Fifth Annual Summer Programme on

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Changing World

1-5 September 2014
The Hague
Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

There is an increasing demand for professionals in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). The challenges posed to international security by nuclear, chemical and biological weapons are as urgent today as they were during the Cold War, with growing concern over the possibility of terrorists obtaining and using WMDs. The use of chemical weapons in Syria against unarmed civilians, and the harrowing risk of those same weapons falling into the hands of extremist groups amidst the ongoing civil war, has been a tragic reminder of the need for WMD disarmament and non-proliferation in the 21st century.

In August 2010, the T.M.C Asser Instituut and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons launched the first Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (“WMD Summer Programme”). In its first four years the programme has established itself as a highly regarded educational resource for advanced graduate students and young to mid-level professionals with interests in WMD diplomacy and treaty implementation.

One of the principal strengths of the programme is its integrated approach to the subject matter. The programme addresses the diplomatic, legal, operational and scientific aspects of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts with respect to chemical, nuclear and biological weapons, with cross-cutting aspects discussed in high-level panels.

"Impressive program with many complex, engaging topics packed into one week, left an impressionable experience that I will carry with me throughout my career in arms control and non-proliferation and wmd security”

Participant of the Summer Programme on Disarmament & Non-Proliferation of WMD, September 2013

The WMD Summer Programme enjoys the support and participation of the following international organisations:

- Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU)
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
Programme

The WMD Summer Programme provides clear insights into the functioning of the four international WMD treaty organisations and illustrates the main challenges each organisation faces today.

The programme will provide the participants with a historical overview of arms control concepts and approaches, and considers the role of WMD disarmament and non-proliferation in the context of international law, security policies and geopolitical considerations.

The legal framework for each of the categories of WMDs is elaborated on, including the pertinent security considerations, political challenges and scientific aspects. The cross-cutting sessions discuss current and future challenges faced by the various WMD regimes.

In March 2014 the third Nuclear Security Summit will take place in The Hague. Nuclear security is aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism around the globe and the Summit will focus on three themes:

- Reducing the amount of dangerous nuclear materials in the world
- Improving the security of all nuclear material and radioactive sources
- Improving international cooperation

In conjunction with the NSS, the third Nuclear Industry Summit will take place in Amsterdam where the nuclear industry will gather to discuss how they can contribute to enhancing nuclear security.

The Summer Programme will reflect on the outcomes of the Nuclear Security Summit: what has been achieved, which implementing measures have been adopted to prevent threats that involve nuclear materials, and how to move forward.

Another important feature in this year’s Summer Programme will be the removal and destruction of chemical weapons in Syria. We will look at the legal and diplomatic aspects of this mission but also hear from the inspectors themselves on the operational challenges they faced in verifying the destruction activities amidst the on-going conflict.

The OPCW was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize for its extensive efforts in eliminating chemical weapons but also for its leading role in the unprecedented disarmament mission in Syria.

Since the Chemical Weapons Convention came into force in 1997, 190 countries have joined the treaty and nearly 85% of all declared chemical weapons have been destroyed, including the final destruction of Libya’s stockpile in early 2014.
Science and technology continue to evolve and new developments take place all the time, especially in the field of nanotechnology. During the WMD Summer Programme we will look into the convergence of biology and chemistry and its implications for the CWC and BWC regimes. We will also delve into the dilemmas posed by dual use technology.

Convergence is a new paradigm that may yield critical advances in many different areas such as health care, renewable energy, the food industry and environmental protection. But it also offers potential for improving protection against chemical and biological weapons, most notably with respect to detection.

The interplay of sciences is leading to increased overlap between the CWC and BWC, for example in the area of toxins and bio regulators, and requires closer cooperation between the CWC and BWC communities to address.

In sum, the objectives of the programme are:

- To offer a broad, comparative review of the history, purpose and provisions of WMD treaties;
- To provide an understanding of the diplomatic, legal and technical aspects of organisations dealing with WMDs;
- To explore how WMD treaties are implemented at national level; and
- To create networking opportunities for participants by bringing them in direct contact with officials of leading organisations in the field of WMDs.

