

FOREWORD

The *Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue 2010* is the eighth edition of this publication, produced by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). The Catalogue provides an overview of the mechanical demining equipment that is currently available to the humanitarian mine action community. The publication has received positive feedback from readers to date.

All assets used for humanitarian demining must have proven reliability and the decision about which assets to employ is still a key element in planning a demining operation. A balanced use of both mechanical and manual assets leads to cost-effective demining and to the safe return of cleared land to communities. However, the past has shown that mechanical demining equipment only contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of technical surveys and of mine clearance when combined with comprehensive training of staff.

This Catalogue describes three categories of machines: mine clearance machines, ground preparation machines and mine protected vehicles – as defined by the *International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) on Mechanical Demining 09.50* and referred to in the GICHD *Handbook of Mechanical Demining* (2008).

In addition, the Catalogue's introduction includes a checklist of guidelines for purchasing mechanical demining machines. Our newly published *'A Guide to Contracting in Mine Action'* (2009) is also relevant for those considering major procurement of equipment.

Further information on available tests and evaluations of machines can be found at www.itep.ws as well as on the GICHD website. From mid-2010, all ITEP-related material will be posted on the GICHD website.

All of our publications can be requested free of charge, or downloaded, from the GICHD website www.gichd.org

The GICHD would like to thank the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for its continuing financial support to this publication.

Ambassador Stephan Husy
Director
Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

