Development of the Hague Ethical Guidelines

Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts MX2
9 August 2018

Cheng Tang
2019 Chairperson Elect, OPCW Scientific Advisory Board

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What are the Hague Ethical Guidelines

www.opcw.org/special-sections/science-technology/the-hague-ethical-guidelines
The Hague Ethical Guidelines
Applying the norms of the practice of chemistry to supporting the Chemical Weapons Convention
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Background

The responsible practice of chemistry improves the quality of life of humankind and the environment. Through their many peaceful uses, such as in research and industry, chemicals play an essential role in this improvement. However, some chemicals can also be used as chemical weapons or to create them, and these weapons are among the most horrific in the world.

The 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) embodies the powerful international norm against chemical weapons, requiring its States Parties “under any circumstances: (a) To develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons, or transfer, directly or indirectly, chemical weapons or chemical weapons-related equipment; (b) To use chemical weapons; (c) To engage in any military preparations to use chemical weapons; (d) To assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party to the Convention.” The task of destroying the world’s stockpile of chemical weapons is close to complete, and the threat of their use has been eliminated.

As destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile continues, a concerted re-emergence of this issue among chemistry practitioners, industry, and society as a whole is expected. Their support is needed to ensure that chemistry is accompanied by recognition, recognition of their value to society, and ethical standards.

Fortunately, ethical standards already exist within the chemistry community. Building on that foundation, the contributors to the development of the Chemical Weapons Convention from all regions of the world convened to define and harmonize key elements of ethical guidelines as they relate to chemical weapons based on existing codes.

The Key Elements

Core element. Achievements in the field of chemistry should be used to benefit humankind and protect the environment.

Sustainability. Chemistry practitioners have a special responsibility for promoting and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Education. Formal and informal educational providers, enterprise, industry and government should encourage and support education in science and technology.

Accountability. Chemistry practitioners have a responsibility to ensure that chemicals, equipment and facilities are protected against theft and diversion and are not used for illegal, harmful or destructive purposes. These persons should be aware of applicable laws and regulations governing the manufacture and use of chemicals, and they should report any misuse of chemicals, scientific knowledge, equipment and facilities to the relevant authorities.

Oversight. Chemistry practitioners who supervise others have the additional responsibility to ensure that chemicals, equipment and facilities are not used by those persons for illegal, harmful or destructive purposes.

Ethics. To adequately respond to societal challenges, education, research and innovation must respect fundamental rights and apply the highest ethical standards. Ethics should be perceived as a way of ensuring high quality results in science.

Safety and Security. Chemistry practitioners should promote the beneficial applications, uses and development of science and technology while encouraging and maintaining a strong culture of safety, health, and security.

The Hague Ethical Guidelines provide the key elements that should be applied universally.

*Code* is used as a general term and includes the full range of such documents, from inspirational statements such as the Hippocratic Oath to codes that are enforceable, for example as part of a practitioner’s terms of employment.

More information is available at https://www.opcw.org/special-sections/science-technology/the-hague-ethical-guidelines/
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Endorsed by the following individuals:

