

[News story: 20th International Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation Conference](#)

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The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is hosting the two day event on 25 to 26 May 2017. Registration is now open.

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is hosting the 20th annual International Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation Conference. The two day event on 25 to 26 May 2017 is at the [Park Plaza Hotel Victoria London](#) along with an informal networking session at the hotel on the eve of the conference.

The International Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation (CWD) conference brings together the world's largest gathering of professionals involved in the demilitarisation of chemical weapons. It provides the opportunity to showcase the global progress in chemical weapon destruction and enables delegates to develop their knowledge and understanding with a common goal of a safer, cleaner world. There will be representation from policy and decision makers across international organisations, UK government, the armed forces, industry, academia and research and development establishments worldwide.

The conference supports the global effort to eliminate chemical weapons and fosters co-operation through the exchange of information and ideas relating to the safe disposal.

Conference topics

The proposed topics for the conference are:

- programme planning, technology selection, facility construction, operations, safe closure of CWD facilities and environmental remediation and health and safety
- expedient destruction methods – how to reduce time and cost
- disposal of chemical weapons precursors in commercial facilities
- removal and destruction of chemical weapon precursors from Libya
- exchange of best practice
- chemical safety and security
- waste management
- explosive detonation technology
- recovery of chemical weapons from seas and rivers/lakes
- innovative technologies and services

- laboratory and analytical techniques/instrumentation
- analytical methods – environmental and biomedical

Register

To register please contact the [CWD conference organiser](#). Registration closes at 11.59pm on Friday 12 May 2017. You do not have to submit an abstract to register for this event.

Submit an abstract

To submit an abstract to present your work at this year's conference, please contact the [CWD conference organiser](#). Abstracts should be submitted by 4.00pm Friday 31 March 2017.

Further information

For more information please contact the [CWD conference organiser](#).

[Read an article on last year's conference.](#)

Top court pledges non-interference in judges' work

China's top court promises to ensure judges properly exert their judicial power without interference.

The Supreme People's Court on Tuesday published a document on improving the mechanism to protect judges and their associates in fulfilling their legal duties.

The measures stipulate that when handling cases, judges should not be subject to interference from other government organs, social organizations or individuals.

Judges have the right to refuse to follow any requests by any organization or individual that are without legal mandate or due process, the document said.

They are also entitled to refuse to comment on cases which are not in a judicial process or trials that they do not participate in, the document said.

Moreover, they are entitled to make complaints against nine types of action by governmental agencies or staff, including intervention in judicial process, obstruction of justice and restraint or suppression of the judges' independent expression of opinion.

As cases of disturbance in courts and harassment of judges have increased, the document said all courts should have committees to protect judges' safety, rights and interests.

Judges and their associates should also be provided with recording devices at their workplace.

The document pledged protection of personal information of judges and their families.

In January, Fu Mingsheng, who worked at a court of Luchuan County in Guangxi, was reportedly killed at his residence by suspect Long Jiancai, a defendant in a divorce case that Fu heard in 1994.

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Press release: Education Secretary visits Derby on opportunity areas tour

Education Secretary Justine Greening visited Derby on Thursday 2 February, 1 of 12 opportunity areas aimed at boosting education, skills and opportunity in social mobility 'cold spots'.

Ms Greening visited the Derby Moor Community Sports College to meet students, teachers and local education leaders who are benefiting from the Prince's Trust Team programme, which helps unemployed 16- to 25-year-olds to get into

work or training.

The opportunity areas will see DfE working with local organisations, including early years providers, schools, colleges, universities, the voluntary sector and businesses to help local children and young people get the best start in life, no matter what their background.

These areas will focus not just on what can be done inside schools to tackle social mobility, but also create the opportunities outside school that will help broaden horizons for young people.

Plans are being drawn up to put the £72 million funding for the 12 opportunity areas into action. Local organisations will have the opportunity to help shape these plans so that they are tailored to meet the different challenges that exist across England in regards to social mobility.

During the visit, the charity [Teach First](#) announced that it will increase the number of its teaching placements in Derby in 2017. That will see 8 more talented graduates teaching in schools in Derby by 2017 – up from the current 14 placements.

The charity will also be increasing the number of placements in 5 other opportunity areas by 40% in September 2017. Those areas are:

- Blackpool
- Norwich
- Oldham
- Scarborough
- West Somerset

Education Secretary Justine Greening said:

As Britain prepares for its future outside the EU, it's never been more important that everyone in our country has a fair chance to go as far as their talent and their hard work will take them.

On my previous visits to Derby as Education Secretary, I've seen the great work being done at the University of Derby, and just recently I met apprentices honing their skills at Bombardier.

Each visit reinforces to me just how crucial for our nation's success it is that none of these talents are wasted, and especially the talent of young people growing up in Derby.

Whether it's providing more good school places across Derby and the rest of England, investing in improving careers education, transforming the quality of further and technical education or opening up access to our world-class higher education system, working together I believe we can create more opportunities for future generations to go as far as their talents will take them. And I want to see Derby leading the way.

Brett Wigdortz, CEO and Founder of Teach First said:

The government's recent commitment to investing funding and support into these opportunity areas has been unanimously welcomed by the education sector as a positive step forward in ensuring all our young people, no matter where they were born, are given the same opportunity to succeed.

We're proud to work in partnership with the government in these areas, by placing more Teach First participants than ever before into these communities – working collaboratively to raise the attainment and achieve the aspirations of all our young people.