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ORGANISATION FOR THE
PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Working together for a world free of chemical weapons



Sixth Annual Summer Programme on

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Changing World

31 August - 4 September 2015
The Hague

Organised by the T.M.C. Asser Instituut &
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

www.asser.nl/summerprogrammes
www.opcw.org

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

There is an increasing demand for professionals in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). The challenges posed to international security by nuclear, chemical and biological weapons are as urgent today as they were during the Cold War, with growing concern over the possibility of terrorists obtaining and using WMDs. The use of chemical weapons in Syria against unarmed civilians and the harrowing risk of those same weapons falling into the hands of extremist groups amidst the ongoing civil war has been a tragic reminder of the need for WMD disarmament and non-proliferation in the 21st century.

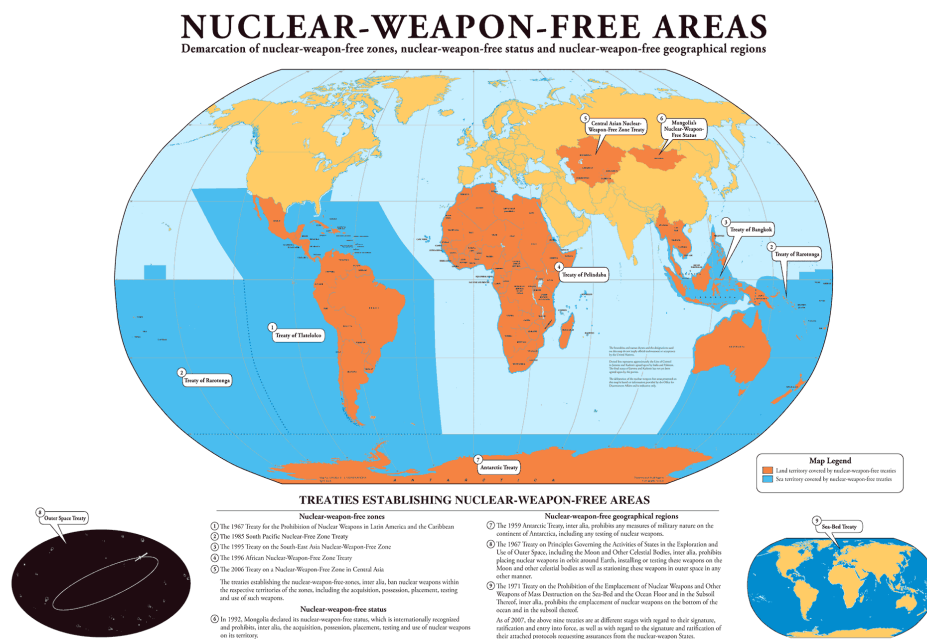


Photo: UN

In August 2010 the T.M.C Asser Instituut and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons launched the first Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (“WMD Summer Programme”). In its first four years the programme has established itself as a highly regarded educational resource for advanced graduate students and young to mid-level professionals with interests in WMD diplomacy and treaty implementation.

One of the principal strengths of the programme is its integrated approach to the subject matter. The programme addresses the diplomatic, legal, operational and scientific aspects of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts with respect to chemical, nuclear and biological weapons with cross-cutting aspects discussed in high-level panels.

The WMD Summer Programme enjoys the support and participation of the following international organisations:

- Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU);
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO);
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Programme

The WMD Summer Programme provides clear insights into the functioning of the four international WMD treaty organisations and illustrates the main challenges each organisation faces today.

The programme will provide the participants with a historical overview of arms control concepts and approaches. It considers the role of WMD disarmament and non-proliferation in the context of international law, security policies and geopolitical considerations.

The keynote speaker of this year's WMD Summer Programme will be H.E. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons who will speak on **Framing the WMD Agenda for the Future: Lessons from Chemical Disarmament**.

More than two decades since the end of the Cold War, WMDs disarmament has made fitful progress. The Conference on Disarmament has offered little prospect of new agreements being negotiated any time soon. Tangible and rapid progress has, nonetheless, been made in global chemical disarmament. The lessons that can be drawn from the success of the Chemical Weapons Convention are worth studying amid a shifting strategic landscape, where technology, non-state actors and globalisation are challenging traditional non-proliferation measures - as well as suggesting some solutions.



