

File No. M-21012/12/2024-TECH
Government of India
Cabinet Secretariat
National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention

1st Floor, Chanakya Bhawan, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, dated March, 2024.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Live-Agent Training Course for experts, Zemianske, Kostol'any, Slovakia, 27 May to 07 June, 2024 – regarding.

India is a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), with headquarters at the Hague, Netherlands is the implementing body of CWC. National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) functions as the main agency responsible for facilitating the participation of its officials and other Indian nationals in training courses conducted by OPCW in the field of the Convention.

2. In this regard, please find enclosed herewith a copy of the Technical Secretariat Note No. S/2268/2024 dated 14 March 2024, received from OPCW, seeking nominations on the above-mentioned subject training course.
3. In line with above, nominations of suitable, qualified and experienced candidates of suiting the requirements of the course, along with relevant documents, passport copies following the 'Revised Guidelines for OPCW sponsored events' issued by NACWC (enclosed) may please be sent to this office latest by 05 April 2024 through online portal – OPCW Training Management System (<https://training.nacwc.in>). Further, keeping in view the purpose of the course, preference will be given to officers from emergency response units from institutions who may be called upon to respond to chemical emergencies. Applicants who have already participated in the similar previous programme(s) may not be nominated for the course.
4. After attending the course, the participant has to submit a report and a presentation to the National Authority.
5. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.



(Manoj Kumar Sahoo)
22/3/24
(Manoj Kumar Sahoo)
Adviser-NACWC
Email: adviser-nacwc@gov.in
Tel: +91-11-24675694
Fax: +91-11-24675767

To,

1. The Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO, DRDO Bhawan, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi – 110011.
2. The Director General, Directorate General, National Disaster Response Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, 6th Floor, NDCC-II Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001.
3. The Director General, Directorate General-Fire Services, Civil Defense & Home-Guards, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, East Block-7, Level-7, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066.

4. Colonel PP (Concepts & Training), Directorate General of Perspective Planning (CBRN), General Staff Branch, IHQ of Ministry of Defence (MoD), (Army), Room No.-123, 'A' Wing, Sena Bhawan, New Delhi – 110011.
5. The Joint Secretary (IS-I), Internal Security-I Division, North Block, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi – 110001.
6. The Joint Secretary (training) & CVO, Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence, South Block, Central Secretariat, rajpath Marg, New Delhi – 110 011.
7. The Director, Head of Department, Special Protection Group, Cabinet Secretariat, 9 Lok Kalyan Marg, SPG, New Delhi – 110001.
8. The Director General, National Security Guard, HQ NSG, Mehramnagar, Palam, New Delhi – 110037.
9. All concerned.





S/2268/2024
14 March 2024
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

LIVE-AGENT TRAINING COURSE FOR EXPERTS, ZEMIANSKE, KOSTOL'ANY, SLOVAKIA, 27 MAY – 7 JUNE 2024

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite States Parties to nominate representatives to participate in a live chemical warfare agent training course, which will take place from 27 May to 7 June 2024 in Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia.
2. The course is jointly organised by the Secretariat and the Government of Slovakia, and will provide training for up to 20 qualified participants who may be called upon to respond to chemical emergencies in their home countries.
3. The course will cover the following topics:
 - (a) detection of chemical warfare agents;
 - (b) donning and doffing of chemical protective clothing;
 - (c) preparation of samples for transport;
 - (d) decontamination operations; and
 - (e) appropriate responses and countermeasures in the event of incidents involving chemical warfare agents or toxic chemicals.
4. The course will provide participants with an opportunity to practice advanced contaminated scene operations in the presence of live chemical warfare agents.
5. Given the purpose of the course and its technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected according to the following criteria:
 - (a) All participants should be first responders and/or instructors/trainers, or be involved in the development of the chemical emergency response system in their respective countries.
 - (b) All participants must have a good oral and written command of English, as all activities during the course will be conducted in English and no interpretation services of any kind will be available.



