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Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining 2007 Annual Report

GICHD

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

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Annual Report

2007

GICHD | CIDHG



PROMOTING CO-OPERATION | PROVIDING SUPPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2007 has been one of the busiest ever for the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). It was the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention – which I personally witnessed - and we worked hard to meet new challenges and to fulfil an increasing number of requests for our support and assistance from mine action organisations worldwide.

The Centre, which celebrates its own ten-year anniversary in 2008, is in a unique position to meet these demands. As an international foundation it is devoted exclusively to enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in demining.

But our achievements have only been made possible by the support of the governments, international organisations and NGOs that work with us throughout the year, as well as the commitment of all our staff and consultants. With their continuing cooperation we can hope to succeed in our aim: to diminish the suffering of victims of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war.

Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga | President



FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR

2007 was a particularly significant year for mine action and for the GICHD. Ten years after the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention was adopted, it was a year of assessment and reflection. Are the Convention's goals being met? Has progress been adequate? It was a time to think about the past, but also to consider the future of mine action.

These issues were discussed at the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties, held in Jordan in November. The meeting was supported by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), effectively the secretariat of the Convention, which is hosted by the GICHD.

Some of the Centre's most significant projects in 2007 focused on the future. Consistent with our aim of improving the effectiveness of mine action we published the first study into land release. Based on extensive field research, the study examined how to determine whether land, recorded as hazardous, is actually contaminated.

Another key project was Linking Mine Action to Development. During the year work began on creating guidelines to help stakeholders integrate mine action and development. A global electronic network was also established to enable better communication between practitioners working in the two disciplines.

In the field of information management, the upgrade of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) was released and installed in 26 locations. As a result the IMSMA team undertook an exceptional workload.

Throughout the year emphasis was placed on responding to invitations from mine-affected countries and their mine action programmes. I visited a number of countries, including Burundi, Cambodia, Libya, Mauritania, Nepal, Tajikistan and Uganda. These meetings were very productive and helped to ensure that the GICHD's work remains relevant and closely focused on the needs of mine-affected countries.

As the only global mine action knowledge organisation in existence, mine-affected countries repeatedly turned to us for support and information during 2007. As we look to the future, our overriding ambition is to remain responsive to the needs and concerns of those countries.

Ambassador Stephan Nellen | Director



MINE ACTION | THE CHALLENGE

Landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) affect more than 70 countries worldwide. Nobody can be sure of the true extent of the harm they inflict but, according to the latest figures compiled by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), there are more than 6,000 new casualties recorded each year and around 450,000 landmine and ERW survivors are believed to be living with disabilities.

Long after conflicts have ended, landmines and other ERW continue to delay reconstruction and development in some of the world's poorest countries.

They prevent farmers from growing food and their animals from grazing. They render roads impassable and schools and hospital buildings inaccessible. They disrupt infrastructure and deny access to water sources and basic sanitation.



Since the 1997 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention – also known as the Ottawa Convention – was established, significant progress has been made to stop the use of anti-personnel mines. Approximately 42 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed, large tracts of land have been cleared and the number of people killed or injured in mine accidents continues to decrease.

But anti-personnel mines continue to be used in some conflicts. While 156 states have acceded to the Ottawa Convention, 39 have not yet joined and of these 13 countries retain the capability to produce anti-personnel mines. Two states made new use of anti-personnel mines in 2007, according to the ICBL, and several more continue to derive utility from anti-personnel mines on an ongoing basis, (www.icbl.org). Also, the continued use of anti-personnel mines by non-state actors is of growing concern.

Anti-personnel mines must be cleared worldwide, but items of abandoned and unexploded ordnance also have to be dealt with. In most affected countries it is estimated that there are three times as many of these items, including cluster munitions, as there are mines. Unexploded ordnance comprises bombs, mortars, grenades and other devices that failed to explode on impact and may remain live and potentially lethal if touched. Abandoned explosive ordnance is the term used to describe ammunition that has not been used during an armed conflict, but has been left behind, or dumped. Cluster munitions are conventional weapons, launched from the ground or air, which are packed with hundreds of smaller 'bomblets'. On release these bomblets are scattered over several thousand square metres. These often fail to detonate and may remain highly volatile.

As long as landmines and other ERW continue to litter developing countries, the United Nations Millennium Development Goal, which aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, will remain difficult to achieve.

The primary responsibility for taking action against landmines and ERW rests with the mine-affected countries themselves. In 2007, the GICHD, together with its partners, continued to assist affected countries to eliminate anti-personnel mines and to reduce the negative impact of other landmines and ERW.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007

JANUARY

Two-day staff retreat held, with aim of further developing the organisation. IMSMA team attended the annual IMSMA support services planning meeting.

FEBRUARY

Published *Evaluation of NPA's Humanitarian Mine Action Project and Review of Ethiopia's Mine Action Programme*. Completed translation of the IMSMA and Information Management training materials into French. GICHD delegation visited Libya and concluded Memorandum of Cooperation. Initiated formal cooperation with Nepal.

MARCH

Research and Evaluations database launched on GICHD website. Third CEN European Committee for Standardisation workshop on the Test and Evaluation of Personal Protective Equipment. Published *Metal Detectors and Personal Protective Equipment 2007* catalogue. Tenth International UNMAS Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations (UN) Advisors hosted by GICHD, attended by more than 200 participants. GICHD delegation visited CPADD Training Centre, Benin, starting close cooperation with that Centre. International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Review Board meeting held at GICHD.

APRIL

Network to link mine action and development practitioners launched at a two day meeting in Geneva. Course on Introduction to Mine Action held in Geneva, attended by 30 Geneva-based diplomats. Third edition of *Guide to Mine Action and ERW* published. GICHD Advisory Board meeting held. International Mine Action Day, April 4, was marked at the Centre by a seminar on Mine Action in Support of Peacebuilding. The Meetings of the AP Mine Ban Convention's Standing Committees were again hosted by the GICHD with over 500 delegates registered. Director presented GICHD to Parliamentary Committee on Security Policy of States Chamber, Berne, Switzerland.

MAY

The Battle Area Clearance IMAS 09.11 was drafted and circulated to the IMAS Review Board. Mission to Angola to help Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and national authorities develop a national Land Release concept. Organised regional workshop to advance aims of the AP Mine Ban Convention in Vanuatu.

JUNE

Land Release/Risk Management workshop was held in Geneva. Regional workshop on Linking Mine Action to Development held in Cambodia, co-organised with Austcare Cambodia and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Director participated in International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) meeting in Kuwait on Human Costs of Anti-Personnel Land Mines and ERW. Redesigned IMAS website launched, Protection of the Environment IMAS 10.70 published.

JULY

National Standards workshop held in Kampala, Uganda. GICHD delegation to Burundi and Uganda.

AUGUST

IMSMA staff provided field assistance in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. Provided support to Article V meeting in Chile. Administered sponsorship programme for informal meeting to discuss transfer controls on Small Arms, Light Weapons, hosted in Geneva by the Government of Canada.

SEPTEMBER

Mine Risk Education (MRE) monitoring and evaluation workshop was held for the government of Laos in Vientiane. GICHD Director participated in hearing of French National Committee on Mine Action, Paris. Official visit of GICHD delegation to Tajikistan, concluded Memorandum of Cooperation.

OCTOBER

The first field deployment of the Hand held Field Data Collection Tool was completed in Chile.

NOVEMBER

Results of GICHD's study, *Land Release – A Guide for Mine and ERW Affected Countries*, published. First edition of the *Guide to Cluster Munitions* released. First of a new series of training activities conducted in Geneva under the Swiss Partnership for Peace Program, focused on role of IMSMA in peace support operations. GICHD and ISU staff attended and provided support to Eighth Meeting of the States Parties in Jordan (8MSP). Provided administrative support to sponsorship programme for Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Meeting in Geneva. Arabic *Guide to Mine Action and ERW* released in Jordan at the 8MSP.

DECEMBER

Workshop to develop National MRE Standards conducted in Vietnam. This resulted in the appointment of a Standards drafting and review board. *Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue, 2008*, published. Workshop on road clearance held, attended by field operators and specialists. GICHD delegation visited Beijing and Nanjing at the invitation of Government and Nanjing PLA University of Technology and Science. Initiated translation of IMAS into Chinese.

