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To: Members of the IMAS Review Board

IMAS NEWS 2015

The following is an update on some IMAS activities in 2014 for information. It also includes the IMAS review plan for 2015.

1. IMAS Review Board Meeting

The next IMAS Review Board (RB) meeting is scheduled to be held at the GICHD on 20th of February 2015 from 09:00 to 13:00 following the annual International Meeting of National Directors and UN Advisors, taking place from 16 to 19 February 2015.

2. IMAS Steering Group Meeting

No IMAS Steering Group (SG) meeting is scheduled in 2015. The last SG meeting was held in March 2012.

3. Review Board Membership

There are 30 IMAS RB members - 25 full members and five observers.

In 2014, the USA's representative Mr. Dennis Hadrick was replaced by Mr. Gerald L. Guilbert, ICRC's representative Mr. Ben Lark was replaced by Mr. Erik Tollefsen and DDG's representative Mr. Nick Bray was replaced by Mr. Robert Keeley. We are waiting for Colombia to introduce a replacement for Mr Pablo Parra who had left PAICMA.

In addition, G4S was replaced by Optima Group in the commercial organisations category. Mr Chris Pearce who previously represented G4S will now represent Optima Group.

4. Overview of IMAS

There are 43 IMAS (42 endorsed and one in *Draft Edition*) published. The *Draft* IMAS 09.60 'Underwater Survey and Clearance of Explosive Ordnance' was developed and approved in 2014 and now awaits SG endorsement.

In addition, IMAS 09.30 EOD was reviewed and amended in 2014 to re-define EOD competencies and IMAS 04.10 was amended to include new definitions in relation to IEDs.

The review and revision of QM and ADS IMAS (eight) will continue in 2015. Further updates will be provided at the RB meeting.

5. Overview of Technical Notes

There are 15 Technical Notes (TN) published. A draft 3rd version of TN 09.30/02 'Clearance of Depleted Uranium' was circulated in June 2014. A revised version will be re-circulated in 2015.

TIRAMISU had submitted a proposal for a new TN on 'Test and Evaluation of Machines Other Than Machines Designed to Detonate Hazards'. The RB did not support the proposal and asked the author for further clarification. The author will re-present the proposal at the next RB meeting.

6. Overview of CWA

There are seven CEN Workshop Agreements (CWA) in relation to humanitarian mine action published. In 2014/2015, the RB approved the T&EP 09.30/01/2014 EOD competency standards with the inclusion of EOD level 3+ specifications.

As previously agreed, the remaining five CWA (excluding the ones in the following paragraph) will follow suit, subject to approval of the RB, and the webpage "CWA" will be re-labelled *T&EP* in 2015. The original CWA will be archived on the IMAS website.

The following two CWA however, will be reviewed, amended and re-labelled as TN's in 2015/16, subject to approval by the RB:

- > 15832:2008 Follow-on after Use of Demining Machines
- > 15833:2008 Quality Management for Mechanical Demining

TIRAMISU indicated in the last RB meeting that it would review and update the withdrawn CWA 15756:2007 *T&E Personal Protective Equipment*. However, it has not yet communicated a full plan and timeframe for this project.

7. Proposals for new/amendment of IMAS/TN

In 2014, the RB has received only one proposal for a new TN which is discussed in section 5 above.

8. Review Plan 2015

a) IMAS

- > Revision of the quality management IMAS will continue into 2015. These include:
 - o 07.30 Accreditation of demining organisations
 - o 08.40 Monitoring of demining organisations
 - o 09.20 Post-clearance inspections
- > Revision of the MDD IMAS will continue into 2015. These include:
 - o 09.40 Guide for the use of MDD
 - o 09.41 Operational procedures for MDD
 - o 09.42 Operational testing of MDD and handlers
 - o 09.43 Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST)
 - o 09.44 Health and general MDD care
- > In addition, it is planned to review and update the following IMAS:
 - o 10.70 protection of the environment
 - o 04.10 terms and definitions

Upon completion and approval of the amendments to the QM and MDD series of IMAS, a complete review of the entire IMAS series will be conducted to look at the impact of these IMAS on others.

b) Technical Notes

Now that the T&EP for EOD competency standards Level 1 to 3+ is approved, the following new TN will also be submitted for acceptance to the RB in 2015:

- > TN 09.30/- Guided Missiles
- > TN 09.30/- IEDD
- > TN 09.30/- Chemical EOD
- > TN 09.30/- Alternative demolition techniques

The following TN will be reviewed and updated to ensure conformity with the new EOD competency standards:

- > TN 09.30/01 Clearance of ARVs
- > TN 09.30/02 Clearance of DU Hazards
- > TN 09.30/03 Guidance on liquid propellant fuel systems
- > TN 09.30/04 Fuel air explosive systems

c) CWA/T&EP

Please refer to section 6 above for the review and revision of the CWA/T&EP.

