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भारत सरकार / Government of India

मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय / Cabinet Secretariat

राष्ट्रीय प्राधिकरण रासायनिक हथियार समझौता / National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention

प्रथम तल, चाणक्य भवन/ 1st Floor, Chanakya Bhavan

चाणक्य पुरी, नई दिल्ली-21/ Chanakya Puri, New Delhi-110021

Dated the 27th March, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: - Invitation to an Annual Training Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be held in The Hague, the Netherlands from 13th to 17th October, 2025 - regarding.

The undersigned is directed to inform that India is a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), headquartered at The Hague, The Netherlands is the implementing body of CWC. National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) being National Focal Point facilitate the participation of Government officials and other Indian national in training courses conducted by OPCW in the field of the Convention.

2. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW has invited nominations for the Annual Training Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be held in The Hague, the Netherlands from 13th to 17th October, 2025

3. Accordingly, nomination of suitable, qualified and experienced candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria of the course, along with relevant supporting documents following the 'Guidelines for OPCW sponsored events issued by NACWC' (enclosed) may please be sent to this office latest by 30th April, 2025 through the online portal – OPCW Training Management System (<https://training.nacwc.gov.in/Login.aspx>). Applicants who have previously participated in similar programme(s) may not be nominated for the course.

4. If selected, the participant must submit a report and a copy of the OPCW certificate to the National Authority after attending the course/training/workshop/event.

Encl: As above


27/03/2025

(Manoj Kumar Sahoo)

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To,

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2. Director (D&ISA), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), R.No. 40B, South Block, New Delhi, Tel: 23011160, Email: dirdis@mea.gov.in



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

S/2381/2025
10 March 2025
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: ASSER INSTITUTE PROGRAMME
ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION OF
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
13 – 17 OCTOBER 2025**

1. On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to inform States Parties that registration is now open for the Annual Training Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be held from 13 to 17 October 2025 in The Hague, the Netherlands. This training programme is organised by the Asser Institute for International Law, in collaboration with the OPCW.
2. The training programme is designed for early- to mid-career professionals and provides a comprehensive overview of the various international regimes applicable to weapons of mass destruction (WMD), striking a balance between the legal, scientific, diplomatic, and geopolitical issues relating to the broad spectrum of WMD in a contemporary world. The training programme will provide clear insights into the functioning of the four international WMD treaty organisations, and illustrate the main challenges each of them currently faces.
3. Permanent Representations and their National Authorities are encouraged to promote the training programme among potentially interested groups. It would benefit individuals working for government entities such as national export control bodies, National Authorities for the implementation of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, and national nuclear (energy) agencies. Professionals working for non-governmental organisations such as think tanks addressing concerns related to WMD and research centres in related disciplines are especially encouraged to register, as are newly arrived diplomats in The Hague.
4. States Parties are encouraged to consider sponsoring the participation of outstanding national applicants who have demonstrated an interest in disarmament and non-proliferation, and who can be expected to make a significant professional contribution in this area.
5. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs may offer a limited number of scholarships for applicants who are nationals of and working in countries with low- and lower-middle-income economies (according to the World Bank classification: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>). For updates and details on how to apply for a scholarship, see the Asser Institute website or contact the Asser Institute directly via email (educationtraining@asser.nl).



6. The specific objectives of the training programme are to provide participants with:
 - (a) hands-on knowledge of the diplomatic, legal, and technical aspects of disarmament and non-proliferation related to nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons;
 - (b) insight into the work of seasoned WMD professionals; and
 - (c) unique networking opportunities with speakers and participants from diverse backgrounds.
7. The training programme's interdisciplinary content is delivered by specialised academics from institutes in the Netherlands and abroad, together with experienced practitioners and officials from the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the OPCW. The programme's blend of academic and practical knowledge and its comprehensive scope have been well received by participants and will be continued in 2025.
8. The provisional programme is attached as the Annex to this Note.
9. The Asser Institute is a not-for-profit, inter-university institute that focuses on the broad field of international law. It is based in The Hague and is partly supported with funding from the Government of the Netherlands. The OPCW collaborates with the Institute in designing the programme agenda, providing senior staff as speakers, mobilising the participation and support of other WMD-related international organisations, and promoting participation by OPCW stakeholders.
10. Interested applicants can register for the training programme, and apply for a scholarship as appropriate, via the Asser Institute website (<https://www.asser.nl>). A link can also be accessed through the OPCW website.
11. Interested applicants should submit the form directly to the Asser Institute as soon as possible.
12. Additional information about the training programme may be obtained from the Asser Institute via email (educationtraining@asser.nl).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**ASSER INSTITUTE PROGRAMME ON DISARMAMENT AND
NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
13 – 17 OCTOBER 2025**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday, 13 October 2025**International arms control law and nuclear weapons**

09:30 – 10:00	<i>Registration</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Opening and round of introductions
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	International arms control law
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	The nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament treaties
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	The future of nuclear arms control and strategic stability
18:30	<i>Opening dinner</i>

Tuesday, 14 October 2025**Nuclear weapons and field visit**

09:00 – 10:30	Nuclear safeguards
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:45 – 12:15	Weapons of mass destruction and emerging technologies
12:15 – 13:15	<i>Lunch and transport to the Technical University (TU) Delft Nuclear Research Reactor</i>
13:15 – 17:00	Field visit: TU-Delft Nuclear Research Reactor
17:00 – 18:00	<i>Transport from TU-Delft Nuclear Research Reactor to the Asser Institute</i>

Wednesday, 15 October 2025**Biological weapons**

09:00 – 10:00	Export control regimes
10:00 – 10:10	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:10 – 11:30	Simulation exercise on export controls
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:45 – 13:15	Banning the tests: The international legal regime for nuclear testing
13:15 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	The Biological Weapons Convention
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Unsubstantiated use of chemical and biological weapons

Thursday, 16 October 2025**Chemical weapons and field visit**

09:00 – 09:30	<i>Transport to the OPCW Main Building</i>
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome activity at the OPCW Main Building
10:00 – 11:00	The OPCW and the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention)
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/tea Break</i>
11:15 – 12:00	The end of the destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles
12:00 – 12:45	National implementation of the Convention: Challenges and opportunities
12:45 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:15	Chemical terrorism: Threat and response
14:15 – 15:00	Scientific and technological developments: Biological and chemical disarmament in a technologically evolving world
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Travel to the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre)</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Guided tour of the ChemTech Centre
16:30 – 17:00	<i>Travel from the ChemTech Centre to the Asser Institute</i>

Friday, 17 October 2025**Current challenges**

09:30 – 11:00	Non-proliferation case study: The DPRK nuclear issue
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Middle East case study
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Programme evaluation/lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Panel discussion: “Fake news” and fact-finding: Disinformation about WMD
15:00 – 16:30	Closing reception

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 online 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.