The Summer Programme will address **why countries want to obtain WMDs** and how the different thresholds of exploration, pursuit and acquisition of WMDs are relevant in determining whether a state is considered a WMD possessor. In this session we will also explore whether the demand for each category is driven by the same factors and whether chemical and biological weapons are seen as a substitute or complementary to having nuclear weapons. The complexities of these issues will be illustrated by recent situations such as Ukraine, Iran, or North Korea.



We will look when **the use of force is permitted for alleged use of WMDs under international law**. The system of collective security only permits states to the use of force when mandated by the UN Security Council or as self-defence. What are distinctions between anticipatory, pre-emptive and preventive self-defence? Do the doctrines of humanitarian intervention or Responsibility2Protect give states the right to the use of force for an alleged use of WMDs? Through case studies the participants will be acquainted which challenges states face under international law- individually and collectively - in deciding when and if the use of force is permitted.

The **legal framework for each of the categories of WMDs** is elaborated on, including the pertinent security considerations, political challenges and scientific aspects. During the second and third day of the Summer Programme we will go into:

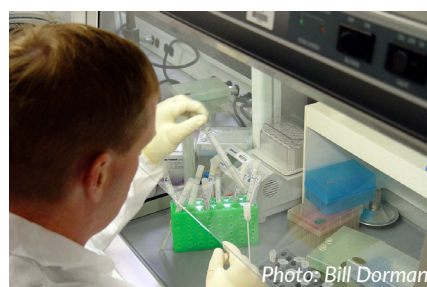
- History leading to the adoption of the conventions;
- The mandate of the organisation;
- The inter-sessional meetings and review conferences;
- Current challenges and policy considerations.

The cross-cutting sessions will focus on current and future challenges faced by the various WMD regimes. This will include a high level panel on **the relevance of the UN Security Resolution 1540 for WMDs**. This resolution decides that all states should refrain from providing any form of support to non-state actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes.



This session will look at the measures states have taken so far to implement the resolution. It will also discuss the tasks the 1540 Committee will undertake in the coming year in particular relating to the comprehensive review of resolution 1540 due to be submitted to the Security Council before December 2016. The role of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in providing support to the activities of the Committee will be examined as well as how the Nuclear Security Summits have thus far contributed in reducing the WMD terrorism. Above all the session will look at what challenges lie ahead in reducing the threat of terrorists acquiring and using WMDs.

Science and technology directly inform many key articles of international disarmament treaties, ranging from the definitions of classes and categories of weapons, to articles that govern mechanisms and verification of compliance, inspection, assistance and protection. Likewise, treaty negotiation and implementation requires sound technical advice to inform forward looking and robust policy; advice that requires scientific expertise. Yet, despite the complementary nature of science and policy, these two thematic areas often appear at odds. This tension between science and security is especially evident in the chemical and life sciences. The increasingly multidisciplinary approach to scientific research coupled with modern capabilities to generate, analyse, and share information is driving new technology development at an increasingly rapid pace. These issues will be discussed in the context of scientific advice and review of scientific developments in treaty implementation.



Another cross-cutting session will explore the **scientific and technological developments** that are changing the way science is viewed in chemical and biological disarmament. The presentation will use technical examples to illustrate scientific capabilities and trends, examine how technologies are developed and how they become adopted into routine use. It will look into the intersection of ideas and technologies from seemingly unrelated sectors that are more and more challenging our “common wisdom” with respect to treaty implementation.

In sum, the objectives of the programme are:

- To offer a broad, comparative review of the history, purpose and provisions of WMD treaties;
- To provide an understanding of the diplomatic, legal and technical aspects of organisations dealing with WMDs;
- To explore how WMD treaties are implemented at national level; and
- To create networking opportunities for participants by bringing them in direct contact with officials of leading organisations in the field of WMDs.

The programme content is delivered by experienced officials from the OPCW and other treaty organisations together with academics, diplomats and independent experts in the fields of international law, security and related disciplines. The sessions are interactive and will provide the participants hands-on knowledge from key professionals in the field, seasoned with the personal experiences of the speakers with the issues.

