



ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

**Remarks by H.E. Mr Hamid Ali Rao, OPCW Deputy Director-General
at the Closing Reception for the Eighth Annual Summer Programme on Disarmament and
Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) - Asser Institute**

Friday, 8 September 2017

REMARKS AS DELIVERED

Distinguished Guests,
Dear colleagues,
and Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are here to mark the completion of the eighth annual Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, which is being hosted by the Asser Institute in cooperation with the OPCW.

On behalf of the Director-General, I wish to congratulate those of you who have completed this year's Programme and would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent collaboration that our two institutions have enjoyed on this important annual event. I thank Mr Sico van der Meer and his team at the Asser Institute, the presenters and contributors to this year's Programme.

Dear Participants,

Before I hand out certificates to you, I would like to remind you that you are now part of an alumni network that will extend well beyond the people present in this room. You represent the next generation of diplomats, technical experts and thinkers who will shape the future direction of disarmament and arms control.

I hope that this Programme, and the valuable contacts you have made here, will serve you well as you are confronted with new and emerging challenges in a shifting strategic environment. The successful example of chemical disarmament and the ongoing challenges to preventing the re-emergence of such weapons, which you have learned about in more details through the Programme, will help guide you in these endeavours.

With that, please accept my best wishes in your work.

Thank you.
