Technical Secretariat



International Cooperation and Assistance Division S/601/2006 14 November 2006 Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

INVITATION TO APPLY TO THE ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME 2007

- 1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") wishes to inform Member States of its intention to hold the OPCW Associate Programme 2007 in The Hague and elsewhere in Europe from 20 July to 28 September 2007. The Programme aims to develop a better understanding of the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") and to promote the peaceful uses of chemistry, with an emphasis on chemical safety.
- 2. The objectives of the Programme are (a) to facilitate national implementation of the Convention in relation to the chemical industry; (b) to enhance national capacities in Member States by offering training to personnel from industry, academic institutions, and government in chemistry, chemical engineering, and related areas; (c) to facilitate trade in these areas through the adoption of sound practices in the chemical industry; and (d) to broaden the pool of human resources from which the National Authorities and the OPCW can draw in the future.
- 3. The Programme is designed for chemists and chemical engineers, especially from Member States whose economies are either developing or in transition. It has been designed to give them access to the skills and experience required to operate effectively in the context of the modern chemical industry. This year the Programme will accommodate 24 participants.
- 4. In order to attract highly qualified applicants, the Secretariat requests the assistance of National Authorities in disseminating this invitation to relevant organisations.
- 5. The Programme will comprise the following elements:
 - (a) an induction segment at OPCW headquarters in The Hague (approximately 1 week);
 - (b) skills-development training at a university in a Member State (3 weeks);
 - (c) an intermediate segment at OPCW headquarters: practical exercises and visits to specialised institutions (1 week);

- (d) industrial attachments at modern chemical plants, where participants will receive training in various industrial operations and gain exposure to industry working environments (3 weeks); and
- (e) a final segment at OPCW headquarters, which will include presentations of industrial assignments, research activities, and a final review period (2 weeks).
- 6. Since English will be the language of instruction, all participants **must** be able to understand, read, and write it proficiently. Any candidate who is found, upon arrival in The Hague, not to meet this requirement may not be allowed to participate in the Programme.
- 7. The Secretariat invites applications from candidates who have a first degree (B.Sc. or equivalent) in chemistry or in chemical or process engineering from a university or another recognised institution of higher learning, and five years' relevant work experience (for example, in the chemical industry, in process engineering, or in plant and production operations). In addition, a working background with a National Authority or another government agency involved in the implementation of either the Convention or a comparable international regulatory instrument would be an advantage.
- 8. The Secretariat can accept applications only from nationals of Member States. Applicants will be carefully screened, and only the most suitable will be interviewed. Selections are normally made several weeks after the application deadline.
- 9. Once candidates have been selected, they may be required to undergo a medical fitness test designed to assess their ability to work with hazardous materials and to use chemical-protection equipment. Any health condition that might affect a prospective participant's fitness for this intensive Programme should be declared in the medical history form that successful applicants will be required to fill out. These candidates will also be required to sign a confidentiality agreement with the OPCW. A copy of this document, along with an information note containing details of the arrangements regarding participation in the Programme, will be made available only to successful candidates.
- 10. The OPCW will cover the costs of Programme-related travel, accommodation, meals, course fees, and medical and travel insurance for all participants while the Programme is being conducted, as per OPCW rules.
- 11. Candidates for the Programme must use the personal history form annexed hereto to apply for admission. The information provided under each item on the form must be complete and accurate. Incomplete or sketchy applications, including any that do not contain the one-page statement requested in item 17 of the form, cannot be considered. Applications should be sent by post to the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR, The Hague, the Netherlands; faxed to +31 (0)70 416 3279; or e-mailed to IntCoopBr@opcw.org. In the last case, a signed copy of the application form, along with a photocopy of the applicant's passport, must also be faxed. All applications, whether sent by post, e-mailed, or faxed, must be received by the Secretariat no later than 15 February 2007.

- 12. Candidates may submit their applications directly to the OPCW or through their National Authority.
- 13. Additional information about the Programme may be obtained from Ms Olga Falco, International Cooperation Officer in the International Cooperation Branch:

Tel: +31 (0) 70 416 3218 Fax: +31 (0) 70 416 3279 E-mail: <u>IntCoopBr@opcw.org</u>.

Annex (English only):

OPCW Associate Programme 2007: Personal History Form

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ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION								INSTRUCTIONS							
						OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS							Please answer each question clearly and		
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8. Passport details (please attach a photocopy of your current passport)															
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11b. Knowledge of other languages															
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For this and like items below, please tick the appropriate box.

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Description of duties:							
17. The aims of the Associate Programme are indicated in the covering Note. With these in mind, please attach a one-page statement on how you would benefit from the course and how you would disseminate in your country the knowledge and experience you would gain.							
18. Special dietary (food) requirements (if any):	perfence you v	oulu galli.					
19. Other requirements:							
20. Please use this space to provide any additional information	on relevant to	your applics	ation				
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I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the statements questions are true, complete, and correct.	1 have made	in response	to the above				
Name:							
Signature:	Date:						
N.B. You may be requested to supply documentary evidence that supports t do not send any such evidence until you have been asked to do so by the texts of references or testimonials unless they have been obtained for the sole	OPCW. In any e	vent, do not su					

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