OPERATIONS | OUR WORK IN 2007

The GICHD provides professional services to mine action programmes worldwide. These include information management, development of international and national standards, training packages, evaluations and specialist expertise in the field.

We undertake research and provide technical help in areas such as survey techniques, detection methods, risk assessment, clearance, destruction of mines and quality control.

The Centre conducts field-based research into manual mine clearance methods, including personal protective equipment and the use of vapour detectors – such as dogs and rats. We also research all aspects of the management and application of machines for ground preparation and mine clearance.

In 2007 work continued on a study into mechanical road clearance based on extensive field research in Afghanistan, Angola and Sudan. Early results of another ongoing project, looking at the use of dogs and rats in mine clearance, were positive.

Research findings often result in the development of international standards, guide books and training workshops. Our aim is to help spread knowledge and best practice within mine-affected countries.

Land Release

In 2007 the Centre published *Land Release: A Guide for Mine and ERW Affected Countries*. The study, based on six case studies in mine-affected states, including extensive research in Cambodia, Iraq and Yemen, is the first part of an ongoing project to find more efficient, non-technical and technical methods of releasing land believed to be contaminated with hazardous items. This work is a priority project for GICHD.

Our investigations into land release methods began in response to a growing awareness within the mine action community that much of the land being cleared, using expensive and resource intensive methods, did not actually contain anti-personnel mines or other ERW. General assessments and impact surveys often overstate the scale of the mine and ERW problem and the GICHD's study is an attempt to help to redress the balance.



During the year, the GICHD worked, at both the political and operational levels, to support mine action organisations and affected states with issues related to land release and help states to develop national land release policies. The ISU assisted several states in the preparation of their Article 5 extension requests.

At the field level, we have assisted a number of organisations, such as Norwegian People's Aid in Angola, to develop methodologies to enable them to release land in a clear and rational manner.

MANAGING INFORMATION

Effective information management is key to a successful mine action programme. The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) is the GICHD's single biggest project.

Currently used in more than 80% of mine action programmes around the world, IMSMA has been specifically designed to meet the requirements of users in the field. Since its initial release in 1999 the system has been continuously revised and updated and is now a de facto standard in mine action information management.



Having completely re-engineered, updated and upgraded the IMSMA software over the past three years, the IMSMA team spent 2007 testing and installing it in many programmes, worldwide. It also received, and fulfilled, additional requests for new installations from national and UN programmes, field operators and peace keeping training centres.

During the year, five new technical development updates to the IMSMA software were completed. Each added new functionality and made improvements to elements already incorporated in the system. A total of 26 locations were upgraded to the current IMSMA release.

Work also continued on the introduction of the IMSMA Handheld Data Collection tool kit, which was successfully field-tested in Chile in November.

The Centre is currently working to introduce a broad based systems approach to the overall management of information of all kinds in mine action. The goal is the successful integration of proven information management techniques, systems such as IMSMA, maXML, the IMSMA Handheld Data Collection tool kit and other tools into day to day operations in the field.

GICHD | WORKING AROUND THE WORLD

In 2007 GICHD specialists visited more than 65 countries worldwide to deliver training, conduct research, hold workshops or provide professional advice and expertise on mine action. During the year we worked across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and South America.

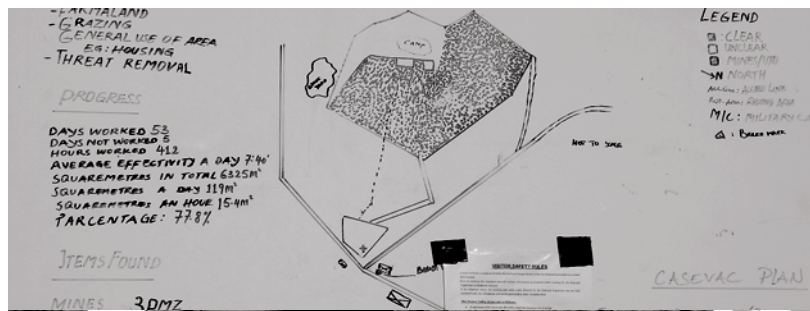
The map illustrates the countries where IMSMA is installed and running. It also shows where GICHD specialists have worked, including field visits by the Director.



