



REPORT

GICHD ADVISORY BOARD MEETING | 10 SEPTEMBER 2008

1. Date and Venue

The GICHD Advisory Board Meeting was held at the GICHD between 15:00 and 17:30 hrs on Wednesday, 10 September 2008.

2. List of Participants

Advisory Board

Oto Jungwirth– Director, Croatian Mine Action Centre
Hansjoerg Eberle- Director General, FSD
Steinar Essen- Norwegian People’s Aid
John Flanagan- Officer in charge ,UNMAS
Ben Lark- Head of Mine Action and ERW Sector, ICRC
Martin Borck- Executive Secretary, Chile National Demining Commission
Gebriel Lager – Deputy Director, Ethiopian Mine Action Office
Sara Sekkenes- Senior Programme Advisor & Team Leader, UNDP
Phil Halford- Management Systems Consultant, MAG (substitute for Steve Wilson)
Roath Kanith, Director of Research and Development, CMAC (substitute for Heng Ratana)

Excused:

Deemah Naser: Head of Planning Department, NCDR
David Hewitson – Director, European Landmine Solutions
Shohab Hakimi- Director, Mine Dog and Detection Centre-Afghanistan

GICHD

Ambassador Stephan Husy – Director, GICHD/Chair of the Board
Ian Mansfield – Deputy Director
Jean-Paul Rychener - Acting IMSMA Programme Manager
Simon Berger- IMSMA Regional Coordinator for Latin America
Pascal Rapillard- Advisor to the director
Aurora Chen- IMSMA Training Administrator
Ban Yaseen – Programme Officer

Other organizations

Daniel Eriksson- Mine Action E-Governance Advisor, UNDP-Iraq
Alan McDonald- Chief of Staff, UNMACA- Afghanistan
Noah G. Klemm -Director, InteIMSMA Program, FGM

3. Opening Remarks and adoption of the agenda

The Director GICHD opened the meeting by welcoming the members of the Advisory Board and thanked them for their presence. As it was the first meeting chaired by him he asked the members to introduce themselves. Then he introduced the attendance from the GICHD, Mr Alan McDonald from UNMACA, and Mr Noah G. Klemm, from FGM Inc., (the contracted company for developing the IMSMA software). Amb. Husy also presented Mr Daniel Eriksson who had

just been selected for the position of IMSMA Manager at the Centre. Mr Eriksson was present to get an overview about the status of the IMSMA and to hear from the participants their advice and suggestions.

The Director informed about some changes in the GICHD staff including a new Support Director, IMSMA Manager, Conference Manger and a new Land Release Research Officer to be selected in the coming weeks. In addition, he informed that Mr Sommaruga, the current President of the Council of Foundation, will retire at the end of 2008. Ms. Barbara Haering, a former member of the Swiss Parliament, is the President designate.

The Director then presented the agenda of the meeting, which was agreed by all members.

4. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 3 June 2008

The Director requested if there were any comments from the members on the draft minutes of the previous meeting, which had been previously circulated. As no comments were made, the minutes were adopted by the meeting.

5. Mid-Year Activity Report 2008

Mr Mansfield briefed the members on the structure of the GICHD Strategy, Action Plan and the Activity Report. He highlighted some of the main activities of the Centre included in the Mid-Year Activity Report 2008.

6. IMSMA Update and Discussion on future development

Mr. Jean-Paul Rychener made a presentation on the development status of IMSMA, covering the following topics:

- Current Development Status
- Next steps
- IMSMA Development Goals
- Future Development Options

The following suggestions and comments were made by the participants:

- Mr Flanagan commented that the migration of data into the new version is a big task, so he questioned if the Centre has a priority for certain mine action programmes to achieve this migration
- Mr Essen commented that there is a lot of work to be done because IMSMA doesn't provide the requested reports efficiently in many programmes. He suggested that GICHD could have partners from the field, and NPA is happy to assist the Centre in improving the work and conduct training on IMSMA.
- Mr McDonald commented that the use of IMSMA requires that the management in the mine action programmes understands the advantages of this software. In Afghanistan as example, in such big programme where the IMSMA could have played an important role, the opportunities for operational planning have been missed.
- From his experience in the field Mr Halford emphasised the importance of using Hand-held Field Data Collection IMSMA Tool, as the electronic input of the data is more efficient than the manual input.

Mr. Rychener responded to the comments as follows:

- The data migration has been implemented in 20 countries, and the Centre has not had a priority for doing this migration in the past. However, it currently focuses on the big programmes. The migration process is expected to be done by end 2009 in all countries that have requested the software upgrade.
- With the improved reporting capacity, the programme will be able to extract requested reports.

Mr Klemm commented that FGM has the technical solutions for the problems raised by the meeting.

Amb. Husy concluded that the Centre needs to analyse and learn from the lessons in the countries where IMSMA is well-functioning.

7. GICHD Activity Planning for 2009

The Director briefed the participants about the structure of the Centre's action plan 2009 which has been developed in line with the new strategy. He asked the members for guidance and inputs for 2009 priorities in shaping the action plan.

Mr Mansfield briefed the attendees on the new strategy and the action plan, which will be produced within the next two months.

The members made the following comments:

- Ms Sekkenes suggested to add the indicators of achievement in the action plan. In addition, it is useful to the Advisory Board to see these indicators so they can provide their feedback.
- She commented that it is important to take into consideration when preparing the "Guide to Contracting" the cases of the mine action programmes which are in the transition phase from UN to national ownership. The UN mine action staff is expecting that the number of contracts in such countries, in Sudan as example, will decrease under the national budget.
- Mr Lark commented that contracting is an interesting issue in assisting not only the national authorities but other organizations, especially in some uncommon issues that might raise during their work where the Centre can provide technical advice.
- In the same context, Mr McDonald suggested discussing the issues of donor response to the proposal, as this study could be a guide to the donors as well.
- Mr Lark suggested that the Centre might be engaged in the subject of unwanted ammunition disposal. The ICRC is getting requests from countries and he thought the Centre can provide operational assistance in this regard.
- In addition to Chinese and French, Mr. Borck suggested adding other languages in the translation work of the Centre, particularly IMAS.

The Director responded to the comments as follows:

- He supported the opinion of identifying indicators in the action plan but he explained that the Centre is developing sub-strategies for different areas of its work in addition to the main strategy. In these sub-strategies the indicators will be set to measure the outcomes.
- The Terms of Reference for the Guide to Contracting have been produced and the Centre will send them to the members for comments.

- He clarified that the Centre is ready to provide translation services if partners and funds can be identified.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting was agreed to be held at the GICHD in the week of the 23rd March 2009, during the meeting of the UNMAS and National Directors.

9. Conclusion

Amb. Husy informed that the GICHD will confirm the date of the next meeting. He thanked the members for their presence and comments.

YAB
24 September 2008