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ENGLISH only

### NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

#### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026 REGIONAL TRAINING CYCLE ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION FOR MEMBER STATES IN ASIA

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite Member States in the Asia region to nominate representatives to participate in the 2026 regional training cycle on assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention).
2. The entire Assistance and Protection Branch training cycle for Asia will be jointly organised by the Governments of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Korea, in collaboration with the Secretariat. It will provide training for up to 25 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 introductory online foundation course on responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, which will be available from 1 to 30 April 2026;
  - (b) an in-person hands-on basic course in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 18 to 22 May 2026;
  - (c) an online course on the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) and the Incident Command System (ICS), to be made available in the second half of 2026 (exact dates to be communicated);
  - (d) an in-person hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, in the fourth quarter of 2026 (exact dates to be communicated); and
  - (e) a one-day follow-up webinar in late 2026 (exact date to be communicated).
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), detection, identification, decontamination, and monitoring. The Secretariat will select up to 25 candidates to participate in the online foundation course to continue through the subsequent components of the training cycle.



5. The hands-on basic course will take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and will consist of a combination of theory-based lectures, equipment demonstrations, and practical training sessions. By the end of the course, the participants will have gained 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 and will provide participants with the tools needed to manage chemical emergencies. This information will be used in subsequent 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 previous components of the training cycle. As stated above, participants in this course will be those who complete 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. In light of the objectives of the training cycle, candidates will be carefully selected and must have a background in 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 Member States 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 throughout 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 required in order to be considered in the selection process. The endorsement process must be completed online **no later than 20 March 2026** via Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org/>).
11. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 25 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 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 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 officers responsible for the courses.

13. The courses will be conducted in English; therefore, participants are required to have a very good command 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 travelling. Further details regarding logistics and the final programmes 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 20 March 2026**. 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 directly to selected participants at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the focal points for this training cycle within the OPCW Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division: Mr Loïc Luyeye (Tel.: +31 70 416 3466; Email: [loic.luyeye@opcw.org](mailto:loic.luyeye@opcw.org)) for the basic course and Ms Toko Okazaki (Tel.: +31 65 007 4109; Email: [toko.okazaki@opcw.org](mailto:toko.okazaki@opcw.org)) for the advanced course.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Online Foundation Course, 1 – 30 April 2026 – Provisional Programme
- Annex 2: Basic Course for Asian Member States on Response to Chemical Incidents, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 18 – 22 May 2026 – Provisional Programme
- Annex 3: Online Course on the Emergency Response Guidebook and the Incident Command System, Second Half of 2026 – Provisional Programme
- Annex 5: Integrated Advanced Course and Exercise for Asian Member States on Response to Chemical Incidents, Seoul, the Republic of Korea, Fourth Quarter of 2026 – Provisional Programme

**Annex 1****ONLINE FOUNDATION COURSE****1 – 30 APRIL 2026****PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>Chapter 1 The Chemical Weapons Convention</b>	
	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
<b>Chapter 2 Introduction to chemical agents</b>	
	2.1. Chemical weapons 2.2. Chemical warfare agents 2.3. Exposure to chemical warfare agents 2.4. Toxic industrial chemicals
<b>Chapter 3 Introduction to personal protective equipment</b>	
	3.1. Chemical protection suits 3.2. Respiratory protection 3.3. OPCW protection levels
<b>Chapter 4 Introduction to decontamination</b>	
	4.1. Decontamination overview 4.2. Decontamination stations and corridors 4.3. Decontamination processes 4.4. Decontamination systems
<b>Chapter 5 Introduction to detection and identification</b>	
	5.1. Recognition 5.2. Detection 5.3. Identification

**Annex 2**

**BASIC COURSE FOR ASIAN MEMBER STATES  
ON RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL INCIDENTS  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA  
18 – 22 MAY 2026**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b><i>Sunday, 17 May 2026</i></b>	
	Arrival of the OPCW team and participants in Colombo; check-in at accommodation
<b><i>Day 1: Monday, 18 May 2026 (at the hotel venue)</i></b>	
08:45 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening ceremony Remarks by the Secretariat Remarks by the National Authority of Sri Lanka Group photo
09:30 – 10:00	Logistical and administrative information about the course, participant introductions, and setting expectations
10:00 – 10:45	OPCW presentations: Overview of the Chemical Weapons Convention and its provisions; Article X: International assistance and protection against chemical weapons; and the OPCW's role 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 Sri Lanka
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	Presentation: Sri Lanka's experience in chemical incident management
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  The Incident Command System
<b><i>Day 2: Tuesday, 19 May 2026 (at the hotel venue)</i></b>	
09:00 – 10:30	Practical exercise: Recognition and identification using the Emergency Response Guidebook
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:45 – 11:30	Presentation: The skills of a chemical emergency first responder – experience in Sri Lanka
11:30 – 13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:00 – 15:00	Presentation: Principles of personal protective equipment (PPE) – respiratory and skin protection
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:15 – 17:00	Demonstration: Working with PPE
<b><i>Day 3: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 (at the hotel venue)</i></b>	
09:00 – 11:45	Practical exercise: PPE, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), and air-purifying respirators <i>(Coffee/tea break during the exercise)</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
<b><i>Day 4: Thursday, 21 May 2026 (at the hotel venue and Sri Lanka Air Force Base Katunayake)</i></b>	
08:00 – 09:30	Presentation: Principles of decontamination, methods and techniques, roles and responsibilities, and tools and equipment
09:30 – 09:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 11:30	Presentation: Medical treatment for exposure to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, and health and safety during chemical emergencies

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
11:30 – 12:45	<i>Lunch break</i>
12:45 – 14:00	Transfer to Sri Lanka Air Force Base Katunayake
14:00 – 17:30	Practical exercise: Decontamination <i>(Coffee/tea available during the exercise)</i>
17:30 – 19:00	Transfer back to the hotel
<b><i>Day 5: Friday, 22 May 2026 (at the hotel venue or an off-site venue)</i></b>	
08:30 – 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 Remarks by the Secretariat Remarks by the National Authority of Sri Lanka
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
<b><i>Saturday, 23 May 2026</i></b>	
	Check-out from the hotel and departure of participants

**Annex 3**

**ONLINE COURSE ON THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK  
AND THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM  
SECOND HALF OF 2026**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>Chapter 1 Technical aspects of attending emergencies with toxic chemicals</b>	
	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
<b>Chapter 2 Emergency Response Guidebook</b>	
	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
<b>Chapter 3 The Incident Command System (ICS)</b>	
	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 CHEMICAL INCIDENTS  
SEOUL, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
FOURTH QUARTER OF 2026**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Day</b>	<b>9:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>13:00 – 16:00</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	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
<b>Day 2</b>	Chemical warfare agents Personnel protection	Chemical accident response Virtual reality training experience Visit fire department	Hotel and premises of the Fire Dept Chemical Rescue Team
<b>Day 3</b>	Decontamination	Operation of personal protective equipment and chemical equipment, hands-on practice	Defence command (WMD training site)
<b>Day 4</b>	Demonstration of counter-chemical terrorism procedures Comprehensive practice 1 (detection, sample collection, simple and precise decontamination)	Continuation of comprehensive practice 1 (detection, sample collection, simple and precise decontamination)	Defence command (WMD training site)
<b>Day 5</b>	Comprehensive practice 2 (situation response training)	Comprehensive practice 3 (situation response training) Farewell reception	Defence command (WMD training site)