 GICHD Missions & Meetings | Visits | Seminars

 IMSMA

 GICHD & IMSMA activities



QUALITY MANAGEMENT | STANDARDS | EVALUATIONS

International Mine Action Standards

Working under a mandate from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the GICHD is responsible for preparing and developing IMAS, in consultation with mine action experts from donor countries, the UN, international, government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

IMAS identify standards and procedures for mine detection, mine clearance, destroying and disposing of landmines and for mine risk education. There are currently 44 IMAS, including four in draft edition.

In 2007 four new IMAS were developed. They were IMAS 09.11 Battle Area Clearance; IMAS 10.70 Safety and Operational Health, Protection of the Environment; IMAS 02.10 Guide to the Establishment of a Mine Action Programme and IMAS 14.10 Guide for the Evaluation of Mine Action Intervention.

Two technical notes were also developed. One (TNMA 10.10) provided guidelines on Management of Human Remains found during Mine Action Operations, another (TNMA 09.30) concerned the clearance of cluster munitions, based on experience in the Lebanon.

Apart from the regular review of existing IMAS, most IMAS were reviewed and amended during the year to ensure they are in compliance with Protocol V of the CCW, dealing with ERW. IMAS training was also conducted in a number of mine-affected countries, as well as for military and training institutes.

The Centre continued its work to assist mine-affected countries to establish their own National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), based on international standards. In 2007 Vietnam, Uganda and Albania were helped with developing NMAS. Ten countries, including Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sudan have now posted their national standards on the IMAS website www.mineactionstandards.org.

Two European Standards Organisation (CEN) workshops and a business plan meeting were arranged and chaired by the GICHD during the year. The two CEN workshop agreements, on Post Mechanical Clearance Requirements and Evaluation Methods for Quality Management were drafted, proof read and put out to public consultation in December. A third CEN workshop agreement, on Test and Evaluation of Personal Protective Equipment, was published.

Evaluations

Quality management in mine action has traditionally focused on safety and efficiency. The GICHD has broadened this remit. The Centre's evaluations also consider whether a policy, programme or project is sustainable, relevant to local needs and effective in promoting reconstruction and development priorities in mine-affected countries.

In 2007, the Centre completed an evaluation of European Commission (EC) funded mine action projects in Africa. This was the first of six regional evaluations to be conducted by the GICHD on behalf of the EC over the next two years.

UNDP support to capacity development in both Albania and Sudan was also evaluated along with the UNDP-funded Senior and Middle Management Training Programmes. In addition, the Centre completed a follow-up evaluation of the mine action programme in Kosovo for United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

An online repository of mine action evaluations was launched in March. The Research and Evaluation Database (www.gichd.org/links-information-database/research-and-evaluation-reports/) has over 400 reports registered with approximately 200 available for download. During 2007 there were more than 7,000 visits to this website.

TRAINING AND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

During 2007 the GICHD focused on strengthening its working partnerships with national mine action programmes. In particular the Centre's Socio-economic Unit advocated the benefits to national programmes of coordinating the Unit's services into their long-term planning, as a means of enhancing capacity development.

Colombia, Ethiopia and Vietnam were key partners in 2007. These mine-affected countries worked closely with the GICHD in a number of areas, including MRE, training and community liaison.

In Vietnam, for example, the Centre helped to facilitate and design a child-to-child training guide for young people working in MRE. The workshop, conducted over three days in Hue, central Vietnam, was attended by teenage youth leaders and their sponsors. The young attendees contributed constructive advice on how to adapt the project to their local needs and environment. They then helped to draw up terms of reference, to be incorporated into a best practice manual. After the session the feedback was very positive, with participants leaving the training eager to start work.

Capacity development training and facilitation workshops were also held in Algeria, Italy, Jordan, Laos, Sudan, Sweden, and Thailand during the year.