This year's speakers will include, inter alia:

1. H.E. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW);
2. Daniel Feaks, Head of the Biological Weapons Implementation Support Unit;
3. Dr. Oliver Meier, Senior Research Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs;
4. Dr. Jean Pascal Zanders, formerly an expert on chemical and biological weapons at the EU Institute for Security Studies in Paris, and founder of The Trench <www.the-trench.org>.



Target Audience

The objective of this Summer Programme is to inspire interest among the younger generation in WMD demilitarisation and non-proliferation as part of the larger process of maintaining global peace and security.

The Summer Programme is designed for professionals working for the government, (semi) governmental organisations, think tanks addressing WMD concerns, national export control bodies, national authorities for the (implementation of) the CWC (and BWC), national nuclear (energy) agencies and research centres in related disciplines.

Whether you are a diplomat, scientist, security analyst or an advanced graduate student following these paths, the Summer Programme will provide you with a unique insight into the legal frameworks of each sub-category of WMD. In addition, you will obtain a sound understanding of the distinctions and similarities between nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Familiarity with international law and arms control issues is highly desirable for course applicants.



“The field trips were lovely and well thought out. The experience gave a further insight practically into the theoretical class approach system”.

Participant 2014

Field Visits

To complement the classroom content of the WMD Summer Programme, one full day is devoted to field visits. These include the **OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store in Rijswijk**, a **nuclear research reactor at the Technical University in Delft**, and the **TNO research organisation for a live exercise of investigating an alleged use of WMDs**. The field visits offer participants direct experience in CBRN preparedness and in the way international treaties on WMDs are implemented at the national level.

Demonstration: OPCW verification and inspection work

This field visit to the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment store provides participants a full view of the verification regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention. There, participants are briefed by OPCW inspectors and lab personnel who demonstrate their tools for conducting Investigations of Alleged Use (IAU) of chemical weapons, challenge inspections, routine industrial inspections, and inspections of declared chemical weapons programmes. Of particular attention is the critical importance of sampling and analysis and of maintaining chain of custody in the investigation process. This was highlighted by the UN investigation of alleged use in Damascus in August-September 2013 which the OPCW supported with its inspectors, equipment and laboratories.



Photo: OPCW

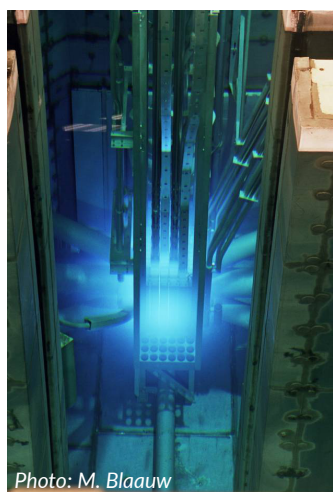


Photo: M. Blaauw

Nuclear research reactor, Delft

The reactor institute at Delft is part of the Applied Sciences faculty of the Delft University of Technology. The reactor is not for producing electrical power but rather is a source of neutrons and positrons for research purposes. The knowledge and expertise of RID play an important role in fundamental and applied scientific research in fields such as health and sustainable energy, both nationally and internationally.

The RID produces radio isotopes for application in many different fields. Participants are briefed on what the research reactor does, how uranium is enriched, the reactor's control mechanisms, the kind of research it undertakes and for whom, and the institute's relationship with the IAEA. Participants are treated to a tour inside the reactor itself for a view of the fuel rods.

Live exercise: Investigation of alleged WMD use

This field visit is hosted by the Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), an independent institute that conducts research for the Dutch Ministry of Defence, amongst others. TNO houses one of the OPCW's 20 Designated Laboratories and has trained some 180 OPCW inspectors over the years. A team of OPCW inspectors will conduct a live field exercise to investigate an alleged use of chemical weapons. They demonstrate reconnaissance, the collection of soil and water samples, maintaining the chain of custody, and decontamination. Participants are given a tour of the CBRN laboratory for an explanation of how field samples are analysed.



Photo: OPCW

Organisers

T.M.C. Asser Instituut

The T.M.C. Asser Instituut in The Hague is a distinctive, inter-university research institute specialised in International and European law and a leading and authoritative provider of executive education to students and professionals operating in the judicial sector.



The Institute initiates, develops and provides education (tailor-made programmes and summer programmes) to students and professionals working in the judicial sector.

Each programme has a high degree of flexibility and competence, taking advantage of our academic integration and our extensive network of excellent and renowned speakers and teaching staff.

