

Information Note¹

- Event:** Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asian Region
- Date and venue:** 3-5 December 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Organizer(s):** Technical Secretariat of OPCW and Sri Lanka Government
- Participants:** Representatives from Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.
- Other: 1540 expert

Background

On 4 November 2019, Ms Kayoko Gotoh, Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting the Committee to participate in the Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asian Region. The aim of this Seminar is to provide support on chemical safety and security management for chemical industry in Asian region.

Highlights

The Seminar was opened by Major General (Rtd) Kamal Gunaratne, Secretary of Ministry of Defense and Chairman of Sri Lanka National Authority for Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. He emphasized Sri Lanka's commitment in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention and noted that the implementation of a sound chemical management is of prime importance.

Dr Rohan Perera, Senior Implementation Officer of OPCW also made a statement at the opening session. He noted that the decision on Article XI in the 16th OPCW CSP was a milestone in committing the OPCW for greater effort in promoting peaceful uses of chemistry and had identified some of the concrete steps towards its full implementation. He further introduced the goal and key approach of the seminar series. The seminar was an activity under the ICB capacity building programme and was developed to strengthen international-cooperation programmes that focused on industry-related aspects of implementation of CWC. The goal of the seminars were to support process safety and security management for national implementation in different regions and the key approach was to reduce and eliminate the risks from chemical plants and through the supply chain.

Under Session 4, Presentations on Policy and Framework, the 1540 Committee Expert gave a brief overview of the background to and content of resolution 1540 (2004). She then discussed

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with the participants the obligation of States, particularly under Operative Paragraph (OP) 3(a)-(b), to develop and maintain measures to account for and secure chemical weapons-related materials in production, use, storage and transport, as well as physical protection measures.

Representatives from Sri Lanka, India, Philippines, and China introduced their respective country's regulation framework and practice on chemical safety and security management.

Facilitated by the OPCW trainers, the participants conducted a table top exercise on quantitative risk assessment in chemical safety and security management.

In the last session of the Seminar, the participants had the opportunity to observe an emergency preparedness exercise conducted by Sri Lanka National Authority.

Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.