

F. No. M-21012/21/2023-TECH
Government of India
Cabinet Secretariat
National Authority (Chemical Weapons Convention)

1st Floor, Chanakya Bhavan, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi – 110021, 12th June, 2023

Subject: Call for Nominations for a Course for Analytical Chemists from Laboratories Supporting Customs Services OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology Nootdorp, The Netherlands 14 – 17 November 2023 - regarding

The National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) has been set up under the cabinet Secretariat, Government of India to fulfil the obligations of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and to act as the National focal point for effective liaison with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and other State parties on matter relating to the convention. Further as per Section 9(iii) of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) rule 2016, 'the Authority shall function as the nodal agency for facilitating the participation of the officials and other nationals in the training courses conducted or coordinated with the Organisation and also other institutions working in the area related to the Convention.

2. In this regards, Indian National Authority has received the details of the course mentioned in subject matter vide Note No. S/2179/2023, Dated 7th June, 2023 from the Technical Secretariat, OPCW, the Hague, the Netherland, seeking nominations.

3. It is further informed that the course is technical in nature and purpose of the course is to strengthen national capacities of professionals. The aim of the course is to assist qualified analytical chemists from laboratories that support, or plan to support, customs services or offices in acquiring further experience and practical knowledge of the analysis of chemicals related to the CWC. In addition, the course will facilitate the adoption of good laboratory practices for the implementation of the CWC.

4. In-line with the above, one nomination of suitable, qualified and experienced officer of appropriate level, along with relevant documents as per the above TS note, form your organization may be sent to this office latest by 4th July, 2023 through the National Authority-CWC online portal-OPCW Training Management System (<https://training.nacwc.gov.in/Login.aspx>) with strict adherence to the "Revised Guidelines for OPCW sponsored events" issued and hosted on the National Authority-CWC website.

Encl: As above



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To,

1. The Joint Secretary (Customs), Central Board of Excise & Customs, North Block, New Delhi-110001, Telephone: 011-23092978, Fax: 011-23093475, Email: js.cus-cbec@nic.in
2. Director General National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN), Central Board of Excise & Customs, Ministry of Finance, Sector -29, Faridabad-121008.
3. Director (Revenue Laboratories) (Addl. Charge), Central Revenues Control Laboratory (Headquarter), Hill Side Road, Pusa New Delhi-110012, Phone: 011-25847926, Fax: 011-25843495, Email: dir.crcl-cbec@nic.in

4. Head/Joint Director, Custom House Laboratory, 60, Krishna Block Rajaji Salai, Opp, Dist, Seethakadi Nagar, Collectorate, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600001, India, Behind Hotel Bright, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600001
5. Head/Chemical Examiner Gr.-I, Custom House Laboratory, Custom House, Marmagoa, Goa-403803.
6. Head/Joint Director, Custom House Laboratory, 1st Floor, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Near Balaji Temple, Kandla Port, Gandhidham, Gujarat.
7. Chemical Examiner Gr-I, Customs House Laboratory, O/o The Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Willingdon Island, Kochi, Kerala, Pin – 682009
8. Custom House Laboratory, 1, Council House Street 2nd Floor, BBD Bag, Kolkata - 700 001
9. Head / Chemical Examiner Gr-I, Customs Chemical Laboratory, New Custom House, Panambur, Mangaluru, Karnataka – 575010
10. Head/Joint Director, New Custom House Laboratory, New Customs House, Ballard Estate, Mumbai- 400001
11. Head/Chemical Examiner Grade I, Customs House Laboratory, Custom House, New Harbour Estate, Tuticorin 628004
12. Head/Chemical Examiner Grade-I, Central Excise & Customs Laboratory, 3rd Floor Central Excise Building, Subhanpura, Vadodara-390023
13. Joint Director, Govt. Opium & Alkaloid Work, Ghazipur- 233001 (U.P)
14. Head/Chemical Examiner Gr.-I, Opium Laboratory, GOAW, Neemuch- M.P-458441



