



GICHD DELEGATION VISITS CHINA TO DISCUSS THE TRANSLATION OF IMAS INTO CHINESE

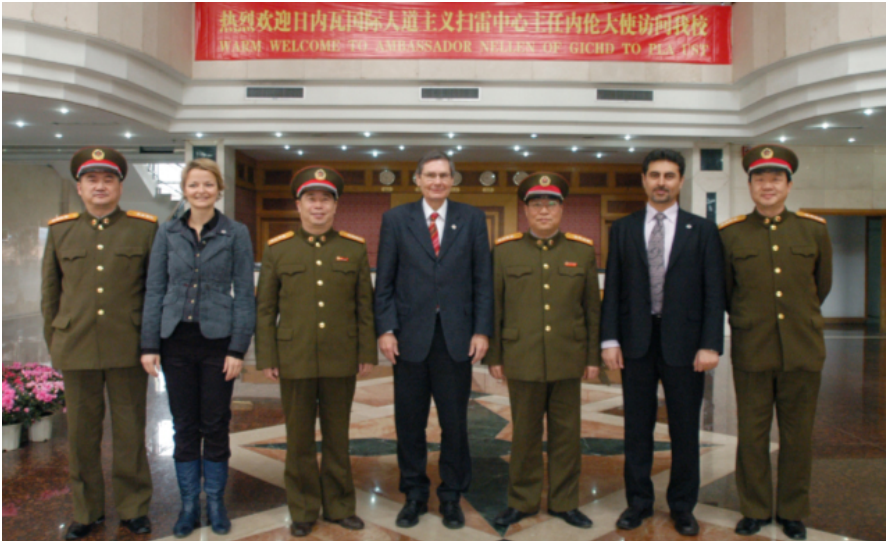


Photo: GICHD delegation in the PLA Engineering Science and Technology University in Nanjing, December 2007

At the invitation of the Government of China, a GICHD delegation visited China from 11 to 15 December 2007. Among the reasons for the visit, one was to discuss the translation of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) into Chinese.

To better serve the mine action community, the UNMAS and the GICHD are making efforts to provide IMAS in other languages. Therefore, the GICHD seeks international partners worldwide to translate IMAS and maintain the translation up-to-date in all major languages. To this end, an IMAS translation page in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish was created on the IMAS website www.mineactionstandards.org in 2007. Currently, there are only nine out of 44 IMAS available in the Chinese language.

Nowadays, China has an observer seat in the IMAS Review Board, the board which debates and approves existing and new IMAS. China has stepped up its contribution to the international humanitarian demining operations as well as its participation in United Nations Peace Keeping Operations in recent years.

During the visit, the GICHD provided IMAS briefing to mine action personnel of the Ministry of Defense in Beijing as well as to the management and instructors of the PLA Engineering Science and Technology University in Nanjing. The delegation participated in the closing ceremony of a Chinese demining training course held for a number of military personnel from the following five African countries: Angola, Burundi, Chad, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique. After a presentation of demining operations by the African trainees, the GICHD delegation visited an exhibition of Chinese demining equipment such as PPE, metal detectors, and demining machines.

The Chinese government, and in particular the PLA Engineering Science and Technology University in Nanjing decided to start translation of IMAS into Chinese in 2008. China further announced to play an active role in the future in the development and review of the IMAS through its member in the IMAS Review Board and expressed willingness to participate in international fora on mine action and to exchange information on humanitarian demining technology.

At the time of writing, the process of translation of IMAS into Chinese has already started.

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