9. IMAS Outreach

- > A workshop was conducted in Lebanon in February 2014 to discuss and agree on the IMAS terms and definitions in Arabic. As a result, an agreed set of mine action terminologies in Arabic was established and several IMAS have been translated.
- > An IMAS International Course was conducted in Geneva from 18 to 20 November 2014.
- > IMAS outreach missions were carried out in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Iran, Mozambique and Tajikistan,. In addition, IMAS presentations were provided as part of trainings/workshops held at the GICHD in Geneva or elsewhere.

10. National Standards

In 2014, the GICHD supported a number of national mine action programmes, either in the development and/or revision of their national mine action standards (NMAS). Countries supported include: Bosnia-Herzegovina, DRC (on-going), Cambodia, Colombia, and Mozambique. Also, support was provided to the Egyptian Military in the development of IMAS compliant SOPs.

Up-to-date versions of NMAS of 15 countries, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Colombia, Jordan, Lao PDR, Mauritania, Mozambique, Palestine, Sir Lanka, Sudan, Senegal, Turkey and Vietnam are published on the IMAS website.

11. IMAS website

The IMAS website (www.mineactionstandards.org) has undergone major changes and restructuring in 2014. The 11 menu items on the homepage were reduced to three. Each menu item has a dropdown list which leads to the sub-pages, making navigation and access to the required documents faster and easier. This served the purpose to provide the mine action community with easy access to mine action standards and their translations. A significant improvement is that visitors can now access and download the standards and their translations in Word format through a login account. Since October 2014, standards in Word version have been downloaded 448 times with IMAS 01.10 being the most often downloaded one. Remarks received from visitors testify that IMAS are being downloaded for training and research, writing and updating NMAS and SOPs, preparing reports, contracts and presentations.

In addition, the website is maintained and updated on a regular basis. Amended and translated IMAS, TN as well as other relevant documents were published when they became available throughout 2014. E-mail updates of “what’s new” were sent regularly to all registered individuals. IMAS-related

questions and queries were responded to within one business day. Information about the IMAS RB, such as the IMAS framework, membership list, meeting minutes, work plans and other relevant documents, were made available.

The table below provides a brief overview of the number of visits to www.mineactionstandards.org. More details on statistics are available and can be provided on request.

| Visits | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 2014 | 1657 | 1580 | 1710 | 1433 | 1485 | 1657 | 1315 | 1374 | 1426 | 1774 | 1499 | 1496 | 18406 |
| 2013 | 1712 | 1490 | 1764 | 1729 | 1594 | 1394 | 1545 | 1514 | 1467 | 1740 | 1663 | 1455 | 19067 |
| 2012 | 1691 | 1815 | 2016 | 1708 | 1722 | 1909 | 1761 | 1552 | 1614 | 1973 | 1730 | 1366 | 20857 |

Note: The three most visited pages are: list of IMAS in English, glossary and NMAS. The most popular IMAS downloaded in 2014 has been IMAS 01.10.

12. Translation of IMAS

Efforts continued to translate the IMAS into other languages and make them available for the mine action community. In 2014, five IMAS were translated into Spanish, four IMAS into French, one each into Ukrainian and Farsi and 10 IMAS translated into Arabic.

In total, there are 43 IMAS in English, 17 in Arabic, 37 in Armenian, two in Chinese, 42 in French, 28 in Russian, 23 in Spanish, 9 in Ukrainian and one in Persian published on the IMAS website.

13. IMAS publications

In 2014, IMAS USB cards have been produced instead of IMAS CDs. They were progressively updated with new/amended IMAS, their translations and IATG. Over 500 cards have been distributed to mine action practitioners. Whether an up-to-date, electronic version, of the Guide to IMAS should be made available is to be discussed at the RB meeting.

14. RAPID

The database of demining accidents, (Reporting, Analysis and Prevention of Incidents in Demining (RAPID) has been maintained and upgraded throughout the year 2014. RAPID is integrated into IMSMA V6 and linked to the Mine Action Intelligence Tool (MINT). In 2014, collective and individual follow-up emails were sent to national focal points of 57 countries on a quarterly basis. Data for 16 accidents and 19 victims were received from only a few countries. The database includes 1465 accident records with 1842 victims involved. Collecting demining accident data from national programmes remains a challenge. Another challenge is incomplete data as some programmes do not collect certain standard data concerning accidents. These programmes are encouraged to upgrade their SOPs and data collection forms in accordance with IMAS 10.60. Moreover, the GICHD has contacted major demining organisations for data and information. NPA has provided its data so far while data from others is expected in the near future.

15. Review Board Feedback Form

Feedback forms completed at the end last Review Board meeting indicated that the majority of the members were satisfied with the meeting and that it was a good investment of their time. The recommendations will be discussed in the next meeting.

Best regards,

Faiz Paktian
Secretary, IMAS Review Board