



Press Release

Geneva, 12 December 2003

Successful Completion of its 5th Year of Activities Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

The Council of Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) met today, under the chairmanship of its President – Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga - to discuss the ongoing implementation of the GICHD strategy for the period 2003-2005.

The mission of the Centre is to work towards a world free of anti-personnel landmines and for the reduction of the humanitarian impact of other explosive remnants of war by : providing operational assistance to mine-affected countries; undertaking research to make mine action safer and more effective; supporting instruments of international law.

Since the beginning of 2003, the GICHD has continued to move its focus towards providing operational assistance. The outreach of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) is well advanced. It is currently in use in more than 90 % of the mine action programmes around the world, including Iraq. The Centre has provided training on International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), on Mine Risk Education (Colombia, Eastern Africa), and carried out Mine Detection Dog Advisory Missions in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia and Sudan.

The Centre has also developed a capability for providing evaluations. Evaluations were conducted on behalf of Germany, Afghanistan and Norwegian People's Aid.

Finally, during 2003 the GICHD has concluded several multi-year partnership agreements with Canada, France, Sweden and Switzerland. These agreements, together and the one existing with the United Kingdom, give the GICHD a sound basis for its future activities.

For further information please contact :

Davide Orifici

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Phone : + 41 22 906 16 91 – Mobile : + 41 79 747 10 57

d.orifici@gichd.ch