

San José de las Lajas, April 23, 2018.

To: Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)

The following reference letter is provided on behalf of Yenisei Hernández Baranda, who works since 2013 as researcher in the Department of Biochemistry and Plant Physiology at the National Institute of Agricultural Sciences (INCA, for its acronym in Spanish) in Mayabeque, Cuba.

Since the beginning, her investigation focused on the evaluation of water quality and its usage in agriculture, which constitutes one of the research topics of the Department. On this matter, part of her work addressed the optimization of analytical techniques to determine metals, acidity, alkalinity, totally dissolved solids and other indicators, as well as to develop monitoring programs for the evaluation of water quality in different rivers and streams in the surrounding areas of the city.

Miss Hernández will defend her Master's thesis on Analytical Chemistry in June this year. During the development of her research, she has shown great ability in the acquisition of new knowledge in other areas, such as Plant Physiology. Therefore, her final work successfully combines both sciences and it fulfills the Institution's expectations.

In addition, it is valid to state that Miss Hernández has participated in around 10 conferences and workshops with oral or supported-by-poster presentations, and due to her successful performances, she has been awarded in some cases. During her time in the institution, Miss Hernández demonstrated a good work ethic and interpersonal skills. She has also shown great skills as researcher and high potential to work in team. She is a researcher that shows self-reliance, creativity and independence.

The Department has a chemical analysis laboratory, in which the analysis of plant tissue, soil and water constitutes the foremost line of investigation. The main equipment are an atomic absorption spectrometer, a microwave digester, and a gas chromatograph. As a result, it is the interest of the Institute to train analytical chemists in the quality management of laboratories and in the development of reliable procedures.

Based upon the reasons mentioned above, I highly recommend the application of B.S. Yenisei Hernández Baranda for the proposed course on the enhancement of laboratory skills on chemical weapons-related laboratory quality management, since I consider this course as an excellent opportunity for the consolidation of her professional career.

Sincerely,



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