Research also forms an important part of our support role. It is often conducted in response to a request by the UN and other international organisations and donors. In 2007 a number of research projects were finalised. Studies recently completed include, *A Guide to Fencing and Marking*, *A Guide to Capacity Development in Mine Action* and *A Project Manager's Guide to Mine Risk Education*.

TECHNOLOGY

The GICHD maintains an ongoing and proactive role in technology as it relates to mine action. Our specialists have professional backgrounds and many years' field experience. This enables us to contribute expert advice to those involved with the development of new technologies for mine action.

In particular, the Centre aims to act as an interface between those in the field and mine action's research and development community. Together with UNMAS, the GICHD acts as a spokesperson on behalf of field practitioners. We help to develop problem statements, aimed at donors and scientists, to ensure that technological development work remains practical and field focused.

During 2007 the Centre

- > Continued to act as observer at the International Test and Evaluation Programme for International Humanitarian Demining (ITEP), participating at regular meetings throughout the year.
- > Provided assistance and advice on detector systems and clearance methodologies to Jordan, Lebanon and other mine-affected countries.
- > Assisted Egyptian authorities and UNDP in conducting tests on metal detector trials in Cairo.
- > Established the technology database on the Centre's website. This information will be used to update future editions of the *Guidebook on Detection Technologies and Systems for Humanitarian Demining*.
- > Published three new editions of UNMAS/GICHD Mine Action Technology Newsletter, *Technology Today*.
- > Participated in a number of international workshops on humanitarian demining.

LINKING MINE ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2007 Linking Mine Action and Development (LMAD), made significant progress. Key practitioners were brought together on a regular basis for the first time, information networks established and guidelines drafted and circulated among relevant organisations.

The project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was set up in 2006. Its purpose is to encourage mine action and development organisations to coordinate their work more effectively in countries where mine/ERW contamination delays post-conflict development and reconstruction. LMAD aims to provide these organisations with the tools required to integrate mine action into development plans and budgets.

Working with key partners such as the UNDP, the Centre has:

- > Organised three LMAD practitioners meetings, in Geneva, Cambodia and Yemen.
- > Established an electronic practitioners' network, used by nearly 200 mine action and development specialists to discuss and share key experiences.
- > Drafted and circulated guidelines aimed at helping key stakeholders, such as mine-affected states, mine action organisations, official development agencies, development partners and other relevant parties, to effectively integrate mine action and development.

In May, GICHD specialists contributed input on mine action and development as part of a Critical Review Panel set up by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. The Panel is developing a guidance manual for donors on integrating armed violence reduction into development programming. In December 2007 the draft manual was circulated to the Panel for comment.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE | RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Share knowledge about mine action with professionals working in the field, especially those working in mine-affected countries, national mine action centres, NGOs, and international organisations.

In 2007 the Centre's increasingly active publications department produced a number of books and documents. These included a range of studies, based on the results of new research conducted by specialists at the Centre. We also published guides for those in the field as well as manuals for specialists and up-to-date equipment catalogues.

During the year the Centre produced, among others: *A Guide to Cluster Munitions, Land Release, A Guide for Mine and ERW Affected Countries, Evaluation of NPA's Humanitarian Mine Action Project and Review of Ethiopia's Mine Action Programme, A Guide to Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War and Metal Detectors and PPE Catalogue, 2007.*

In keeping with the GICHD's ethos, to provide practical and relevant assistance to those working in the field, as well as at national and international levels, we worked hard to ensure that the Centre's publications remained accessible, clear and useful. Efforts were made, wherever possible, to translate publications into appropriate local languages.

In particular, and following many requests, a number of IMAS are being translated into other languages. Some IMAS are already available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. Further information on non-English IMAS can be found at www.mineactionstandards.org.

All our publications are available free of charge. They can be downloaded or ordered online via the Centre's website www.gichd.org.

SUPPORTING THE OTTAWA CONVENTION...

Since 1999, the GICHD has supported the Ottawa Convention in a number of practical ways. The Centre hosts meetings of the Standing Committees established by the States Parties to the Convention, administers a delegate sponsorship programme and provides technical and operational input as an observer delegation at the Convention's meetings.

The Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU) - effectively the secretariat for the Convention - was established in 2001 under a mandate by the States Parties. The ISU provides State Parties with professional advice, assistance and information concerning all aspects of the Convention's implementation process. The ISU serves as the principal support for the Convention's President and Co-Chairs of the Standing Committees and advises the Sponsorship Programme's Donors' Group.

Under its agreement with the States Parties to the Convention, the GICHD reports to the States Parties in detail on the activities of the ISU. During 2007 the ISU:

- > Provided substantive and organisational support to the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties and support and assistance to the Co-Chairs of the Convention's Standing Committees.
- > Advised several States Parties on the preparation of requests for extensions on the period required to fulfill mine clearance obligations and assisted others in reporting the completion of these obligations.
- > Helped initiate or provided support to the inter-ministerial planning processes established by several States Parties with responsibilities for large numbers of landmine survivors.
- > Assisted States Parties in fulfilling their Article 7 transparency obligations and in disseminating information provided in transparency reports.
- > Significantly enhanced the Convention's Documentation Centre which was established by the ISU as part of its mandate.



.....AND PROVIDING TECHNICAL INPUT TO OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The GICHD also has observer status to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) - a framework convention that aims to ban or restrict the use of various types of weapons deemed to cause unnecessary human suffering. The Convention has five protocols, two of which deal with the use of landmines and ERW. Amended Protocol II restricts the use of landmines, booby traps and other devices, while Protocol V sets out obligations and best practice for the clearance of ERW.

During the second half of the year, the Centre provided assistance to the President-designate of the First Meeting of Protocol V by examining ways to encourage cooperation and assistance while implementing the Protocol. The Centre also published a draft study entitled *Mine Action and the Implementation of CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War*.

Following a request by the States Parties, the GICHD began to administer the newly established CCW sponsorship programme.

A *Guide to Cluster Munitions* was also produced, aimed at giving objective information to participants involved in the ongoing negotiation processes. This guide was released at the CCW meeting in November 2007 and the Oslo Process follow-up meeting in Vienna in December 2007. More than 600 copies were distributed.

GOVERNANCE

2007 was a year of consolidation and improvement for the GICHD. Management and administrative procedures were strengthened and work started on implementing many of the recommendations from an external evaluation conducted early in the year.

In 2007 new representatives from Afghanistan, Canada, Italy and Sweden, joined the Centre's Council of Foundation. The Council meets twice a year to allocate resources within the GICHD, review its performance and supervise activities. Consisting of representatives from donor governments, mine-affected countries and international organisations, the Council is chaired by the GICHD's President.

The Centre's Advisory Board, which includes experts from countries such as Afghanistan, Chile, Croatia, Jordan and Ethiopia as well as the UN, advises the Council of Foundation and the Director to ensure the Centre remains useful and relevant to the mine action community. The board also provides feedback on the GICHD's work. It is made up of representatives from mine-affected states as well as mine action field practitioners, and specialists from international organisations, commercial companies and NGOs.

The GICHD's recruitment policy continued to ensure that mine-affected countries are represented at the Centre at all levels. The Centre now has staff from Afghanistan, Albania, Colombia, Iraq, Mozambique and Somalia. Consultants from mine-affected countries have also been commissioned where possible. There is no formal gender policy, but by the end of 2007 the GICHD had an equal number of male and female staff.

Staff training in quality management was started in 2007 and a new internship programme was initiated in an attempt to allow graduate students to expand their knowledge on mine action.

WORKING TOGETHER | WORKING WITH PARTNERS

The GICHD works in partnership with mine-affected countries, as well as donor governments, relevant UN organizations and other international and national mine action groups.

These constructive working relationships, particularly with over 40 mine-affected countries, are central to our strategy. During 2007 the Centre worked hard to strengthen existing links and also to develop new partnerships. Memorandums of Cooperation were discussed with many states and concluded with Libya, Tajikistan and Uganda. A Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Mine Action Service was renewed. We continued to offer practical support and advice to national mine action programmes – providing operational assistance and expertise where needed.

