

FORTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE CIS NATIONAL AND COLLABORATING CENTRES

BRUSSELS, 17-18 SEPT. 2004

1. Introduction.

The 42nd annual meeting of CIS National and Collaborating Centres took place in the offices of PREVENT, the CIS National centre for Belgium, on Friday and Saturday, 17-18 Sept. 2004.

The Meeting was attended by representatives of 20 National Centres and 4 Collaborating Centres of the CIS worldwide network of occupational safety and health information centres, as well as by Ms Sheila Pantry, Editor of the CIS Newsletter. In addition, three staff members of CIS and the Director of the ILO's SafeWork In-Focus programme were also present. The List of Participants may be found in *Annex I*.

2. Opening Remarks.

Dr Emmert CLEVENSTINE, Head of CIS, opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants, both in his own name and that of Mr. Eddy LAURIJSEN, Director of the ILO's Brussels Office. He also thanked PREVENT for its support for the preparation and organization of the meeting.

Ms. Véronique DE BROECK, speaking on behalf of PREVENT, also welcomed all participants, apologized for the absence of Mr Marc DE GREEF, Managing Director of PREVENT, who was unable to attend the Meeting.

Ms. De Broeck then made a general presentation on PREVENT, outlining its history and its role within the Belgian OSH effort. She emphasized the fact that PREVENT was able to accomplish a lot with a relatively small staff (about 40 people, organized into three units – Knowledge Management, Knowledge Transformation and Knowledge Integration). It was able to do so because it did not feel the need for having experts on all aspects of OSH – instead, PREVENT used its wide range of contacts effectively, and was therefore able to draw upon expertise from many organizations.

PREVENT has a 5-year revolving programme, which enables it to make medium-term plans while adapting its activities to changing conditions and requirements. The Organization counts heavily on its international partners, including CIS and various European bodies. PREVENT has in recent years shifted its focus from strict prevention of workplace risks to the protection of the human being as a whole. The 1996 change in Belgian OSH law, which introduced the concept of « workplace well-being » into legislation, contributed to this shift in PREVENT's emphasis.

PREVENT had originally started out as a body financed by insurance companies, but they contribute only about a third of the budget at present – the rest being covered by revenues from sales of PREVENT publications and services (training and research activities).

Dr Jukka TAKALA, Director of the ILO's In Focus Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment (to which CIS also belongs) greeted participants in the name of the ILO. Dr Takala made a general presentation on the state of OSH in the world today, emphasizing current preoccupations with the underreporting of occupational fatalities, diseases and accidents. He called attention to the ILO's new "Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health" and the "Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health », a report prepared for discussions to be held during the 93 session of the International Labour Conference in June 2005.

Dr Takala also reminded participants of the importance of maintaining high-level contacts with the media. As an example of what can be done, he recalled that in connection with the 20th anniversary of the Bhopal disaster, industrial safety was a major topic of discussion recently on CNN, and he himself had been interviewed for it.

3. Election of a Chairperson.

Ms. Barbara SZCZEPANOWSKA (representing the Polish National Centre), seconded by Dr Vern ANDERSON (representing the US National Centre), proposed Ms. Véronique De Broeck from the host organization as Chairperson for the Meeting. There being no other proposals, Ms De Broeck was elected by acclamation.

4. Adoption of the Agenda.

The Agenda for the Meeting (See *Annex II*) was adopted with slight changes proposed by Ms Sheila Pantry.

5. Adoption of the Report of the 2003 Meeting of National Centres

The Report was adopted as submitted.

6. Report of CIS Activities by Dr Clevenstine and Ms Virot.

Dr Clevenstine made a presentation on CIS activities during the preceding 12 months. The visual part of the presentation is reproduced in full in *Annex III*.

Subsequent to the presentation, Dr Clevenstine presented Ms Sheila Pantry with a Testimonial acknowledging her many contributions to CIS and its centres network over the past 25 years.

7. Discussion of CIS activities.

Ms Annick VIROT, Editor-in-Chief of the French translation of the ILO Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety (4th ed.) reported on the achievements this past year of the Encyclopaedia project. All four volumes of the Encyclopaedia were now out, and the full CD-ROM version was also available.

With the Encyclopaedia out of the way, Ms Virost said that her next priority task was to revitalize the network of CIS Centres. As a first step, in April 2004 she had sent a questionnaire to all centres regarding basic information about them. The response rate was relatively high for this kind of survey (42.2%) – nevertheless, not every centre had replied, despite having been sent a reminder in July 2004. She urged centres represented at the Meeting that had not sent in a response to do so now. She explained that CIS, being an integral part of the ILO, was obliged to follow the broad guidelines laid down by the International Labour Conference – which included an emphasis on the management and dissemination of information.

A first analysis of the responses to the Questionnaire revealed the following:

- All but three had internet access;
- Adding information to the CIS Centres Portal was still a problem;
- CIS products were an important addition to the information resources of all centres
- There was a widely expressed need for the establishment of CIS Regional Centres covering several countries, and for the holding of Regional Meetings.

