



15 June 2006

GICHD Advisory Board Meeting

The first Meeting of the re-constituted GICHD Advisory Board was held on 9 May 2006 at the GICHD. The GICHD Advisory Board consists of *twelve members coming from the international mine action community*. It was recently re-constituted to involve more representatives of the mine affected countries, who can bring field experience to the Board. *The main role of the Advisory Board is to provide advice to both the Council of Foundation and the GICHD, on the focus of its operational and research work.*

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Nellen, the Director GICHD and the agenda included a general overview of the GICHD Strategy for 2006-2008, its main areas of operation, and discussion on the GICHD Action Plan 2006.

During the meeting, the Members of the Board expressed their appreciation for the unique services provided by the Geneva Centre, such as IMSMA, IMAS etc. They also noted the Centre's neutrality, which is essential in various mine action issues.

Various broad comments were made by the participants on the importance of basing the GICHD work on identified needs and of measuring its impact on its beneficiaries. In addition, the Advisory Board stressed the value of maintaining the interaction between mine action authorities and the international organizations in order to better identify best practices.

The GICHD Action Plan 2006 was discussed and the Advisory Board members provided several recommendations, aimed mainly at the promotion of a more proactive behaviour of the Centre, particularly in assisting the countries develop their national standards; a better projection and communication of its activities and areas of operation to its stakeholders; and taking into account the overall strategic issues in mine action in connection with the future mine action trends.

The Advisory Board concluded that the next meeting of the Advisory Board should be held late in the year, before the preparation of the new GICHD Action Plan 2007. The members also encouraged the exchange of information and sharing of opinions by networking in between the meetings of the Board.