The provision of these services is made possible by the generosity of donor governments: Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

We also work in co-operation with the European Union as well as a number of international organizations, including hosting annual directors' meetings and centralising standards for UNMAS, providing assistance with capacity building for UNDP and producing *Mine Risk Education Best Practice Guidebooks* with the United Nations Children's Fund.

We have collaborated with the International Committee of the Red Cross – drafting an internal training manual – and NGOs such as the Afghan Mine Dog Centre, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, Handicap International, Mines Advisory Group, Swedish Rescue Services Agency, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action and Norwegian People's Aid.

In addition, the ISU is the servant of the 156 States that have acceded to the AP Mine Ban Convention, supporting the efforts of these States individually and collectively to implement the Convention. The ISU communicated regularly with all 156 States Parties and provided individual support to more than 50 of these States. The work of the ISU was funded through contributions by more than 19 countries to the ISU Trust Fund.

COUNCIL OF FOUNDATION

Members as of 31 December 2007

The Council of Foundation is the governing body of the GICHD. It defines the general orientation of the Centre, supervises the activities of the GICHD and decides on the allocation of the resources made available to the Centre. Under the chairmanship of Dr Cornelio Sommaruga, the Council of Foundation unites 21 members nominated by States contributing significantly and/or participating in the Centre's immediate activities.

President

Dr Cornelio Sommaruga

Members of the Council as of 31 December 2007

Afghanistan | **Ambassador Nanguyalai Tarzi** | Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva

Burundi | **Ambassador Paul Mahwera** | Permanent Representative of Burundi to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva

Canada | **Ambassador Marius Grinius** | Permanent Representative of Canada to the Conference of Disarmament | Geneva

Colombia | **Ambassador Clemencia Forero Ucros** | Permanent Representative of Colombia to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva

Croatia | **Mrs Dijana Plestina** | Advisor on Mine Action to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia

Finland | **Ambassador Kari Kahiluoto** | Permanent Representative of Finland to the Conference of Disarmament | Geneva

France | **Ambassador Jean-François Dobelle** | Permanent Representative of France to the Conference of Disarmament | Geneva

Germany | **Ambassador Bernhard Brasack** | Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference of Disarmament | Geneva

Italy | **Ambassador Lucia Fiori** | Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference of Disarmament | Geneva

Japan | **Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki** | Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva

Jordan | **His Royal Highness, Prince Mired bin Raad bin Zeid al-Hussein of Jordan** | Chairman of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation

Mozambique | **Ambassador Frances Victória Velho Rodrigues** | Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva

Netherlands | **Ambassador Johannes Landman** | Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference of Disarmament | Geneva

Norway | **Ms Susan Eckey** | Deputy Director General, Department of UN, Peace and Humanitarian Affairs, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sweden | **Ambassador Hans Dahlgren** | Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva

Switzerland | **Ambassador Jürg Streuli** | Treasurer of the Council of Foundation, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference of Disarmament | Geneva

Switzerland | **Ambassador Raimund Kunz** | Secretary of the Council of Foundation, Head of the Security Policy Directorate, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport | Berne

United Kingdom | **Ambassador John Duncan** | Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Conference of Disarmament | Geneva

United States of America | **Ambassador Warren W. Tichenor** | Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva

Observer

UNMAS | **Mr Max Gaylard** | Director, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) | New York

ADVISORY BOARD

Members as of 31 December 2007

The Advisory Board provides advice to both the Council of Foundation and the management of the GICHD. It consists of small group of eminent persons being in charge at various levels of the international mine action community. The Advisory Board is chaired by the Director of the GICHD.

Mr Martin Borck | Executive Secretary of the National Demining Commission | Ministry of National Defense | Chile

Mrs Paula Claycomb | Senior Advisor | United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Mr Hansjoerg Eberle | Director General | Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)

Mr Steinar Essén | Deputy Director | Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

Mr John Flanagan | Deputy Director Operations | United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Mr Etsay Gebre Selassie | Director | Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), Ethiopia

Mr Shohab Hakimi | Director | Mine Detection and Dog Centre | Afghanistan

Mr David Hewitson | Director | European Land Solutions (ELS)

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