Working with partners from complementary fields we are successful in creating truly unique and highly relevant programmes on a variety of subjects and levels for a diverse range of participants including among others students, judges, prosecutors, legislators, civil servants, diplomats and lawyers.

Located in the heart of the international justice community, within walking distance of such international organisations as the ICTY, the OPCW, and the Peace Palace (which houses the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration), the T.M.C. Asser Instituut is the perfect host for organising Summer Programmes in international law.

www.asser.nl

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The OPCW was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize for its historic achievements in eliminating chemical weapons, and for its leading role in the unprecedented disarmament mission in Syria.



The OPCW's mandate is to rid the world of chemical weapons by achieving universality of the Convention and ensuring full implementation of its provisions. Its principal role is to verify compliance with the treaty's provisions by States Parties and to provide a forum for their consultation and cooperation.

The OPCW is an independent, autonomous international organisation with a working relationship with the United Nations. Established in 1997, the OPCW now counts 190 countries as States Parties.

www.opcw.org

Practical Information

Date

31 August - 4 September 2015

Fee

€ 1495

This fee includes lectures, study materials, field visits, water/tea/coffee and lunch during working days, a reception and an opening dinner.

The fee does not cover (international) travel costs, domestic travel to and from airports etc., (hotel) accommodation, insurance or other expenses. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut can provide prospective participants with a list of suitable hotels in The Hague.

Registration

You can register by completing the online application form at: www.asser.nl/Disarmament

The deadline for registration has been extended. You can register up to two weeks before the start of the Summer Programme.

Please read the Registration Information & Conditions carefully before registration.

Contact

For more information or questions, please contact educationtraining@asser.nl

“Impressive programme with many complex, engaging topics packed into one week, left an impressionable experience that I will carry with me throughout my career in arms control and non-proliferation and wmd security”

Participant 2014

Registration Information & Conditions

Enrollment

1. You may register via the website by submitting the completed online registration form at www.asser.nl/Disarmament.
2. Each participant should use a separate form.
3. The deadline for registration has been extended. You can register up to two weeks before the start of the Summer Programme.
4. Upon receipt of the completed online registration form, a confirmation letter and payment details will be sent to you by email.
5. Your registration is complete once the online registration form has been submitted and the payment has been received.
6. The registration form constitutes a legally binding agreement. By submitting the completed registration form the registrant declares to be in accordance with the requirements and provisions described therein.
7. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut cannot be held responsible for the non-arrival of registration information. If you have not received confirmation of your registration within 7 working days of submitting, please contact educationtraining@asser.nl.
8. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut reserves the right to withhold registration.

Fees and Payment Conditions

1. Fees for the week-long summer programme are € 1495.
2. The fee includes lectures, study materials, study visits, refreshments and lunch during working days, a reception and an opening dinner.
3. The full payment must be made within 10 days after receipt of the confirmation e-mail. You will only be secured of a place at the Summer Programme once the T.M.C. Asser Instituut has received your payment in full.
4. Participants are responsible for the cost of all international travel, accommodation, evening meals (approximately €30 per day), and if applicable, any visa charges and medical insurance. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut can provide prospective participants with a list of suitable hotels in The Hague (€70-120 per day).

Cancellation Policy

1. Cancellations will only be accepted when your request for cancellation is submitted by e-mail to educationtraining@asser.nl.
2. If you cancel less than four weeks prior to the starting date of the Summer Programme, no refund of the course fee will be given.
3. If you cancel within the allotted time (at least 4 weeks before the starting date of the course), a processing fee of €200,- will be charged. The remaining sum will be refunded.
4. The T.M.C Asser Instituut reserves the right to cancel the Summer Programme. In the event that such action is necessary, registrants will be informed at least four weeks in advance of the starting date of the programme.
5. In the event that the T.M.C. Asser Instituut cancels the Summer Programme, the full sum paid will be reimbursed.

Visa

1. If you require a visa to visit the Netherlands, you are strongly advised to apply for your visa at least eight weeks prior to your departure to the Netherlands. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut does not arrange visas but will assist visa applicants where appropriate.

Liability

1. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut cannot be held liable for personal injuries or for loss and/or damage to the personal belongings of participants either during or as a result of their participation in the programme.