- Professor Muhamad Abdulkadir (Indonesia)
- Professor Jasim Uddin Ahmad (Bangladesh)
- Professor Abeer Al-Bawab (Jordan)
- Professor Fernando Alarcin Palomera (Spain)
- Professor Jan Apotheke (The Netherlands)
- Professor Mahdi Balali-Mood (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Professor Djafar Benachour (Algeria)
- Dr Mark Cesa (United States of America)
- Professor Al-Nakib Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
- Dr Philip Coleman (South Africa)
- Professor Dr Hartmut Frank (Germany)
- Professor David Gonzalez (Uruguay)
- Professor Alastair Hay (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
- Mr Steven Hill (United States of America)
- Professor Dr Henning Hopf (Germany)
- Dr Jo Husbands (United States of America)
- Professor Jorge Guillermo Ibarra (Mexico)
- Mr Amrhossein Imani (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Dr Nancy Jackson (United States of America)
- Dr Patrick John Lim (Philippines)
- Professor Mohd Jamil Maah (Malaysia)
- Dr Detlef Maennig (Germany)
- Professor Peter Mhaffy (Canada)
- Dr Robert Mathews (Australia)
- Professor Termechegn Mengida (Ethiopia)
- Dr Kabrena Rodda (United States of America)
- Dr Ting Kueh Soon (Malaysia)
- Professor Alejandra Graciela Suarez (Argentina)
- Professor Lev K. Sydnes (Norway)
- Mr Cheng Tang (China)
- Professor Natalia P. Tarasova (Russian Federation)
- Dr Christopher Timperley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
- Dr Hans-Georg Weing (Germany)
- Dr Prashant Yajnik (India)
- Dr Muhammad Zafar-Uz-Zaman (Pakistan)
- Professor Zuriati Binti Zakaria (Malaysia)
- Mr Muhammad Setyabudhi Zuber (Indonesia)
- Mr Sjoerd Loojs (The Netherlands)
Does Chemistry Need Another Code?

142 Codes of Conduct and Ethics Relevant to Chemistry (only represents available unique English language documents)

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What Do All These Codes Tell Us?

Text Analysis:
Code of ethics and codes of conduct contain similar words and word associations

OPCW
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Codes from different regional origins contain similar words and word associations.

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- “I didn’t know the scientists had so many codes”
  - Reasons to reflect on how well we communicate within and across stakeholder communities?

- Engagement requires “connection” and “ownership”
  - “Elements” facilitate this discussion and ownership of the code

- Codes are living documents – they will need to evolve with our changing world

- Concepts have similarity across scientific disciplines
Codes in the Biological and Life Sciences?

Using Codes of Ethics

The Ethics Center Library began collecting codes of ethics over 20 years ago. As our collection grew, more people became aware of its existence and began asking for access. At that time, the best the library could do for individuals who were not in the Chicago area was to photocopy the requested code and mail it to the requestor. With the advent of the Internet, it seemed clear that digitizing the codes and making them accessible over the World-Wide Web would benefit researchers, students, and professionals alike.

Codes of ethics are controversial documents. Some writers have suggested that codes of professional ethics are pointless and unnecessary. Many others believe that codes are useful and important, but disagree about why. The Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions is committed to the importance of codes of ethics, and we have undertaken the Online Ethics Codes Project in order to enhance access to a very wide variety of codes. Why are we so committed to this project?

It may help the user of these documents to understand something about the debate surrounding codes of ethics. At one end of the spectrum, John Ladd has argued that codes of ethics serve no good purpose whatsoever. Ladd argues that ethics should be open-ended and collective, and that relying on a code of ethics is to confuse ethics with law. He further asserts that it is mistaken to assume that there is a special ethics for professionals which is separate from the ethics of ordinary human beings within a moral society. Professionals, he suggests, have no special rights or duties separate from their rights and duties as moral persons, and therefore codes of ethics are pointless and possibly pernicious.

A different sort of attack on the usefulness of codes of ethics comes from Helene Luengenbuhl. Luengenbuhl acknowledges that codes of ethics do have some sociological value. Luengenbuhl writes:

"The adoption of a code is significant for the professionalization of an occupational group, because it is one of the external hallmarks testifying to the claim that the group recognizes an obligation to society that transcends mere economic self-interest (p. 138).

But he believes that ultimately codes of ethics create moral problems rather than helping to resolve them. Luengenbuhl notes that practicing professionals rarely turn to their codes of ethics for guidance, and that the guidelines within the codes sometimes seem internally inconsistent. He also voices a concern similar to Ladd's -- namely, that implementation of a code of ethics may be in conflict with the moral autonomy we expect of individuals.
Codes in the Biological and Life Sciences?

