



NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**UPDATE ON EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
JANUARY – APRIL 2018**

INTRODUCTION

1. The aim of this Note is to provide the Members States of the OPCW with information on a four-monthly basis regarding the capacity-building activities delivered by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) through its international cooperation and assistance programmes. These programmes support Members States’ efforts to effectively implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and in particular Articles VII, X and XI thereof. This Note covers the period 1 January to 30 April 2018.

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – ARTICLE VII

Mentorship/Partnership Programme for Representatives of National Authorities of Brazil and Panama, Brasilia, Brazil, 28 February to 2 March 2018

2. One visit under the National Authority Mentorship and Partnership Programme took place during the reporting period. Representatives of the National Authority of Panama visited their counterparts in Brazil from 28 February to 2 March 2018. As a result of the visit, the Panamanian National Authority committed to follow up on different recommendations to improve the implementation of the Convention at the national level. The return visit to Panama by the National Authority of Brazil is tentatively scheduled to take place by the second quarter of 2018.

National Legal Workshop for Iraq on the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, The Hague, the Netherlands, 4 to 6 April 2018

3. The legal workshop was organised in response to a request from Iraq for legislative assistance. It aimed at providing technical assistance to Iraq in addressing the gaps in its existing legislative framework for the Convention. The workshop was attended by five representatives from the Iraqi National Monitoring Authority, the Higher Judicial Council, and the National Security Council.



4. As a result of the workshop, Iraq was able to identify the gaps in its existing legal and regulatory framework for the Convention and successfully drafted legal provisions to address them. The Iraqi representatives informed the Secretariat that the texts would be incorporated into a new comprehensive draft, currently being developed by the National Authority, which would also establish a new legal entity with a mandate over chemical and radiological materials.

General Training Course on the Chemical Weapons Convention for the Personnel of National Authorities and Relevant Stakeholders, The Hague, the Netherlands, 9 to 13 April 2018

5. The purpose of the training course was to enhance the knowledge and skills of the personnel of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders in order to enable States Parties to better implement their obligations under the Convention.
6. The course was attended by 72 participants representing 54 States Parties. The participants gained the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively discharge their responsibilities, including the drafting of annual reports on implementing legislation and national protective programmes, the annual submission of declarations, and the receiving and coordinating of inspections. They also gained a better understanding of the significance of stronger linkages and concrete engagement between National Authorities and relevant national stakeholders.

National Awareness-Raising and Legislative Assistance Workshop, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 11 and 12 April 2018

7. The main objectives of the workshop, organised by the Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam, were to raise the awareness and understanding of relevant national stakeholders about the Convention and the OPCW. The workshop also highlighted the Secretariat's available assistance programmes for implementation that could support Brunei Darussalam's efforts to implement different aspects of the Convention, including Article VI declarations and national legislation in accordance with Article VII. The Secretariat provided expert support to facilitate the workshop.
8. As a result of the workshop, Brunei Darussalam prepared revised draft legislation and committed to take forward the formal designation of the National Authority and the adoption of implementing legislation by early 2019.
9. More than 50 participants from relevant ministries and agencies attended the workshop.

Subregional Stakeholders Forum on Advancing National Implementation of the Convention and Regional Cooperation in South-East Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, 24 to 26 April 2018

10. This pilot activity targeted Member States of the OPCW which are also members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with the aim of enhancing national implementation of the Convention in the region. During the meeting, particular reference was made to the East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Chemical Weapons, which was adopted at the Twelfth East Asia Summit in November 2017. Participants shared their views on the potential contributions of

regional platforms such as ASEAN and the ASEAN Regional Forum to enhance national implementation of the Convention. They also came up with specific recommendations.

11. Participants in the workshop included 40 representatives from nine member States and two dialogue partners of ASEAN, as well as representatives from the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), the 1540 Committee, and the Pacific Forum CSIS.

ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION – ARTICLE X

Thirteenth Annual Chemical Weapons Convention Workshop, Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC), Zagreb, Croatia, 5 to 8 February 2018

12. This annual workshop is intended for representatives of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders (ministries of defence, emergency management agencies, civil defence, etc.), and is primarily aimed at discussing relevant issues related to the implementation of the Convention in South-Eastern Europe. This year's workshop focused on the theme "Dual-Use Chemicals: Ensuring that Hazardous Chemicals Don't Wind Up in the Wrong Hands".
13. Participants shared best practices and gained knowledge on the management of chemical hazards and risk reduction.
14. Fourteen participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey were in attendance.

Subregional Basic Course on Emergency Response to Chemical Incidents, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 4 to 8 March 2018

15. This course was intended for first responders in chemical emergency response and protection against chemical weapons from Member States of the OPCW which are also members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
16. The objective of the course was to provide basic theoretical and practical knowledge and skills on types and characteristics of chemical warfare agents, and on measures of protection and response to emergency situations involving the use of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
17. The participants in the workshop included 39 first responders from five SAARC member States, representing various agencies involved in chemical emergency response and civil defence.

Fifth Swiss Exercise, Spiez, Switzerland, 12 to 16 March 2018

18. The exercise was intended for first responders and was the final part of the Swiss training cycle, with the main objective of finalising the participants' training by providing them with the knowledge required to serve as instructors in relation to operations involving Swiss chemical response equipment in the field.

19. The course confirmed the participants' knowledge in terms of the proper use of Swiss individual protective equipment, notably monitoring, detection, sampling, evacuation, and decontamination equipment used in response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
20. The course was attended by 21 participants from 19 Member States.