(Dr. Vimlesh Kumar Bind)

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A COURSE FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS
FROM LABORATORIES SUPPORTING CUSTOMS SERVICES
OPCW CENTRE FOR CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY
NOOTDORP, THE NETHERLANDS
14 – 17 NOVEMBER 2023****PURPOSE OF THE COURSE**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform Member States that it will hold a course on the development of analytical skills for analytical chemists supporting customs services. The course is scheduled to be held at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology in Nootdorp, the Netherlands, from 14 to 17 November 2023. The aim of the course is to assist qualified analytical chemists from laboratories that support, or plan to support, customs services or offices in acquiring further experience and practical knowledge of the analysis of chemicals related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). In addition, the course will facilitate the adoption of good laboratory practices for the implementation of the Convention.

CONTENT

2. The training course will include a variety of lectures and laboratory work. The lectures will cover general aspects of the OPCW, the Convention, and the Verification Annex to the Convention. It will also cover the chemical structure and properties of scheduled chemicals, the methods of separation and structure elucidation, and the detection and analysis of scheduled chemicals at various concentration levels. The role of customs service laboratories in promoting chemical safety will also be discussed.
3. Practical laboratory work will include:
 - (a) gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and analyte identification using the Automated Mass Spectral Deconvolution and Identification System (AMDIS) and the OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD);
 - (b) sampling and sample preparation methods for GC-MS analysis;
 - (c) hand-held Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) and Raman spectroscopy for rapid identification; and
 - (d) a visit to the Dutch customs laboratory.



SPONSORSHIP

4. The cost of the course and of accommodation for all participants will be covered by the Secretariat. In addition, the Secretariat will pay for international travel, lunch, coffee breaks, and medical and travel insurance for all participants while the course is being conducted, in accordance with OPCW rules. The Secretariat will select the participants based on their qualifications and experience.
5. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas, including Schengen Area travel visas, before travelling to the Netherlands. The Secretariat will cover the costs of these visas by reimbursing participants upon production of the original receipts to representatives of the Secretariat. The Secretariat will also send information to the selected participants on how to apply for Schengen Area visas.
6. The Secretariat will not pay for medical assistance. Therefore, participants should be fit to travel. All participants taking prescribed medication should arrive with supplies sufficient for the duration of the event.
7. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. The Secretariat will purchase tickets and send them to the participants. The participants must keep the boarding passes and hand them to the Secretariat representatives.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

8. The course is open to those who:
 - (a) have a minimum of a first degree (BSc or equivalent) in chemistry or analytical chemistry from a recognised university or institution, with relevant practical and theoretical experience in analytical chemistry, including the use of GC and GC-MS;
 - (b) are citizens of OPCW Member States; and
 - (c) have at least three years of experience in an analytical laboratory, and currently work in a chemical laboratory providing support or planning to support customs services in their home country.
9. The course will be conducted in English. Candidates must therefore have a good command of both written and spoken English. Any candidate who, upon arrival, is found not to meet this requirement will not be allowed to continue with the course.
10. Participants will be required to sign a set of terms and conditions for participation in the course as well as a confidentiality agreement with the OPCW.
11. Members States and their National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse applications by suitable female candidates for the course.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

12. Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications online through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Applicants must first create an account and then register for the event.
13. Each application must be endorsed digitally on the Eventus platform by the nominee's respective National Authority. Only nominations endorsed by the National Authority or Permanent Representation of the candidate's country to the OPCW will be considered. Nominees must attach their curriculum vitae with a detailed explanation of their work experience and the analytical techniques they are familiar with.
14. All applications must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 14 July 2023**. Additional information may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Massimo de Rienzo, Senior Programme Officer (Tel: +31 (0) 70 416 3458) and Ms Julia Gonzalez, Senior Project Assistant (Tel: +31 (0) 70 416 3239). They can also be contacted by email (icb.events@opcw.org).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**COURSE FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS
FROM LABORATORIES SUPPORTING CUSTOMS SERVICES
OPCW CENTRE FOR CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY
NOOTDORP, THE NETHERLANDS
14 – 17 NOVEMBER 2023**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Agenda
Day 1: 14 November 2023	
09:30 – 13:00 (11:00 – 11:15 <i>coffee break</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening session: Welcome addresses and group photo • Introduction to the OPCW, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and its Verification Annex • Overview of International Cooperation Branch capacity-building programmes • Introduction to the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) • Tour of the ChemTech Centre
13:00 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 16:30 (15:00 – 15:15 <i>coffee break</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated laboratories and proficiency testing • Introduction to scheduled chemicals and their chemistry • Analysis strategy • Element-specific gas chromatography (GC) detectors • Use of gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS), quality checks, and contamination control
Day 2: 15 November 2023	
09:30 – 13:00 (11:00 – 11:15 <i>coffee break</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample collection • Handling of toxic samples, chain of custody, and security • Sample preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Solid phase extraction ✓ Hydrocarbon clean-up <p><u>Laboratory practical session</u>: sample clean-up and analysis by GC-MS before and after clean-up</p>
13:00 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 16:30 (15:00 – 15:15 <i>coffee break</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derivatisation • <u>Laboratory practical session</u>: sample derivatisation and analysis by GC-MS
Day 3: 16 November 2023	
09:30 – 16:30	Visit to the Dutch customs laboratory in Amsterdam

Time	Agenda
<i>Day 4: 17 November 2023</i>	
09:30 – 13:00 (11:00 – 11:15 <i>coffee break</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retention indices• The Automated Mass Spectral Deconvolution and Identification System (AMDIS) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)• The OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD)• Practical exercise with AMDIS/OCAD
13:00 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 16:30 (15:00 – 15:15 <i>coffee break</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to hand-held devices for chemical warfare agent detection• Discussion: Analysis strategies and unknowns• Evaluation session, collection of questionnaires, and discussion• Handing out of certificates

Revised Guidelines For OPCW Sponsored Events

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Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Technical Secretariat (OPCW-TS) identifies requirements of different States Parties and invites nominations every year for Safety and Security of Chemical Industries, Laboratory Skill Development, Customs, Assistance and Protection against the use of Chemical Weapons and internship for University Students.

The event calendar for training/workshop/seminar/meeting etc. provided by the OPCW annually is being uploaded on the National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) website seeking nominations from various stakeholders. The aforesaid training calendar and related Office Memo's (OMs) are uploaded on NACWC's website along with OPCW-TS Note. Several subject specific trainings are also communicated to concerned Central/ State Departments and Private Institutions for seeking nominations.

The nominations of Central Government Departments/Institutions/Organizations while sending the nominations (in the format provided by TS, OPCW) are requested to adhere to the NACWC stated deadlines. Nominations of Central Government officials should invariably be accompanied with Departmental vigilance clearance certificate. The nominations from Central Government Departments/Institutions/Undertakings should fill the details through OPCW training management system, routing the application through the concerned Ministry. The details to be filled online are stated in Annexure-I.

The nominations of State Government Institutions/private entities/individuals should be routed through concerned Department/Ministry under the respective State Government filling the details online through OPCW training management system. The details to be filled online are stated in Annexure-II.

The nominations of Central/State/Private entities/individuals for the OPCW sponsored events on Chemical Emergencies/Disaster Management should be sent through proper channel and routed through concerned Department/Ministry under the respective Central/State Government by filling the details through OPCW training management system. The details to be filled online are stated in Annexure-III.

For chemical facilities Private entities/individuals for the OPCW sponsored events other than Chemical Emergencies/Disaster Management are required to be filled on line through OPCW training management system. The details to be filled online are stated in Annexure-IV.

The details of nominations for the OPCW sponsored events can be filled online through OPCW Training Management System (<https://training.nacwc.gov.in>) available on the NACWC web portal (<https://nacwc.nic.in>).