- (c) Preference will be given to individuals who have demonstrable competency in the principles of chemical scene operations, including, but not limited to, completion of the OPCW assistance and protection training cycle.
 - (d) Participants must be physically fit and capable of wearing individual protective gear for several hours at a time.
 - (e) Selected participants will be required to supply confirmation of their health status from their personal healthcare provider, as required by the host facility.
6. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraph 5 above. Only the most suitable applicants will be selected.
 7. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants from States Parties. For sponsored participants, it will cover the costs of transportation, accommodation, and meals. Further details regarding the venue and other course-specific arrangements will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
 8. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Sunday, 26 May 2024, and to depart no later than Saturday, 8 June 2024.
 9. Sponsored participants must bear all costs not related to the course or resulting from any itinerary changes made without explicit approval from the Secretariat. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel arrangements in accordance with paragraph 8 above. All participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas before travelling to Slovakia, including transit visas.
 10. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online **no later than Wednesday, 10 April 2024** through Eventus—the OPCW event management system. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<https://eventus.opcw.org/>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) must be answered in order for the nomination to be received, and for the candidate to be considered for this event. **States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse applications from and nominations of suitable female candidates for this course.** Those who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than one week after the submission deadline.
 11. Additional information may be obtained from Mr Babatunde Olowookere, Programme Officer (Tel.: +31704163467; Email: babatunde.olwookere@opcw.org) of the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**LIVE-AGENT TRAINING COURSE FOR EXPERTS
ZEMIANSKE KOSTOL'ANY, SLOVAKIA
27 MAY – 7 JUNE 2024**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Monday, 27 May 2024</i>	
7:00	Blood draw (NBC Technical Training Centre)
8:30 – 12:30	Opening, facility presentation, training programme, safety and medical instructions, presentations on the character of live chemical agents, health effects, first aid, detection of live chemical agents
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Distribution of individual protective equipment (IPE), laboratory demonstration, tour of the NBC Technical Training Centre, demonstration of decontamination control, demonstration of IPE use, gas mask test
<i>Tuesday, 28 May 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, detection and decontamination of live chemical agents, self-decontamination, sample transport preparation, rescue exercise, simulants
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Individual training: First contact with live chemical agents, simulants, evaluation
<i>Wednesday, 29 May 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, individual training: First contact with live chemical agents, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Detection of simulants and false positives, exercise on preparation of decontamination solutions, exercise on personal decontamination, simulants, evaluation
<i>Thursday, 30 May 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, exercise: live chemical agent detection and decontamination of common surfaces – live chemical agents, decontamination, and hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Complex samples that require preparation, simulants, decontamination, hygiene, evaluation
<i>Friday, 31 May 2024</i>	
08:00 – 12:30	Briefing, team exercise: Complex samples that require preparation, live chemical agents, decontamination, hygiene, evaluation
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 16:15	Exercise: Detection and sampling from improvised explosive devices, detection and sampling from waste incineration residues, simulants, evaluation
<i>Saturday, 1 June 2024</i>	
8:00 – 13:00	Presentations (hotel): live chemical agents analysis in field conditions, sampling (methods, types of samples, sampling equipment)

Time	Activity
<i>Monday, 3 June 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, team exercise: Detection of live chemical agents on vehicles, sampling, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Detection and sampling from collectors of drinkable water, detection and sampling from ammunition, simulants, evaluation
<i>Tuesday, 4 June 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, final complex exercise focused on detection of live chemical agents, their sampling and decontamination – sample preparation for transport, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Illegal laboratory detection and sampling, detection and sampling after road incidents, simulants, evaluation
<i>Wednesday, 5 June 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, laboratory analysis of samples collected during the training, live chemical agents, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Collection of samples in conditions of poor visibility, simulants, evaluation
<i>Thursday, 6 June 2024</i>	
7:00 – 12:30	Blood draw (hotel), IPE cleaning and return, evaluation of training, official closure
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Social activities for participants, organised by the Ministry of the Economy
<i>Friday, 7 June 2024</i>	
	Departure

Revised Guidelines For OPCW Sponsored Events

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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](#).
4. 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](#).
5. 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](#).
6. 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](#).
7. 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>).

8. The nomination by NACWC for the concerned training/workshop/seminar/meeting etc. will be purely on the basis of merit i.e. preference will be given to Schedule-2 and 3 chemical facilities as well as candidates working with the National Authority or other Government Agency responsible for implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Endorsement letter, subsequent to the approval of Chairman, NACWC will be issued to nominee of Central/State/Private Entities. If the OPCW requests that the nominations are to be submitted online then it will be the responsibility of nominated individual(s) to fill the personal and other details on-line on the OPCW website (<http://apps.opcw.org/eventus>) and the nominee(s) should ensure that Performa prescribed in the Format of EVENTUS also is filled by them and the prescribed guidelines are required to be fulfilled by the nominee(s). The OPCW will communicate the invitation to the nominee(s) subject to fulfilling the requirement.
9. It is expected that the Nominee(s) exhibit excellent conduct while attending the concerned event. After completion of the training/seminar/workshop, a detailed report along with presentation is required to be submitted to the NACWC.
10. While proceeding to attend the concerned event organized by the OPCW, the nominee:
 - Should have basic knowledge of the CWC Act, 2000.
 - Make sure about the passport i.e. valid and protect the passport and report it promptly if it is lost, stolen or damaged during the period of a specific program.
 - Must familiarize with the visiting countries.
 - Make sure about the proper visas for the countries the participant is visiting or transiting and check any other entry or exit requirements.
 - Take personal responsibility for travel choices, safety, finances and behavior overseas, including obeying the laws of the visiting country.
 - If get arrested or detained for some reason, insist on Consular access (under the Vienna Convention) to a representative from the nearest Indian Embassy/Consulate.
 - Make sure of proper coordination with the NACWC (contact point JS/JD Tel. No: 24675763/24675691) and the Indian Embassy in the concerned visiting country.
 - Presentation may be given in the specific event by the participant(s) should be in consultation with the NACWC.
 - Should not illuminate irrelevant information which has national concern during the program.
 - Who is outside from the Government Sector should adhere to the instructions given by the representative from the NACWC.
 - From the Government Sector should adhere to the instructions given by the NACWC.
 - Should focus on the subject matter for which the event is being organized.
 - Are expected to implement the lessons learnt from the event attended in his day-to-day working/duties.
 - Should share their lessons/experiences acquired during the event attended with the NACWC and parent institution.
 - Must submit individual tour report to the NACWC within one week period after returning from the program attended.