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15 April 2025
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 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 2025 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 Philippines and the Republic of Korea, in collaboration with the Secretariat. It will provide training for up to 22 sponsored participants in the basics of assistance and protection, with a focus on responding to incidents involving 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 8 to 30 May 2025;
 - (b) an in-person, hands-on basic course, from 2 to 6 June 2025, in Manila, the Philippines;
 - (c) an online course on the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) and the Incident Command System (ICS), from 7 to 29 June 2025;
 - (d) an in-person, hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise, from 30 June to 4 July 2025, in Seoul, the Republic of Korea; and
 - (e) a one-day follow-up webinar in late 2025 (exact date to be communicated later).
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 (PPE), decontamination and detection, and identification and monitoring. The Secretariat will select up to 22 candidates to participate in the online foundation course; these participants will then continue through the subsequent components of the training cycle.



5. The hands-on basic course will take place in Manila, the Philippines, 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, and 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 practise 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 in person in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.
8. Given the objectives of the training cycle, candidates will be carefully selected and must have a background in the field of emergency response. Therefore, the Secretariat will consider only applications from emergency response officers and professionals directly involved in civilian defence and law enforcement, as well as first responders (such as firefighters) and health professionals. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear PPE during the practical sessions of the training. Please note that a medical certificate may be required to attend the practical parts of the training cycle. In addition, the Secretariat strongly encourages States Parties and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates for participation in the training cycle.
9. Participants should take 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 2 May 2025** via Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org/>).
11. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 22 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 must 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 courses, and to depart no later than one day after the completion of the courses. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the courses 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 courses. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the courses.

13. The courses will be conducted in English; therefore, participants are required to have a very 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 2 May 2025**. Only selected participants will be contacted (within five days after the submission deadline).
16. Provisional programmes for the training cycle are included in the annexes 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 Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW: Mr Eduardo Herrera Reyes (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3466; Email: eduardo.herrera@opcw.org). For administrative matters Ms Aureliarita Marcellus (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3414; Email: aureliarita.marcellus@opcw.org) and Ms Maria Elena Bruno-Pousadela (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3217; Email: mariaelena.bruno-pousadela@opcw.org).

Annexes:

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| Annex 1: | Online Foundation Course, 8 – 30 May 2025 – Provisional Programme |
| Annex 2: | Basic Course for Asian Member States on Response to Incidents Involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals, Manila, the Philippines, 2 – 6 June 2025 – Provisional Programme |
| Annex 3: | Online Course on the Emergency Response Guidebook and the Incident Command System, 7 – 29 June 2025 – 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, Seoul, the Republic of Korea, 30 June – 4 July 2025 – Provisional Programme |

Annex 1**ONLINE FOUNDATION COURSE****8 – 30 MAY 2025****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 Chemical Weapons 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
MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES
2 – 6 JUNE 2025**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

| Time | Activity |
|--|---|
| Sunday, 1 June 2025 | |
| | Arrival of the OPCW team and participants in Manila; check-in at accommodation |
| Day 1: Monday, 2 June 2025 (at the hotel venue) | |
| 08:45 – 09:00 | Registration |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Opening ceremony Remarks from the Secretariat Remarks on the Convention by the National Authority of the Philippines Group photo |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Logistical and administrative information about the course, and participant introductions and setting expectations |
| 10:00 – 10:45 | OPCW presentation: Overview of the Convention and its provisions; Article X: International assistance and protection against chemical weapons; the role of the OPCW in capacity building for first responders |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | <i>Coffee/tea break</i> |
| 11:00 – 11:45 | Presentation: Implementation of the Convention in the Philippines |
| 11:45 – 12:30 | Presentation: Threats of chemical attacks by non-State actors |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 13:30 – 14:30 | Panel discussion: Domestic and regional chemical threat landscapes |
| 14:30 – 15:30 | Presentation: The characteristics of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | <i>Coffee/tea break</i> |

| Time | Activity |
|---|---|
| 15:45 – 17:00 | Presentation: Emergency management—chemical response at the awareness and operational level Incident Command System |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | <i>Break</i> |
| 18:00 – 22:00 | Transfer to Bureau of Fire Protection and welcome dinner |
| Day 2: Tuesday, 3 June 2025 (at the hotel venue) | |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | Exercise: Recognition and identification using the ERG |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | <i>Coffee/tea break</i> |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | Presentation: Competencies of a chemical emergency first responder—experience in the Philippines |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 13:00 – 15:00 | Presentation: Principles of PPE—respiratory and skin protection |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | <i>Coffee/tea break</i> |
| 15:15 – 17:00 | Demonstration: Working with PPE |
| Day 3: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 (at the hotel venue) | |
| 09:00 – 11:45 | Practical exercise: PPE, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), and air-purifying respirators <i>Coffee/tea break during practice</i> |
| 11:45 – 13:00 | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 13:00 – 14:15 | Presentation: Principles of recognition and detection of chemicals, detection and identification techniques, equipment and devices |
| 14:15 – 14:30 | <i>Coffee/tea break</i> |
| 14:30 – 17:00 | Practical exercise: Recognition, detection, and identification |
| Day 4: Thursday, 5 June 2025 (at off-site venue) | |
| 08:30 – 09:30 | Transfer: Accommodation to off-site venue |
| 09:30 – 11:00 | Presentation: Principles of decontamination, methods and techniques, roles and responsibilities, tools and equipment <i>Coffee/tea available during presentation</i> |

| Time | Activity |
|--|---|
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Presentation: Medical treatment for exposure to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, and health and safety during chemical emergencies |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 13:30 – 16:00 | Practical exercise: Decontamination |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | Transfer back to accommodation |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | <i>Break</i> |
| 18:00 – 20:00 | Farewell dinner |
| Day 5: Friday, 6 June 2025 (at the hotel venue or off-site venue) | |
| 09:30 – 11:30 | Tabletop exercise or joint field exercise |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Discussion on knowledge acquired and course evaluation |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Closing ceremony |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| Saturday, 7 June 2025 | |
| | Departure of participants |

Annex 3**ONLINE COURSE ON THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK
AND THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM****7 – 29 JUNE 2025****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 |
| | 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
SEOUL, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
30 JUNE – 4 JULY 2025**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

| Day | 9:00 – 12:00 | 13:00 – 16:00 | Venue |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| Day 1 | Orientation and opening The Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW Cultural briefing (Korea Tourism Organization) | Chemical accident response theory training Medical treatment Terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD) | Hotel |
| Day 2 | Chemical warfare agents Personnel protection | Chemical accident response Virtual reality training experience Fire department visit | Hotel and premises of the Fire Department Chemical Rescue Team |
| Day 3 | Decontamination | Operation of PPE and chemical equipment, hands-on practice | Defence command (WMD training site) |
| Day 4 | Demonstration of chemical counterterrorism procedures Comprehensive practice 1 (detection, sample collection, simple and precise decontamination) | Comprehensive practice 1 (continued) | Defence command (WMD training site) |
| Day 5 | Comprehensive practice 2 (situation response training) | Comprehensive practice 3 (situation response training) Farewell reception | Defence command (WMD training site) |

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