



## FOR INFORMATION

### SIXTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

## Report of the Director-General

### Fourth Supplementary Report: Activities of the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre in 2008–09

#### Objectives

1. The work of the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS) contributes to the achievement of the strategic objective of enhancing the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all. In this context in 2008–09 its information-sharing activities helped improve safety and health and working conditions in workplaces by increasing constituents' capacity to develop or implement policies and programmes on improving working conditions and safety and health at work.
2. The CIS is an important component of the ILO's knowledge base, continuously monitoring world literature on occupational safety and health through contacts with publishers and some 150 focal points at the national and regional levels (CIS national, collaborating and regional centres). Summaries and citations of the most useful publications, as well as products based on the information collected, are disseminated electronically and in print. The Internet has become the primary medium through which the CIS distributes its information. It is therefore the intention of the CIS to maintain its web site as the most important portal for safety and health information in the world. In addition, the network of CIS centres contributes to the exchange of information among professionals and ILO constituents responsible for the establishment and implementation of national policies and programmes.

#### Achievements

3. Updating of the CISDOC bibliographic and the CIS thesaurus databases (70,000 and 15,000 records, respectively) was successfully maintained on the Oracle database management system. The rate of growth in CISDOC continued to be 1,500 new records per year. These new records were published in the CIS Virtual Bulletin, available on the Internet, at the rate of six new issues per year.

4. The CISDOC database continued to be maintained in three languages, with all the new entries being translated into Spanish thanks to the cooperation of the Spanish National Centre.
5. There was further development of the SafeWork Bookshelf project. The Bookshelf CD-ROMs contain the full text of the *Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety*, as well as of the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) and a large number of ILO normative and guidance documents covering occupational safety and health matters. New copies of the Bookshelf, in both English and French, were produced during the biennium, in line with demand. Both versions are also available on the CIS web site.
6. The CIS web site was, together with all ILO sites, transferred into the ILO's new Web Content Management System (WCMS).
7. Thirteen new national and collaboration centres joined the CIS network. These centres were in: Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mauritania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and United Kingdom.
8. General meetings of the CIS centres were convened in Seoul (29 June 2008), in conjunction with the XVIIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, and in Geneva (22–23 October 2009), in celebration of CIS's 50th anniversary. A regional meeting of CIS centres in Europe was held in London on 10–11 September 2008.
9. Work on a new, all-electronic, edition of the ILO *Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety* continued during the biennium. The whole of the fourth edition was recoded so that it could be transferred into the new web environment on the ILO server, and the version transferred can be used as the baseline for the next edition. Contacts were established with the academic and scientific community in order to establish a list of potential contributors to the *Encyclopaedia*.
10. A monthly newsletter for centres continued to be compiled and disseminated in electronic form, including through the CIS web site. There were altogether 24 issues of this newsletter during the biennium.
11. ICSCs were updated (new cards and revisions) and made available to the world on the web site. The ICSC collection in some 20 languages, with pages in both HTML and PDF formats, remains one of the most frequently visited areas of the site and similar national sites. CIS staff participated in the four regularly scheduled meetings for review of the ICSCs that took place during this period, in Helsinki (Finland), Geneva (Switzerland) [twice] and Lyon (France). The CIS is also actively engaged in developing the computer infrastructure for the creation and renewal of the cards.
12. The number of visits to CIS web pages, with the ICSCs in the lead, is in the range of 800,000–1 million per month, which corresponds to about 2.5 per cent of the total number of visits to pages on the ILO web site as a whole. The number of distinct hosts accessing CIS web pages, which is a measure of how many different users there are of CIS web pages in the world, is about 800,000 per year, which is 8 per cent of the ILO total.
13. The CIS continues to cooperate with other international and regional safety and health institutions. CIS staff contributed to OSH advocacy through participation in the XVIIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work (organized by the ILO in collaboration with the International Social Security Association and the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency), in Seoul, from 29 June to 2 July 2008. The CIS

also actively participates in the organization of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April every year.

## Financial situation

14. The preliminary financial results for the CIS operations during the biennium show an income of US\$3,238,700 comprising an ILO regular budget contribution of US\$2,707,796, and sales, royalties and other income of US\$530,904. This income exceeded projected income by some US\$150,000. A significant part of this excess income was due to a one-time contribution from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Prevention (ISPESL) in Italy, to be used as seed money for a project on the creation of Hazard Datasheets on Occupations (HDOs). Expenditures totalled US\$3,294,564. The balance available for carry-forward to 2010–11 is estimated to be some US\$920,000. These numbers may change slightly as final adjustments are made in closing the 2008–09 financial period.
15. There were no changes in staff numbers during the biennium: the CIS continued to have five Professional and four General Service staff. A reduction of one Professional position is foreseen for the 2010–11 biennium.

Geneva, 3 March 2010.

*Submitted for information.*