



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/701/2008

2 July 2008

ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR A COURSE ON
THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS
TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
1 – 5 NOVEMBER 2008**

1. On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite Member States to nominate candidates for the ninth course on the medical aspects of defence against chemical weapons, to be held from 1 to 5 November 2008, in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.
2. The course has been designed primarily for medical doctors, although applicants from the paramedical professions will also be considered. The course will be particularly valuable for medical professionals who are new to the field of chemical defence, and who do not have an extensive background in the medical aspects of defence against chemical weapons. It will provide a unique opportunity for them to gain insights from Iranian physicians who have personally treated victims of chemical weapons in field situations.
3. The participants will be provided with an overview of the nature of chemical weapons and their effects, and an update on international efforts to eliminate chemical weapons. The course will enable medical personnel to gain an understanding of the problems which they may encounter if they participate in national or international responses to incidents involving chemical weapons, and also of the assistance and further training that are available through the OPCW. It will provide an ideal foundation for those who wish to attend specialised training courses offered by other States Parties in the future. The course will include both theoretical lectures and case studies involving patients suffering from the chronic effects of exposure to chemical weapons. The details of the subjects that will be covered during the course are presented in Annex 1.
4. The course will be held at the International Medical Centre for Training and Treatment against Chemical Weapons (IMCTTCW) in Tehran, in the Islamic Republic of Iran.



5. All activities during the course will be conducted in English. No interpretation facilities of any kind will be provided. Nominated candidates are therefore expected to have a good command of the English language, both written and oral.
6. Background material on the subjects to be covered, as well as a detailed programme of activities and times, will be sent to the successful candidates in advance, to allow them to prepare for the course. Upon request, this material may be sent to the relevant Permanent Representations to the OPCW, to be forwarded to participants.
7. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor the participation of a limited number of participants. Only applications received through the National Authority or the Permanent Representation will be considered. Each nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee's participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, meals, and medical insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The Secretariat will also arrange and pay for accommodation for sponsored participants.
8. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most-economical options. It will purchase tickets and send them to participants. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, participants are expected to arrive **no earlier than Friday, 31 October 2008**, and to depart **no later than Thursday, 6 November 2008**. The Secretariat's agreement is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the meeting or that result from changes to travel arrangements it has not authorised. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased tickets.
9. Selected participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before traveling to the Islamic Republic of Iran.
10. Member States are invited to submit the names of candidates for the course to the Secretariat **no later than 5 September 2008**. Nominations received after that date will not normally be considered. All nominations, together with the information requested in the questionnaire for candidates (found in Annex 2) and a copy of their passports, should be addressed to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Applications may also be submitted by fax to: +31 (0)70 416 3209, or by e-mail to EmergAssistBr@opcw.org. Selected participants will be contacted within two weeks of the submission deadline.
11. Additional information on the course may be obtained from the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Muhammad Kazi, +31 (0)70 416 3775, and Ms Maria Elena Bruno-Pousadela +31 (0)70 416 3217.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Subjects to Be Covered during the Course on the Medical Aspects of Defence against Chemical Weapons

Annex 2: Nomination Form

Annex 1

SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED DURING THE COURSE ON THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN 1 – 5 NOVEMBER 2008

General introduction

Overview of the nature of chemical weapons and their effects.
Introduction to protection against chemical weapons, including detection, personal and collective protection, and contamination control.
Performance reduction and ergonomic problems of using chemical-defence equipment.

Medical aspects of exposure to chemical agents

Nerve agents (pathology, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment).
Blister agents (pathology, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment).
Other agents.

The Iranian experience of chemical weapons

Review of the experiences and lessons learned by Iranian physicians when confronted with mass chemical casualties during the 1980s.
Organisation of the medical response to a chemical attack in the field.
Organisation and treatment of the chronic effects of poisoning by chemical weapons, with an overview of the work of the Janbasan Iranian Veterans' Foundation and the IMCTTCW.
Chronic effects of exposure to mustard:
(a) respiratory effects
(b) dermatological effects
(c) ophthalmological effects
(d) case studies (guided clinical training sessions, interviews with, and examinations of, patients exhibiting the chronic effects of their exposure to mustard).

International efforts against chemical weapons

Update on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the role of medical personnel in chemical defence and disarmament.
Medical aspects of investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons.
Further sources of international assistance available to Member States of the OPCW to prepare for, or react to, an incident involving chemical weapons.

Annex 2

**COURSE ON
THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF DEFENCE
AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS
TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
1 – 5 NOVEMBER 2008**

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form **by 5 September 2008** to:
The International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW
Attn: Assistance and Protection Branch
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Fax: + 31 (0)70 416 3209; e-mail: EmergAssistBr@opcw.org

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS. All fields should be completed.

1.	Family name of nominee*	
2.	First name(s)*	
3.	Gender ¹	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Date of birth	
5.	Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number.)	Street Number
		Post code City
		Country
6.	E-mail address	
7.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
		Mobile
8.	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
9.	Passport number	
10.	Date of issue	
11.	Place of issue	
12.	Expiry date	
13.	City of departure	
14.	Nominating agency	

* Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.

¹ For this and all like items below, please tick the appropriate box.

15.	Professional qualifications				
16.	Is sponsorship required for participation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>	
17.	Area(s) of expertise				
18.	Short overview of professional career, indicating any area of special interest	University name, place, and country	Attended from/to (month/year)	Degree/diploma	Main area of study
19.	Have you had any previous training in medical defence against chemical weapons?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
	If yes, please provide details:				
20.	Have you had any actual experience examining or treating patients who have been exposed to chemical weapons?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please provide details:				
21.	What is your current or expected future involvement in the field of medical defence against chemical weapons?				

22.	Nominated by:					
23.	Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
24.	Brief recommendation from the National Authority	<table border="1"><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr></table>				
Signed _____ Date _____						