chemical defence medicine department	Rui Liu, Xu Xing-yue
17:40 – 18:00	Summary of the day and discussion	OPCW
18:30 – 20:00	Reception hosted by the OPCW	OPCW
<i>Tuesday, 15 October 2024</i>		
08:30 – 09:30	Long-term health effects of exposure to sulfur mustard	Shahriar Khateri
09:30 – 10:30	Blister agents: Toxicological effects, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and medical treatment	Kai Xiao, Deqing Kong
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
10:50 – 12:00	Nerve agents: Toxicological effects, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and medical treatment	Yong-an Wang, Xxiaodi Zhang
12:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Blood agents: Toxicological effects, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and medical treatment	Zhong-min Zou, Wei Zhang

15:00 – 16:00	Choking agents: toxicological effects, sign and symptoms, diagnosis and medical treatment	Xiao-di Zhang, Jiangzheng Liu
16:00 – 16:20	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
16:20 – 17:20	Incapacitating agents (psychochemical agents) and novel riot control agents	Rui Liu, Deqing Kong
17:20 – 17:50	Summary of the day and discussion	OPCW
<i>Wednesday, 16 October 2024</i>		
08:30 – 09:25	Principles of decontamination of chemical casualties and pre-hospital and hospital procedures	Wei Zhang, Hao Wu
09:25 – 10:20	Medical evacuation and triage of chemical casualties	Yi Wan, Kui Liu
10:20 – 10:35	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
10:35 – 11:30	Medical management of exposure to chemical weapons agents/toxic industrial chemicals in hospital	Xi-jing Zhang, Su Bin-xiao
11:30 – 12:00	Chemical and radiological/nuclear (combined) emergencies	Eduardo Herrera, OPCW
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 18:00	Study visit	
18:00 – 20:00	Dinner	
<i>Thursday, 17 October 2024</i>		
08:30 – 09:30	Donning and doffing of individual protective equipment (IPE)	Deqing Kong, Hao Wu
09:30 – 11:00	Visit to Xijing Hospital first-aid centre and patient simulator	Gui-tao Yang, Su Bin-xiao
11:00 – 12:00	Visit to Qindu Hospital Museum	
12:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 15:30	Table-top Exercise: Emergency medical response to a chemical incident	Wen-li Li, Qian Zhang
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
16:00 – 17:30	Summary of the day and discussion	OPCW
18:00 –	Reception hosted by the university	Air Force Medical University (AFMU)
<i>Friday, 18 October 2024</i>		
08:30 – 09:30	Feedback from participants	OPCW
09:30 – 10:30	Evaluation session, student discussion, and communication	AFMU – OPCW
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
11:00 – 12:00	Closing ceremony	
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:00 –	Departure of participants	
<i>Saturday, 19 October 2024</i>		
All day	Departure of participants	