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18 February 2025
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN INTEGRATED ADVANCED COURSE AND EXERCISE FOR ASIAN STATES PARTIES

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite States Parties in the Asian Group to nominate representatives to participate in an integrated advanced course and exercise related to assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), which will begin with an online course on the essentials of responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
2. The integrated advanced course and exercise will be jointly organised by the Government of Malaysia in collaboration with the Secretariat. It will provide training for up to **20 sponsored participants** in the essentials of assistance and protection, with a focus on responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
3. The training course will be divided into the following segments:
 - (a) an online essentials course, from 5 May to 13 July 2025;
 - (b) a hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise, from 13 to 19 August 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and
 - (c) a one-day follow-up webinar in late 2025 (December – dates to be determined).
4. The online essentials course will offer basic theoretical knowledge for all participants about the OPCW, the Convention, chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, the physico-chemical properties of chemicals, personal protective equipment (PPE), decontamination, detection, identification, and monitoring, the Emergency Response Guidebook, the CAMEO Chemicals database, and the Incident Command System. It will prepare participants to successfully face the next training segment by addressing certain technical aspects that will be of use to them in chemical emergency response. The Secretariat may select up to 25 participants to participate in the online course, but only 20 participants will ultimately be selected at the end of this course to continue with the following hands-on training.



5. The hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise will consist of a combination of theory-based lectures, equipment demonstrations, and practical training sessions and exercises. It will also explore a variety of complex scenarios in combination with the final exercise, which will serve as an opportunity to practise and confirm the knowledge and skills acquired during the entire course.
6. Given the objectives of the integrated advanced course, candidates should have a background in the field of chemical emergency response. **The target audience is mainly personnel from official institutions (civilians or military) belonging to front-line chemical emergency response units.**
7. Applications must be submitted online via Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org>), **no later than 18 April 2025**. During the application process, it is essential that candidates attach their curriculum vitae and a copy of their valid passport.
8. Endorsement by a candidate's respective National Authority is a prerequisite to being considered in the selection process. The endorsement process must be completed online through Eventus **no later than 20 April 2025**. The Secretariat strongly encourages States Parties and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates.
9. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear PPE during the practical sessions under hot, humid, tiring, and stressful conditions. Please note that a medical certificate may be required to attend the hands-on training segment.
10. Participants should undertake the necessary steps to ensure their participation in the entire cycle by obtaining the required clearances from the relevant authorities based on the invitation letter issued by the Secretariat.
11. The Secretariat expects to be able to **sponsor a maximum of 20 participants** for the hands-on training. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical insurance, and meals (lunch), and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
12. The Secretariat will seek the most economical options when making travel arrangements for sponsored participants. Participants are expected to arrive in Malaysia for the hands-on training no earlier than 12 August 2025 and to depart no later than 20 August 2025. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the courses or resulting from unauthorised travel arrangement changes. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for ensuring that they participate in the courses. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the courses.
13. The integrated advanced course will be conducted in **English**; therefore, participants are required to have a good working knowledge of written and spoken English. No interpretation services will be provided during any of the segments of the training.
14. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before traveling to Malaysia. Further details regarding logistics and the final programmes will be issued to participants at a later stage.

15. The provisional programmes for the integrated advanced course and exercise are included as the annexes to this Note, and further details will be issued at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the focal points for this course in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat, as follows: Mr Miguel Albaladejo Pomares (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3451; Email: miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org) and Ms Maria Elena Bruno-Pousadela (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3217; Email: mariaelena.bruno-pousadela@opcw.org).

Annexes:

Annex 1: Online Essentials Course, 5 May – 13 July 2025 – Provisional Programme

Annex 2: Hands-on Integrated Advanced Course and Exercise on Response to Incidents Involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 13 – 19 August 2025 – Provisional Programme

Annex 1

ONLINE ESSENTIALS COURSE 5 MAY – 13 JULY 2025

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Chapter 1: The Chemical Weapons Convention

- 1.1. Historical review
- 1.2. The Chemical Weapons Convention
- 1.3. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- 1.4. Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Chapter 2: Technical aspects of responding to emergencies with toxic chemicals

- 2.1. Physical and chemical properties of substances
- 2.2. Toxicological values applied to the management of emergencies with chemicals
- 2.3. Dispersion of contaminants in the environment after an event with chemicals
- 2.4. Safety distances and planning zones

Chapter 3: Introduction to chemical agents

- 3.1. Chemical weapons
- 3.2. Chemical warfare agents
- 3.3. Exposure to chemical warfare agents
- 3.4. Toxic industrial chemicals

Chapter 4: Introduction to personal protective equipment (PPE)

- 4.1. Chemical protection suits
- 4.2. Respiratory protection
- 4.3. OPCW protection levels

Chapter 5: Introduction to decontamination

- 5.1. Decontamination overview
- 5.2. Decontamination stations and corridors
- 5.3. Decontamination processes
- 5.4. Decontamination systems

Chapter 6: Introduction to detection and identification

- 6.1. Recognition
- 6.2. Detection
- 6.3. Identification

Chapter 7: The Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)

- 7.1. Introduction
- 7.2. The yellow section
- 7.3. The blue section
- 7.4. Operational guides (the orange section)
- 7.5. The green section

Chapter 8: The CAMEO Chemicals database

- 8.1. Overview
- 8.2. Searching for chemicals
- 8.3. Searching for chemicals by name
- 8.4. Searching for chemicals by their United Nations number
- 8.5. Chemical reactivity

Chapter 9: The Incident Command System (ICS)

- 9.1. History of the ICS
- 9.2. ICS definitions
- 9.3. Structure and functions
- 9.4. Steps to be followed by the first responder with operational capacity
- 9.5. How can the population be protected during a chemical emergency?

