



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

SINGAPORE HOSTS “*EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL INCIDENTS*” TRAINING COURSE FOR PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Singapore is hosting the inaugural “Emergency Response to Chemical Incidents” training course from 2 to 6 March 2009 at the Civil Defence Academy. Jointly organised by Singapore Customs, which is the National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the training course is part of Singapore’s pledge to the OPCW to host and/or conduct relevant training courses to other States Parties in their efforts to build up their national capabilities to implement their CWC obligations, and to protect themselves against chemical weapons attacks or incidents.

2 As the implementing body for the CWC, the OPCW is given the mandate to ensure the implementation of the CWC provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with the Convention, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States Parties. Mr Gennadi Lutay, Head of Assistance and Protection Branch, OPCW, who opened the course, highlighted the need for States Parties to facilitate and to participate in the exchange of equipment, materials, etc. to help fulfill the above-mentioned objectives.

3 A total of 16 participants from 13 Asian nations are trained during these five days, on how to plan for and build support teams in civil protection and de-contamination operations in contaminated areas, in the event where chemical weapons are used or there is a threat arising from chemical weapon usage. They will also be taught on the techniques to deal with incidents involving chemical-warfare agents that use personal and collective protective equipment, as well as monitoring, detection and decontamination tools. A practical

demonstration by the SCDF in an emergency response to a chemical attack and hands-on laboratory training for participants will be included.

4 Participants will also tour the Global Terrorism Suite at the Home Team Academy, which was set up as a learning facility to develop the sense of awareness amongst all Home Team and frontline officers on the threats posed by Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosive (CBRE) agents through the senses of sight, smell and touch. In addition, they will also visit the Tuas Checkpoint's Protective and Analytical Facility, a new addition to Singapore's surveillance capabilities of security-sensitive materials and infectious diseases so as to check the entry of undesirable biological and chemical agents.

End of Release

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About the National Authority (Chemical Weapons Convention)
(国家主管部(化学武器公约))

Singapore Customs is the National Authority (NA) for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Set up as the national implementing body for the CWC, it also serves as a liaison point with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and other States Parties for any CWC matters. For more information on the NA (CWC), please visit www.customs.gov.sg/nacwc

About the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
(禁化武组织)

The OPCW is the implementing body of the CWC. For more information, please visit its website at www.opcw.org