Contains many, but not all of the codes collected during the Hague Ethical Guidelines project.
Search results in the IIT collection over lunch...
“life science”: 1719 items
“biological science”: 1058 items
“biology”: 162 items
Impact of The Hague Ethical Guidelines

- Endorsed by German Chemical Society
- Further endorsed by
  - International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)
    - Letter sent by Prof. Natalia Tarasova, Presented of IUPAC
  - Inspired creation of a new Global Chemists’ Code
  - European Association for Chemical and Molecular Science (EuCheMS)
Impact of The Hague Ethical Guidelines

22 April 2016

H.E. Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Johannes Ptitzlaan 22
2517 JR - The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Mr. Üzümcü,

As President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, I am pleased to inform you that IUPAC endorses the Hague Ethical Guidelines. The Guidelines have been reviewed by the IUPAC Executive Committee and Bureau, and both groups have instructed the Union to endorse and promote them.

IUPAC has been honored to partner with the OPCW on several important initiatives, including conferences on the impact of scientific developments on the Chemical Weapons Convention, on materials for education and outreach on dual-use of chemicals, and on preparation of the Guidelines. As you know, several persons in leadership positions in IUPAC were among the chemical practitioners who contributed as individual scientists to the process of drafting the Guidelines. A recent IUPAC project on recommendations for codes of conduct for chemists follows a similar model for preparation of codes, encouraging its members to consider the guidelines in updating and preparing codes of conduct for their organizations. The Core Element of the Hague Ethical Guidelines, which states “Achievements in the field of chemistry should be used to benefit humankind and protect the environment,” is fully consistent with the IUPAC strategic mission and vision.

IUPAC will post a statement about the Guidelines and our endorsement on our new Web site, www.iupac.org, which is currently under substantial updating, at our earliest opportunity. This will be an invitation for sharing the Guidelines with our members – National Adhering Organizations, Associated Organizations, volunteers and members, and Fellows around the world – and for encouraging them to refer to and promote the guidelines within their organizations.

Congratulations on the Hague Ethical Guidelines. IUPAC looks forward to future productive collaborations with the OPCW.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Natalia Tarasova
President, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

IUPAC Endorses The Hague Ethical Guidelines

Monday, 02 May 2016

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) has endorsed The Hague Ethical Guidelines, which was facilitated by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to guide the responsible practice of chemistry under the norms of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

IUPAC President, Prof Natalia P. Tarasova, in her 22 April 2016 letter to the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, highlighted that the core Element of the Hague Ethical Guidelines, which states “Achievements in the field of chemistry should be used to benefit humankind and protect the environment,” is fully consistent with the IUPAC strategic mission and vision."
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OPCW Ethical Guidelines Inspire Global Chemists’ Code

Wednesday, 08 June 2016

The Hague Ethical Guidelines, facilitated by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to guide the responsible practice of chemistry under the Chemical Weapons Convention, have inspired the creation of a new Global Chemists’ Code of Ethics. The new global code was drafted by 30 scientists from 18 countries who gathered in Kuala Lumpur at a workshop funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Chemical Security Programme and organised by the American Chemical Society.
Impact of The Hague Ethical Guidelines

European Chemical Sciences WP on Ethics in Chemistry

Working Party on Ethics in Chemistry

News

Conferences

Publications, reports and other references

Useful Links

Honours

Chemical Society.

“Ethics and Science for the Environment” (ESforE) – Memorandum of understanding

Hague Ethical Guidelines from the “Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons” (Link to the pdf – HERE)
Impact of The Hague Ethical Guidelines

Chemists Against Chemical Weapons

The Seville Declaration on the use of Chlorine in Warfare
The Hague Ethical Guidelines
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www.opcw.org/special-sections/science-technology/the-hague-ethical-guidelines/
OPCW

منظمة حظر الأسلحة الكيميائية

禁止化学武器组织

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Organisation pour l’Interdiction des Armes Chimiques

Организация по запрещению химического оружия

Organización para la Prohibición de las Armas Químicas