Geneva Diary: Report from the GICHD

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I n January 2007, the GICHD unveiled a new look for its Web site and publications. The GICHD implemented these changes to give the organization a modern, fresh appearance, and to increase the utility of the Web site as well as reduce the cost of publications. The redesigned Web site can be seen at www.gichd.org and includes a number of new features such as shortcut buttons, an improved search function, an evaluation repository and a training calendar.

One of the first publications to be issued in the new style was the Metal Detectors and PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] Catalogue, published in March 2007. This catalogue features handheld, large-loop and vehicle-mounted detectors, as well as the relatively new multi-sensor systems. In April, the third edition of the Guide to Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War was published. This edition provides updated information, such as the text of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons' Protocol V on explosive remnants of war; it also includes new chapters on mine action and development, as well as capacity building and evaluation.

Tenth Annual Meeting of Programme Directors and U.N. Advisers

In March 2007, the GICHD hosted the “Tenth International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and U.N. Advisers” on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Service. The meeting brought together over 200 people from 35 mine-affected countries, along with representatives from the various U.N. agencies, nongovernmental organizations and donor countries involved with mine action.

Since the first annual meeting was held, attendance has increased tremendously; in March 1998 only 40 people from seven countries attended. The idea for the meeting came about as there was a growing need for better standardization, coordination and action evaluations, as well as undertake selected evaluations itself. Early in 2007 the GICHD undertook an evaluation of the United Nations Development Programme’s capacity-building project in Albania and also conducted an independent assessment of the residual threat in Kosovo on behalf of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. Later in the year, the GICHD will undertake a thematic evaluation in the Caucasus as part of a rolling series of evaluations for the European Commission.

Evaluation

The GICHD carries on training and advice on the conduct of mine-action programmes, and recipients of the residual threat in Kosovo on behalf of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. The idea for the meeting came about as there was a growing need for better standardization, coordination and action evaluations, as well as undertake selected evaluations itself. Early in 2007 the GICHD undertook an evaluation of the United Nations Development Programme’s capacity-building project in Albania and also conducted an independent assessment of the residual threat in Kosovo on behalf of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. Later in the year, the GICHD will undertake a thematic evaluation in the Caucasus as part of a rolling series of evaluations for the European Commission.

Quality Management in Demining Organisations

In this article, the International Standards Organization 9001:2000 Quality Management System is compared to what leading actors in quality management and business management deem to be current best practice. The aim of this paper is to show the universal application of the ISO 9001:2000 system as a quality-management system and that it complies with best practises in business and quality management around the world. This article will highlight a few of the most important ISO clauses and show how they are supported by best practises.

by Charles Loxton | United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan |