

46th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CIS NATIONAL, COLLABORATING AND REGIONAL CENTRES

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 29 June 2008

1. Introduction

The 46th Meeting of CIS National, Collaborating and Regional Centres took place in the COEX Convention Centre in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on Sunday, 29 June 2008. The Meeting was attended by representatives of 18 National Centres, 8 Collaborating Centres and 2 Regional Centres. A detailed list of participants is provided in Annex I.

2. Opening remarks

Mr Gábor SÁNDI (CIS) welcomed the participants and asked **Mr Assane DIOP** (Executive Director of the Social Protection Sector and representative of the Director- General of the International Labour Office (ILO)) to open the Meeting.

Mr Diop's speech is reproduced in Annex II.

In concluding his remarks, **Mr Diop** thanked the participants for their presence and encouraged them to strengthen and enlarge the Network.

3. Election of Chairperson

Ms Jin-Young KWON, Manager of the International Cooperation Department of KOSHA, was nominated as Chairperson of the Meeting by **Ms Irja LAAMANEN** (Finland), and seconded by **Mr Len HONG** (Canada). **Ms KWON** was elected by acclamation.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mr Gábor Sándi (CIS Coordinator) proposed some changes to the agenda in light of the tight time constraints of some of the participants imposed by the heavy schedule of the World Congress. In particular, **Ms Mei-Li LIN** of the US National Safety Council and **Ms Maureen SHAW** of IAPA (Canada) would be asked to address the Meeting first because of other commitments they had later on in the day.

5. Adoption of the Report of the 45^h Meeting of CIS Centres (2007)

The report of the 2007 Meeting of CIS Centres was adopted without amendments.

6. **Ms Lin** presented the Robert W. Campbell Awards, an international award for business excellence which recognizes companies that have successfully integrated health, safety and environmental management into their overall business operations. Co-founded by the National Safety Council and Exxon Mobil Corporation, the award is supported by 21 global partner organizations with the aim of influencing current and future business leaders through the documentation and provision of evidence-based findings that enable them to effectively advance business vitality through embracing the value of environmental, health and safety management.

7. **Ms Shaw** made a presentation concerning the latest activities of IAPA, the Industrial Accident Prevention Association of Ontario (Canada). She talked about: IAPA's involvement in the Campbell Awards; IAPA's vision (with emphasis on the moral/ethical background to the organization's work); the celebration of IAPA's 90th anniversary on 17 July 2008; the most evident positive results of IAPA's actions (e.g. the 42% reduction since 2000 in accident rates among IAPA's members); development of a large number of simple tools to help businesses implement a safer working environment (e.g. the "small business calculator"); many programmes for Youth (Youth Health and Safety Forum, school-based safety programmes)

8. Report on CIS activities and accomplishments since the 2007

Mr Gábor Sándi made a presentation entitled “CIS 2008 – The Present and the Future”. The full text of the presentation will be on the CIS Web site [www.ilo.org/cis].

Highlights of Mr Gábor Sándi’s presentation were on:

CISDOC: The records are approaching 68,000 in total, with a proposal to increase production levels from 1500 to at least 1800 during the biennium 2008/2009.

- The Virtual Bulletin: It allows users to browse through citations of recent OSH literature and is indexed by search engines like Google. The programme of converting older issues of the printed Bulletin in Virtual Bulletin format has been extended back to 1993.
- The programme of transferring archival information of full-text material stored in microfiche format into PDF files has been extended back to 1996.
- LEGOSH: Although this collection is neither not up-to-date nor complete, it is a much-used resource. A first step has been made to update the collection through the hiring of a paid intern whose job it was to mine the Internet for laws and regulations not yet in LEGOSH and for evidence that certain laws and regulations have been repealed.
- CIS Centres News and the Directory of OSH Institutions Databases: Mr Sándi described the likely benefits if all participating institutions with access to the Internet contributed news about their activities, as well as details about their institutions to these two databases.
- The *Encyclopaedia*: Progress has been made by transforming the existing Encyclopaedia files into a uniform and easily manageable format, and by taking the first steps to locate a worldwide team of writers, editors and peer reviewers.
- International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS): CIS continues to participate in its card creation programme, in collaboration with WHO and the European Union (EU).
- In conclusion, Mr Sándi thanked all who had participated in the Network’s activities.

9. Ms Ilise Feitshans's presentation on the Encyclopaedia and the promotional video

Ms Feitshans's presentation, entitled "Why a 5th edition?" will be on the CIS Web site [www.ilo.org/cis].

10. Mr András Szücs's presentation on CIS databases

Mr Szucs presented CIS products from the point of view of how they fit together as databases. The visual part of his presentation will be on the CIS Web site [www.ilo.org/cis].

11. Short presentations on individual Centres

Representatives of 11 Centres presented reports on their activities since the previous Meeting (see below). A list of these presentations is given in Annex III together with reports from Centres not present at the Meeting. The full text of these reports will be available on our Web site [www.ilo.org/cis].

Mr A.R. CHOWDHURY REPON (Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation).

Dr Kalpana BALAKRISHNAN (Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai, India).

Ms Barbara SZCZEPANOWSKA (Central Institute for Labour Protection National Research Institute (CIOP-PIB), Warsaw, Poland).

Mr Kyung-won LEE (Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency, Incheon, Korea).

Dr P.K. ABEYTUNGA (Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, Hamilton ON, (CCOHS), Canada):

- The Centre is tripartite and non-partisan.
- Its services are primarily aimed at workers.
- The information services, including the web portals, are comprehensive.
- The centre offers a course program through e-mail.
- A new product is a new web service offering a comprehensive safety and health program for enterprises.

Ms Jing Yi TOH (Occupational Safety and Health Division, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore).

Mr Saeed A. AWAN (Directorate of Labour Welfare, Government of the Punjab, Centre for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment, Lahore, Pakistan):

- In addition to workplaces, the Directorate is also active in the community, in particular in rural areas and in working with home-based industries.
- The Directorate is also involved in ISO 9001:2000 Certification.

Ms Libby KOSKAS (Israel Institute for Occupational Safety and Hygiene (IIOSH), Israel).

Mr Roman LITVYAKOV (on behalf of the OSH Training Centre "Uchebny Kombinat", Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation):

- Responsible for the Russian edition of the *Encyclopaedia*.
- Main activity is training, with heavy use of ILO materials (risk assessment training is a priority).
- The Centre is a focal point for the European Agency in Russia.
- The Centre has prepared OSH profiles for various Central Asian countries.

Mr Alexander BEZHANISHVILI (Georgian State Inspection for Technical Supervision, Tbilisi):

- The Centre is the major inspection authority for Georgia, as well as the supplier of OSH information to industry.
- It works closely with government, unions and employers' organizations; it translates OSH legislation into Russian.
- It focuses on high-risk activities.
- There is close collaboration with the ILO Office in Moscow.
- The Centre celebrated World Day on 28 April.

Mr Saeed A. AWAN (Directorate of Labour Welfare, Government of the Punjab, Centre for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment, Lahore, Pakistan) made another presentation, this time on youth and OSH in Pakistan. He said that one of the most important OSH issues in Pakistan was the fact that many young people drop out of school, start working with little or no training and are therefore at an increased risk of becoming victims of accidents and/or occupational diseases. Since 85 million Pakistanis (about half the population) are below 19 years of age, their exposure to accidents and diseases is a major problem for the country.

Ensuing discussion involved perspectives on youth and OSH by Ms Irja LAAMANEN (National Centre, Finland) and Mr M. NITHYANANTAN (Collaborating Centre, India).

12. Report on CIS Network Activities – Ms Annick VIROT

After a rapid survey of recent OSH-related activity within the ILO, including developments concerning the Global Strategy on OSH, Ms Viroth provided an overview of the CIS Centres network since the 2007 Meeting. The full text of the presentation will be on the CIS Web site [www.ilo.org/cis].

1. New Centres:

New national Centres in Libya, Iraq and Mauritania.

New collaborating Centres in Russia (in Saint Petersburg); the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (in Skopje), the Republika Srpska of Bosnia-Herzegovina (in Banja Luka); and Saudi Arabia (in Jeddah).

Three existing Centres were revived (in Australia and Burkina Faso) or transferred to another organization (in Morocco).

A new application was pending (in Senegal).

2. It is hoped that the network can expand to include organizations such as IOSH and national inspectorates (including their international organization IALI).
3. The creation of Regional Centres was in part based on the results of a questionnaire survey sent out to CIS Centres concerning what recommendations Centres had for improving the effectiveness of the CIS Centres network.
4. A Regional Meeting was held at the CIS Regional Centre, the Arab Institute for Occupational Health and Safety in Damascus, Syria, on 18-20 November 2007.
5. Preparatory work (by CIS Centres in many cases) on the World Day on 28 April, and the World Summit and Congress (which were to take place right after the CIS Meeting. Centres were asked to send in their suggestions for the theme of World Day 2009.

Ms Virot reminded attendees of the importance of placing the CIS logo on their organizations' web sites.

13. Preparations of the 50th anniversary of CIS

Mr Sándi introduced the subject, reminding participants that CIS would celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2009. He said that he hoped that the event could be celebrated in an appropriate fashion, just as the 25th anniversary had been in 1984, when a boat was chartered for a dinner cruise in Lake Geneva. One likely locale was in Düsseldorf, where the organizers of the A+A 2009 Conference in Düsseldorf have kindly offered to host both the 2009 CIS Centres Meeting and the celebration of CIS's 50th anniversary.

14. General discussion of CIS's future

Mr M. NITHYANANTAN (of the Indian Collaborating Centre) suggested that the Centres develop a common theme for the celebration of CIS's 50th anniversary.

Ms Barbara SZCZEPANOWSKA (of the Polish National Centre) said that the CISDOC database continued to be a highly useful information tool for OSH professionals, and asked for more resources to be devoted to it. She regretted that the CD-ROM product OSHROM (which contained CISDOC among other databases) had been discontinued, and wished to know the reasons for this discontinuation.

At this stage, **Mr Sándi** outlined a number of possible actions that CIS could undertake to improve its products. The list includes:

- Simplifying the procedure for abstracting and indexing, thus reducing the cost and/or increasing the number of new entries per year into the database.
- Establishing further relationships with journal publishers (such as the existing ones with IJOEH) to get early copies of articles and abstracts) to be included in the database.
- Obtaining files of OSH citations from producers (i.e. CCOHS) who have stopped indexing/abstracting OSH literature.
- Collaborating more with French- and Spanish-speaking Centres in order to produce translations of abstracts.
- Making a special effort to update and complete specialized parts of the CIS database, such as LEGOSH.
- Complete CIS listings of OSH institutions, OSH courses and sources of occupational safety and health statistics.
- In connection with the new edition of the *Encyclopaedia*, he recommended that ideas from the way the Wikipedia is produced be incorporated into the *Encyclopaedia* editing process.

Mr Roman LITVYAKOV (ILO Moscow) made some suggestions for improving CIS's web site, which he thought to be too constant in its appearance. He thought that matters of immediate interest, such as News and new products, should be placed at the very beginning of the home page, a proposal that was supported by **Mr Szücs**.

Mr András SZÜCS agreed that these were good suggestions. However, he pointed at the difficulties in making changes in the web page, citing a decrease in resources and the fact that the ILO's site in general was undergoing a major redefinition, which was going to result in a new look-and-feel.

In further comments, **Mr Szücs** talked about his hopes for redefining the structure of CIS databases, which would also lead to the development of a common database interface. In connection with interfaces, he reminded CIS Centres that it was their responsibility to contribute to the CIS News database.

On the Wikipedia concept, **Mr Szücs** said that it was suitable for editing lexicon-type publications (such as the CIS Glossary) but not for bibliographic databases (such as CISDOC).

Ms Annick VIROT reminded CIS Centres of another of their responsibilities: to place the CIS logo on their web sites.

Mr Saeed A. AWAN (Pakistan) talked about the need to create demand, for which good marketing was necessary. He said that in developing countries it was not so much bibliographic databases that were needed, but concise, precise information, good practices and other useful information. He suggested that the web site have some space set aside for the needs of developing countries, and overall the site should be more user-friendly.

Ms Barbara SZCZEPANOWSKA (Poland) asked for the creation of a short web page with links to good databases in English.

Mr Sándi answered that this was already done with exposure limits, and that he hoped that it would also be done with OSH statistics soon.

Mr Szücs suggested that CIS concentrate on those sources of OSH information that receive little or no coverage elsewhere. He said that there were a few paying databases on the subject, but these covered almost exclusively just a few countries, and only the most visible parts of the literature. He also reminded participants that getting information to CIS was one of the main responsibilities of CIS Centres. Speaking as a computer professional, he said that it was relatively easy to design a database, but it was much harder to fill it in. For his part, he said that he would do his utmost to create easy-to-use interfaces, so that authorized personnel in Centres could fill in the information with relative ease.

Ms Barbara SZCZEPANOWSKA (Poland) had another suggestion: CIS Centres should join their resources in order to subscribe jointly to useful paying information sources. She also said, in response to some earlier statements, that the Centres were already doing their utmost to collaborate with the CIS network, and that they were not in a position to do much more.

Mr Sándi introduced the topic of the OSH Glossary, of which he was the original editor. He complimented KOSHA for having re-issued the Glossary with Korean terms added to the five languages already covered. He said that he would be very pleased to work on a new edition of the Glossary, with more languages added.

Ms Jin-Young KWON (Korea) supported the idea, adding that such a new edition should also contain new terms and new subject categories.

Mr Szücs confirmed that a new edition of the Glossary had been discussed recently. There were even discussions with outside professional bodies in order to exchange information on the terminology of OSH.

15. Summary and closure

In concluding the Meeting, the Chairperson thanked participants for their contributions and wished everyone a satisfying attendance at the World Congress and a productive work year before the next Meeting.

The Meeting was closed.

ANNEXES

- I List of participants.
- II Mr Diop's opening speech.
- III List of presentations by CIS representatives and CIS Centres.

Nov. 08