



## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE ADVANCED BIORISK OFFICERS TRAINING (ABOT) 2018**

**Organized by the National Training Center for Biosafety and Biosecurity and  
Sponsored by the US. Department of State Biosecurity Engagement Program  
(BEP)**

### **Background**

In the past decade the development in the field of biology gave new opportunities to improve public and animal health, to grow our economy and to expand our knowledge. With these developments also came the increased biological risk from emerging infectious diseases and microorganisms with potential for dual-use.

Building on the success of the past four batches of the Advanced Biorisk Officers Training (ABOT), the newly established National Training Center for Biosafety and Biosecurity aims to expand the pool of competent biorisk officers and trainers in the Philippines. This aim will further strengthen the Biorisk management system in the Philippines as it prepares the National Framework for Biosafety and Biosecurity.

This year the fifth batch of ABOT will be conducted. The program will entail six weeks of intensive trainings given in three sessions (two weeks each) over a period of one year. It will consist of several methods of learning which include: didactic training lecture (Power Point-based), interactive lectures (based on Global Biological Risk Management Curriculum modules), group exercises, hands-on demonstrations, workshop exercises, videos, guest lectures, and field application trips to visit other facilities. There will be also application exercises in between training sessions for the training participants to apply, at their home institution, their newly-acquired skill and competency from ABOT. All training sessions will be conducted within the Metro Manila area with field trips that may be outside the city. The student's ability to apply what they learned to solve problems under field conditions will be assessed to determine each student's progress and highlight their accomplishments.

### **Training Dates:**

ABOT 1<sup>st</sup> Semester - August 13 – 24, 2018

ABOT 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester - November 12 – 23, 2018

ABOT 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester - January 28 – February 8, 2019

### **The criteria for selection:**

1. Academic background (at least a bachelor's degree in any natural science course) or an equivalent academic degree in a related field;
2. Experience in working in a biomedical, bioscience, or diagnostic laboratory, ideally in a safety related position or with enthusiasm to work on biosafety and biosecurity;



3. Excellent communication skills;
4. Ideally the applicant should have had some experience in teaching at any level in any subject;
5. Commitment and ability to develop and implement a biorisk training program at their home institute;
6. Applicants MUST show that they can be excused from work or they can take a leave of absence to attend the program. During the training sessions, the training participants MUST focus on the training and will thus not be able to perform their typical job functions (a signed letter from the applicant's supervisor is required); and
7. Committed support from their home institute.

### **Selection Process**

Only 15 participants will be admitted to the ABOT program. All applicants will be evaluated based on the selection criteria mentioned above. In addition, security clearance checks will also be done on the applicants, as maybe required by existing laws and guidelines.

### **Training Cost**

The ABOT program is a flagship program. As such, there will be NO training costs that will be required from the participants or from their home institution. All related and necessary expenses will be provided for the participants. To ensure that the participants can give their full attention during the training sessions, they will all be lodged in a hotel, near the venue of the training sessions. Meals will also be provided during the training sessions and in their stay at the hotel. Appropriate transportation arrangements will also be provided for participants that will be coming from the province.

### **Application Procedure**

#### ***Documents to be submitted (Arial, font 12, single spaced)***

1. Curriculum Vitae (2 pages)
2. Letter of application to the program stating the following (maximum of 2 pages)
  - Current function/job description in your institution
  - Percentage of your time at work is currently engaged in microbiology or a related discipline; Percentage of the time you spend managing biorisk at your institution.
  - Experience on Biosafety and Biosecurity
  - A paragraph describing your commitment and ability to develop and implement a biorisk training program in your home institution.
3. Endorsement letter from the dean/director of your institution/agency allowing your full, uninterrupted participation in this training program.

Deadline for applications is **June 3, 2018**.



### ***Submission***

**The title of your email should be ABOT5\_Surname\_Region**

***Example: ABOT5\_Arevalo\_RegionV***

Send your application to:

**Dr. Raul V. Destura**

*Director*

National Training Center for Biosafety and Biosecurity

National Institute of Health UP Manila

Pedro Gil, Ermita Manila

ntcbb.upm@up.edu.ph

For inquiries:

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*Project Development Officer*

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