The programme content is delivered by experienced officials of the OPCW and other treaty organisations together with academics, diplomats and independent experts in the fields of international law, security and related disciplines. The sessions are interactive and provide the participants hands-on knowledge from key professionals in the field, seasoned with the personal experiences of the speakers with the issues.

This year’s speakers will include, inter alia:

2. Paul Walker, Director of Green Cross International’s Environmental Security and Sustainability programme and a winner of the Right Livelihood Award in 2013 “...for working tirelessly to rid the world of chemical weapons.”
3. Dr Ralf Trapp, leading international disarmament consultant. His expertise includes analysing the impact science and technology have on the chemical and biological weapons regimes.
4. Richard Guthrie, an independent authority on chemical and biological weapons and frequent media commentator on the situation in Syria.
**Field visits**

To complement the classroom content of the WMD Summer Programme, one full day is devoted to field visits. These include to the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store in Rijswijk, a nuclear research reactor at the Technical University in Delft, and the TNO research organisation for a live exercise of investigating an alleged use of WMDs. The field visits offer participants direct experience in CBRN preparedness and in the way international treaties on WMDs are implemented at the national level.

**Demonstration: OPCW verification and inspection work**

This field visit to the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment store provides participants a full view of the verification regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention. There, participants are briefed by OPCW inspectors and lab personnel who demonstrate their tools for conducting Investigations of Alleged Use (IAU) of chemical weapons, challenge inspections, routine industrial inspections, and inspections of declared chemical weapons programmes. Of particular attention is the critical importance of sampling and analysis and of maintaining chain of custody in the investigation process, as was highlighted by the UN investigation of alleged use in Damascus in August-September 2013 which the OPCW supported with its inspectors, equipment and laboratories.

**Nuclear research reactor, Delft**

The reactor institute at Delft is part of the Applied Sciences faculty of the Delft University of Technology. The reactor is not for producing electrical power but rather is a source of neutrons and positrons for research purposes. The knowledge and expertise of RID play an important role in fundamental and applied scientific research in fields such as health and sustainable energy, both nationally and internationally.

The RID produces radio isotopes for application in many different fields. Participants are briefed on what the research reactor does, how uranium is enriched, the reactor's control mechanisms, the kind of research it undertakes and for whom, and the institute's relationship with the IAEA. Participants are treated to a tour inside the reactor itself for a view of the fuel rods.

**Live exercise: Investigation of alleged WMD use**

This field visit is hosted by the Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), an independent institute that conducts research for the Dutch Ministry of Defence, amongst others. TNO houses one of the OPCW’s 20 Designated Laboratories and has trained some 180 OPCW inspectors over the years. A team of OPCW inspectors will conduct a live field exercise to investigate an alleged use of chemical weapons, during which they demonstrate reconnaissance, the collection of soil and water samples, maintaining the chain of custody, and decontamination. Participants are given a tour of the CBRN laboratory for an explanation of how field samples are analysed.
Target audience

The objective of this Summer Programme is to inspire interest among the younger generation in WMD demilitarisation and non-proliferation as part of the larger process of maintaining global peace and security.

The programme is specifically designed for advanced graduate students and young to mid-level professionals who are interested in pursuing careers in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament of weapons of mass destruction.

Whether you are a diplomat, scientist, security analyst or an advanced graduate student following these paths, the Summer Programme will provide you with unique insight into the legal frameworks of each subcategory of WMD and a sound understanding of the distinctions and similarities between nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Familiarity with international law and arms control issues is highly desirable for course applicants.

“Being passionate about this topic for almost 10 years and having recently graduated it was a unique opportunity to extend my knowledge on WMD issues, meet great people and discuss with international experts. According to me the programme was absolutely well organized and reached all my expectations and even more. Without any doubts, what I have learned and the contacts that I have made will decidedly determine my future professional life which will be, I hope, in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of WMD.”

Participant of the Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of WMD’, S.F., Belgium, September 2012

Practical information

Date
1 – 5 September 2014

Fee
€ 1495,-

This fee includes lectures, study materials, study visits, water/tea/coffee and lunch during workings days, an opening dinner, and an opening and closing reception.