Regional Basic Course on Emergency Response to Chemical Incidents, Kathmandu, Nepal, 9 to 13 April 2018

21. This course was intended for first responders in emergency response and protection against chemical weapons from Member States in the Asian region.
22. The participants were provided with basic theoretical and practical knowledge on protection and response measures to emergency situations involving the use of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, as well as on the types and characteristics of chemical warfare agents.
23. Twenty-nine participants from 11 Member States in the region attended the course. The international participants will continue their training cycle with the upcoming advanced course, to be held in the Republic of Korea in June 2018, and with a field exercise in Malaysia in October 2018.

Basic Regional Course for Specialists in Response to Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals, Panama City, Panama, 23 to 27 April 2018

24. This course was intended for first responders in emergency response and protection against chemical weapons from States Parties of the Latin American and Caribbean region. The objective of the course was to provide basic knowledge of protection and response measures to emergency situations involving the use of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
25. The course met the learning objectives and prepared the participants for the advanced assistance and protection training course that was held in Argentina in May 2018.
26. Thirty-three participants from 17 Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the event, which was funded using resources from the OPCW regular budget.

Support to the University of Rome Tor Vergata Master CBRNe Programme, Rome, Italy, 23 to 26 April 2018

27. The Secretariat provided expert support for the second level international master courses in protection against chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNe) events, which are being delivered by the Department of Industrial Engineering and the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Rome Tor Vergata in the 2018–2019 academic year.
28. The support included a module entitled “Management of Chemical Release Scenarios”.

Regional Table-top Exercise on Response to Chemical Emergencies for Member States of the Southern African Development Community, Lusaka, Zambia, 17 to 19 April 2018

29. The exercise was intended for emergency response managers from Member States of the OPCW which are also members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Its main purpose was to build and enhance their capabilities, including in civilian defence, in terms of operational frameworks, policymaking, communication, and information sharing at the national and regional level, in order to ensure effective national and regional response and the facilitation of international assistance in cases of incidents involving chemical warfare agents or other toxic chemicals.
30. The participants gained knowledge and skills covering various aspects of planning and managing responses to chemical incidents.
31. Twenty-two experts from 12 member States of the SADC participated in the event.

Regional Table-top Exercise on Response to Chemical Emergencies, Denpasar, Indonesia, 24 to 26 April 2018

32. The exercise was intended for emergency managers from Member States in the Asian region. It was aimed at building and enhancing their capabilities in terms of operational frameworks, policymaking, communication, and information sharing at the national and regional level, in order to ensure effective national and regional response and the facilitation of international assistance in cases of incidents involving chemical warfare agents or other toxic chemicals.
33. The participants gained knowledge and skills covering various aspects of planning and managing responses to chemical incidents.
34. Twenty experts from 14 Asian Member States participated in the event. In preparation for a major upcoming sporting event in Indonesia, 35 national experts representing relevant Indonesian institutions (police, disaster management agencies, fire services, chemical industry, the ministry of foreign affairs, and the national counter terrorism agency) also participated in the event.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – ARTICLE XI

Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia Region, Doha, Qatar, 26 to 28 February 2018

35. This programme for OPCW Member States in the Asian region was intended for governmental representatives, chemical industry associations, and managers involved in chemical safety and security and in the Responsible Care[®] programme.
36. The participants gained knowledge and a better understanding of various aspects of chemical safety and security management, including development of the national framework, chemical facility oversight mechanisms, chemical plant audit mechanisms,

and the role of academia and other stakeholders in learning and sharing of best practices. The meeting was also an opportunity to raise awareness about regional issues related to Convention implementation.

37. The event was attended by 53 participants from 20 Member States in the Asian region, with funding through a voluntary contribution from Qatar.

Analytical Skills Development Course for the Analysis of Convention-related Chemicals, Rijswijk, the Netherlands, 12 to 16 March 2018

38. This course was aimed at assisting six qualified analytical chemists from Iraq in acquiring the necessary analytical skills in the use of mass spectrometry to analyse chemicals related to the implementation of the Convention.

39. The course was attended by six participants from Iraq.

Workshop for States Parties in Asia on Needs Assessment and Best Practices in Chemical Safety and Security Management, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, 10 to 12 April 2018

40. The workshop for Asian Member States was intended for governmental representatives, laboratories, academia, chemical industry associations, and managers involved in chemical industry safety and security management and in Responsible Care[®] to share their needs, experiences, and best practices in chemical safety and security management.

41. The workshop enabled participants to gain and further improve their knowledge of chemical safety and security management and the development of related mechanisms, including technical and legislative aspects, threat assessment and mitigation measures, prospects and gaps relating to chemical safety and security management, and the building of a safety and security culture in the chemical supply chain. As part of the programme, participants had an opportunity to visit PetroVietnam Fertilizer and Chemicals Corporation to learn about the implementation of chemical safety and security management in the Vietnamese chemical industry.

42. Thirty-two participants from 15 Asian Member States representing government agencies, chemical industry, academia, and relevant stakeholders participated in the workshop.

Research Projects and Fellowship Programmes

43. During the reporting period, the Secretariat received eight requests for support under the Programme for Support of Research Projects (from Argentina, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, the Russian Federation, Serbia, South Africa, and Uruguay) and granted five new fellowships under the Fellowship Programme (Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, China, and Uganda).