Annex 2

**HANDS-ON INTEGRATED ADVANCED COURSE AND EXERCISE ON
RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND
TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
13 – 19 AUGUST 2025**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 12 August 2025			
		Arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Airport	
Wednesday, 13 August 2025			
Day 1	Location: Hotel Maya Kuala Lumpur		
Time	Event	Type/Remarks	
08:30 – 08:45	Introductions	National Authority of Malaysia	
08:45 – 09:00	Welcome remarks from the National Authority		
09:00 – 09:15	Opening remarks from the OPCW		
09:15 – 09:30	Course overview	Presentation by the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (FRDM)	
09:30 – 10:00	<i>Group photo Morning tea</i>		
10:00 – 10:30	FRDM hazmat and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) preparedness and response	Presentation – FRDM	
10:30 – 11:45	Chemical warfare agent chemistry	Presentation – FRDM	
11:45 – 13:00	Personal protective equipment (PPE) for hot zones	Presentation – FRDM	
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
14:00 – 15:00	Decontamination	Presentation – FRDM	
15:00 – 16:00	Evidence collection	Presentation – FRDM	
16:00 – 17:00	Field detection	Presentation – FRDM	
17:00	<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
End of day 1			
Thursday, 14 August 2025			
Day 2	Location: Hotel Maya Kuala Lumpur		
Time	Event	Type/Remarks	
09:00 – 10:30	Malaysia's experience: chemical warfare agents and the 2017 incident	Presentation – National Authority of Malaysia	
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Morning tea</i>		
10:45 – 13:00	PPE donning and doffing	Demonstration and practical session	Levels A, B, and C, and CBRN suit
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
14:00 – 16:30	Detection and evidence collection	Demonstration and practical session	
16:30	<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
End of day 2			

Friday, 15 August 2025		
Day 3	Location: Hotel Maya Kuala Lumpur and the FRDM, Kuala Kubu Bharu (KKB) office	
Time	Event	Type/Remarks
08:30 – 10:30	Incident Command System (including radio handling and standardised vocabulary for radio connection)	Demonstration and practical session
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Morning tea</i>	
10:45 – 12:15	Tabletop exercise: Field exercise 1	Tabletop exercise – FRDM
12:15 – 14:30	<i>Hotel check out Lunch</i>	
14:30 – 16:30	Depart to FRDM training academy	
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
16:45 – 17:30	Briefing by FRDM, KKB office Coordinator Registration <i>Check-in at academy hostel</i>	
17:30 – 18:30	Break	
18:30 – 20:15	<i>Dinner</i>	
20:15 – 21:30	Physico-chemical properties and United Nations hazard classification	Demonstration and practical session – FRDM, KKB office
End of day 3		
Saturday, 16 August 2025		
Day 4	Location: FRDM, KKB office	
Time	Event	Type/Remarks
07:30 – 08:30	<i>Breakfast</i>	
08:30 – 09:30	Medical screening	
09:30 – 11:00	Decontamination procedure in mass casualty incident	Demonstration – FRDM
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Morning tea</i>	
11:15 – 13:00	Decontamination procedure in mass casualty incident (cont.)	Practical session – FRDM
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 16:00	Gas mask fit test and dark room exercise	Practical session – FRDM
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
16:15 – 19:00	Break	
19:00 – 21:00	<i>Dinner</i>	
End of day 4		
Sunday, 17 August 2025		
Day 5	Location: FRDM, KKB office	
Time	Event	Type/Remarks
07:30 – 08:30	<i>Breakfast</i>	
08:30 – 09:30	Medical screening	
09:30 – 13:00	Full field exercise 1: Public transportation incident	Practical session – FRDM

	<i>Morning tea break (grab and go)</i>	
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 17:00	Field exercise 2: Clandestine lab <i>Afternoon tea break (grab and go)</i>	Practical session – FRDM
17:00 – 19:00	Break	
19:00 – 21:00	<i>Dinner</i>	
End of day 5		
<i>Monday, 18 August 2025</i>		
Day 6	Location: FRDM, KKB	
Time	Event	Type/Remarks
07:30 – 08:30	<i>Breakfast</i>	
08:30 – 09:30	Medical screening	
09:30 – 13:00	Field exercise 3: Public event contamination <i>Morning tea break (grab and go)</i>	Practical session – FRDM
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 17:00	Field exercise 4: Mass casualty event <i>Afternoon tea break (grab and go)</i>	Practical session – FRDM
17:00 – 19:00	Break	
19:00 – 21:00	<i>Dinner</i>	
End of day 6		
<i>Tuesday, 19 August 2025</i>		
Day 7	Location: FRDM, KKB office	
Time	Event	Type/Remarks
07:00 – 08:30	<i>Breakfast</i>	Official attire
08:30 – 09:30	International Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief mechanism <i>Morning tea break (grab and go)</i>	Presentation
09:30 – 10:15	Training feedback session	
10:15 – 14:00	Official closing session <i>Lunch</i>	National Authority of Malaysia
14:00 – 15:00	<i>Check out from the hostel</i>	
15:00 – 17:00	Departure for Hotel Maya Kuala Lumpur	
End of programme		
<i>Wednesday, 20 August 2025</i>		
	Departure of participants	