The fee does not cover (international) travel costs, domestic travel to and from airports etc, accommodations (i.e. hotels), insurance or other expenses. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut can provide prospective participants with a list of suitable hotels in The Hague.

Registration
You can register by completing the online application form at: www.asser.nl/Disarmament. Please read the Registration Information & Conditions carefully before registration.

The deadline for application is 21 July, 2014.

Contact
For more information or questions please contact educationtraining@asser.nl
Organisers

T.M.C. Asser Instituut

The T.M.C. Asser Instituut in The Hague is a distinctive, inter-university research institute specialised in International and European law and a leading and authoritative provider of executive education to students and professionals operating in the judicial sector.

The Institute initiates, develops and provides education - tailor-made programmes and Summer Programmes – to students and professionals working in the judicial sector.

Each programme has a high degree of flexibility and competence, taking advantage of our academic integration and our extensive network of excellent and renowned speakers and teaching staff.

Working with partners from complimentary fields we are successful in creating truly unique and highly relevant programmes on a variety of subjects and levels for a diverse range of participants including among others students, judges, prosecutors, legislators, civil servants, diplomats and lawyers.

Located in the heart of the international justice community, within walking distance of such international organisations as the ICTY, the OPCW, and the Peace Palace (which houses the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration), the T.M.C. Asser Instituut is the perfect host for organising Summer Programmes in international law.

www.asser.nl

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The OPCW was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize for its historic achievements in eliminating chemical weapons, and for its leading role in the unprecedented disarmament mission in Syria.

The OPCW’s mandate is to rid the world of chemical weapons by achieving universality of the Convention and ensuring full implementation of its provisions. Its principal role is to verify compliance with the treaty’s provisions by States Parties and to provide a forum for their consultation and cooperation.

The OPCW is an independent, autonomous international organisation with a working relationship with the United Nations. Established in 1997, the OPCW now counts 190 countries as States Parties.

www.opcw.org
Registration information & conditions

Enrolment

1. You may register via the website by submitting the completed online registration form at www.asser.nl/Disarmament
3. Each participant should use a separate form.
4. The deadline for registration is 21 July 2014.
5. Upon receipt of the completed registration form, a confirmation letter and payment details will be sent to you by email.
6. Your registration is complete once the online registration form has been submitted and the payment has been received.
7. The registration form constitutes a legally binding agreement. By submitting the completed registration form the registrant declares to be in accordance with the requirements and provisions described therein.
8. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut cannot be held responsible for the non-arrival of registration information. If you have not received confirmation of your registration within 7 working days of submitting, please contact educationtraining@asser.nl
9. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut reserves the right to withhold registration.

Fees and Payment Conditions

1. Fees for the week long programme are €1495,-
2. The fee includes lectures, study materials, study visits, refreshments and lunch during working days, a reception and opening dinner.
3. The full payment must be made within 10 days after receipt of the confirmation e-mail. You will only be secured of a place at the Summer Programme once the T.M.C. Asser Instituut has received your payment in full.
4. Participants are responsible for the cost of all international travel, accommodation evening meals (approximately €30 per day), and if applicable, any visa charges and medical insurance. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut can provide prospective participants with a list of suitable hotels in The Hague (€70-120 per day).

Cancellation Policy

1. Cancellations will only be accepted when your request for cancellation is submitted by e-mail to educationtraining@asser.nl
2. If you cancel less than two weeks prior to the starting date of the Summer programme, please note that a €200 processing fee will be charged. The remaining fees paid will be refunded.
3. No refunds will be made on the registrations not cancelled within the allotted time.
4. The T.M.C Asser Instituut reserves the right to cancel the Summer Programme. In the event that such action is necessary, registrants will be informed at least four weeks in advance of the starting date of the programme.
5. In the event that the T.M.C. Asser Instituut cancels the Summer Programme, the full sum paid will be reimbursed.

Visa

1. If you require a visa to visit the Netherlands, you are strongly advised to apply for your visa at least eight weeks prior to your departure to The Netherlands. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut does not arrange visas but will assist visa applicants where appropriate.

Liability

1. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut cannot be held liable for personal injuries or for loss and/or damage to the personal belongings of participants either during or as a result of their participation in the programme.