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31 May 2024  
ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A COURSE ON DETECTION AND SAMPLING  
OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS IN HIGHLY CONTAMINATED  
ENVIRONMENTS FOR ASIAN STATES PARTIES  
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN  
18 – 22 NOVEMBER 2024**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite Member States to nominate participants for a regional course on detection and sampling of chemical warfare agents in highly contaminated environments, which will take place from 18 to 22 November 2024 in Islamabad, Pakistan.
2. The course is being organised by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Defense Science and Technology Organization of Pakistan, and will provide training for up to 25 Asian experts who are involved in emergency response to chemical incidents, and who would be responsible for conducting sampling and analysis tasks in a highly contaminated environment as a result of a chemical attack or incident involving toxic chemicals.
3. The course will also provide an overview of the kinds of assistance the OPCW can provide, and will help participating Asian Member States enhance the abilities and skills of their officers in charge of chemical incidents, thus boosting their ability to respond adequately to incidents associated with the intentional or accidental release of chemical warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals.
4. Asian Member States that do not yet have sampling capabilities are especially encouraged to nominate participants. Given the objectives of the course and its technical nature, applicants should have a solid technical background in chemistry and the management of hazardous chemicals. Applicants are expected to be familiar with the principles of first response, including sampling and chemical emergency management.
5. Participants must also be qualified and experienced in using and wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Previous practical experience in military or civil protection or police is desirable. Individual protective suits will be worn for several hours each day, and participants must therefore be physically fit and able to wear such equipment for extended periods.
6. All participants must have a solid command of English, both oral and written, as all activities during the course will be conducted in English and no interpretation services of any kind will be available.



7. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraphs 4 to 6 above. Only the most suitable applicants will be selected. The Secretariat strongly encourages Member States and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified female candidates.
8. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants from Member States in the Asian region. For sponsored participants, it will cover the costs of accommodation and meals. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, and transport will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
9. Interested Member States are invited to submit nominations as soon as possible and **no later than 7 July 2024**, making sure to provide all necessary contact details and valid passport details of the nominees. Endorsement by the candidates' respective National Authority is a prerequisite for consideration in the selection process. The endorsement process must be completed online before the above-mentioned **deadline of 7 July 2024** in Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org/>).
10. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Pakistan.
11. The provisional programme for this training course is included as the Annex to this Note, and further details will be issued at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the focal point for this training within the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division: Mr Miguel Albaladejo Pomares (Tel: +31 62 465 3415; Email: [miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org](mailto:miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org)).

Annex:           Provisional Programme

## Annex

**COURSE ON DETECTION AND SAMPLING OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS  
IN HIGHLY CONTAMINATED ENVIRONMENTS FOR ASIAN STATES PARTIES  
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN  
18 – 22 NOVEMBER 2024**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b><i>Sunday, 17 November 2024</i></b>	
	Arrival of participants in Islamabad
<b><i>Monday, 18 November 2024</i></b>	
08:30 – 09:00	Initial briefing
09:00 – 09:30	Overview of the course
09:30 – 10:00	Country presentation
10:00 – 11:00	Opening ceremony, group photo, and tea/coffee break
11:00 – 11:40	Presentation: Introduction to chemical emergencies
11:40 – 12:30	Presentation: Latest chemical warfare agents
12:30 – 13:00	Issuance of personal protective equipment (PPE)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Presentation/demonstration: Sizing and use of PPE
15:30 – 17:00	Hands-on training/practice: Mission-oriented protective postures (MOPP) – PPE
17:00 – 22:00	Sightseeing followed by dinner at hotel
<b><i>Tuesday, 19 November 2024</i></b>	
08:30 – 09:10	Presentation: Psychological effects of chemical incidents
09:10 – 09:50	Presentation: Overview of sampling in contaminated environments: General rules, hazards, equipment, and procedures
09:50 – 10:30	Presentation: Reconnaissance procedures for chemical threats
10:30 – 11:50	Hands-on training/exercise: Protective clothing levels (SCBA)
11:50 – 13:30	Hands-on training/exercise: Introduction and use of detection equipment
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 16:00	Accredited laboratory analysis of received samples
16:00 – 19:00	Market visit followed by dinner at hotel
<b><i>Wednesday, 20 November 2024</i></b>	
08:30 – 09:10	Presentation: Sampling methodology for chemical analysis, environmental and emergency sampling
09:10 – 09:50	Presentation: Biomedical/clinical sampling in a chemically contaminated environment
09:50 – 10:50	Practical session: Sampling equipment and collection of liquid, air, wipe, and soil samples
10:50 – 11:10	Inspection by the medical team at the start of the exercise
11:10 – 13:00	<p><b>Practical sessions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detection – deepening of basic knowledge acquired and practising the management of detection equipment in the field</li> <li>• SCBA –medical evacuation and fitness test</li> <li>• Evacuation (including medical management of casualties) – Participants will learn about managing victims in polluting environments during a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear emergency, and rescue tasks will be practiced using stretchers or other means of transport in a hot zone, emphasising the safety of operators and the rescue team</li> </ul>

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marking of contaminated areas</li> <li>• Sampling – Participants will learn general concepts of sample types, procedures, safety, roles and responsibilities, and chain of custody procedures</li> <li>• Sample collection practice (wearing PPE)</li> <li>• Sample collection practice (wearing SCBA)</li> <li>• Practice in the smoke chamber</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 17:00	Sightseeing
17:00 – 18:00	Preparation for exercises
18:00 – 20:00	<b>Field training in low visibility (night training)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detection</li> <li>• Evacuation</li> <li>• Marking of contaminated areas</li> <li>• Sampling</li> </ul>
20:00 – 22:00	<i>Dinner</i>
<b>Thursday, 21 November 2024</b>	
08:30 – 09:10	Presentation: Chain of custody and transportation procedures for toxic samples
09:10 – 11:00	Case study: Incident response aimed at collection of samples
11:00 – 13:00	Practice: Chain of custody and transportation procedures for toxic samples
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 17:00	<b>Field training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detection</li> <li>• Evacuation</li> <li>• Marking of contaminated areas</li> <li>• Sampling</li> <li>• Mask leakage testing with CS gas</li> <li>• Mask fitness testing with equipment</li> <li>• Exercise in gas/encapsulated environment</li> </ul>
17:00 – 22:00	Shopping mall visit followed by dinner at hotel
<b>Friday, 22 November 2024</b>	
08:30 – 12:00	<b>Field training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detection</li> <li>• Evacuation</li> <li>• Marking of contaminated areas</li> <li>• Sampling</li> <li>• Exercise in gas/encapsulated environment</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:40	Medical inspection by the medical team on completion of the training
12:40 – 14:00	<i>Lunch and prayer break</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Evaluation of the course by participants/feedback
14:30 – 15:00	Closing ceremony/group photograph
15:00 – 15:30	Maintenance and return of equipment
15:30 – 16:00	Display of equipment and the mobile diagnostic unit (MDU)
16:00 – 16:30	Refreshments
16:30 –	End of course