Next, Dr Clevenstine talked about the new CIS Poster that CIS would like to see on prominent display in all Centres. He had CDs for distribution to all centres represented at the Meeting, each one containing a pdf file of the Poster. He explained that Centres were free to modify these posters for their own purposes.

8. Report on Pre-Meeting Workshops

Ms Sheila Pantry made a presentation on the pre-meeting workshop, held at PREVENT on Thursday, 16th September 2004. There were three principal points discussed in the workshop:

- What are the key OSH messages?
- Who are the target audiences? (Local, national, regional and international)
- How can CIS Centres become more influential?

The main conclusions of the workshop were as follows:

- CIS should “re-brand” itself, in order to obtain more credibility;
- OSH must be “sold” on the basis of some key messages:

- OSH is good for business;
 - OSH must be part of all organizational policies;
 - Being part of a global network will strengthen information dissemination;
 - Being part of a network creates value greater than the sum total of individual values.
- CIS must envisage its role in terms of the following factors:
 - It is part of a global network;
 - It should do its utmost to ensure that the information it provides is authoritative;
 - It must evolve new tools in order to remain relevant;
 - It must develop alerting systems, so that information on new risks (e.g. nanotechnology, SARS, biotechnology, etc.) receive as much publicity as possible;
 - CIS should have an information audit;
 - CIS should develop a long-term strategy, with properly defined aims and objectives, and a vision as to where it wanted to be in 5-10 years' time.
 - The targets of CIS information were enumerated as follows:
 - Investors
 - Multinationals
 - Employers
 - Employees
 - The informal sector (with banks serving as a possible entry point)
 - Small enterprises
 - The educational system (so that future generations are aware of OSH)
 - Opinion makers
 - Government advisors
 - Insurance companies
 - Politicians
 - The media
 - OSH experts

It is important to have a differentiated message, according to the comments heard during the workshop. Different groups of users needed different kinds of information: scientific and technical OSH experts needed access to data obtained in research, politicians and other deciders needed to have information on which they could make informed decisions, company management and insurance executives needed reliable information on the financial costs of accidents and diseases.

It had also been asked in the workshop discussions whether CIS could assume the role of an accreditation body, able to accord its logo to organizations satisfying certain performance criteria.

The issue of corporate social responsibility had also been raised.

In the discussion following the presentation on the workshop, Dr Vern Anderson made the comment that a full re-branding exercise may conflict with organizational survival.

Ms. Maureen SHAW of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association (Collaborating Centre, Canada) expressed the view that the holding of regional meetings of CIS centres may be a good idea, as it would enable centres with similar circumstances to establish common priorities. It was feasible, for example, to organize such a meeting for North America, one that could include the national centres of Canada, Mexico and the United States, as well as the two Canadian collaborating centres present at the Brussels meeting.

Mr Anderson supported the idea, saying that such a meeting would be particularly useful if it concentrated on one or two specific (and achievable) proposals.

Ms Marie LARUE, from the Quebec provincial body CSST (Collaborating Centre, Canada), also supported the idea. She said that holding such regional meetings was an excellent way to promote regional cooperation in matters of OSH, citing the success of the harmonization of the classification of chemicals agreed upon by CCOHS and CSST in Canada as a result of exactly such meetings.

Ms. Véronique De Broeck wished to add a comment on priority setting: she said that PREVENT had a rolling programme of priority subjects, with the oldest ones replaced every year by new ones.

9. Presentations by CIS Centres and other CIS-related organizations (N.B. Presentations by representatives of organizations that submitted written reports to the Meeting will be marked with an asterisk *. The written reports are reproduced in *Annex IV*)

Dr Vern ANDERSON (NIOSH, US National Centre) outlined some of the recent changes in his organization. NIOSH has now become part of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in part in order to achieve efficiencies of scale by becoming part of a much larger government body. The new Director of NIOSH was Dr. John Howard, whose qualifications for the job included being both a physician and an attorney. The principal orientation of NIOSH was now in marketing and outreach. Every action by NIOSH had to be justified by an impact assessment - what were its effects, what were its requirements? NIOSH had to understand at all times the needs of its customers and partners – in fact it had performed a major survey of its users' needs.

Dr Anderson recommended that OSH professionals should become subscribers of the free NIOSH e-news service, one that kept people up-to-date with news about the OSH field in the United States.

The current annual output from NIOSH staff ran at about 50 new branded publications and 700 journal articles and book chapters.

Among new themes at NIOSH were: translating research papers (at no cost to the customer) from other languages into English; health promotion and prevention (not just prevention); OSH for special populations (e.g. migrant labour).

Ms. Helena JIMENEZ GOY* (Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Spanish National Centre) reported that her Institute had just published, on a CD-ROM, the Spanish translation of a considerable portion of the CISDOC database (approx. 15,000 records). She said that the Institute may proceed eventually to translate the rest of the database retroactively. The same information was available on the Internet site www.isciii.es/bvs.

Dr Takala made the suggestion that national centres make more of an effort to contribute to the National Centres newsletter published by Sheila Pantry.

Ms. Silvia GIORDANO* (Centro Nacional de Información en Salud y Seguridad en el Trabajo, Argentinian National Centre) describes the current situation of her Centre, which is now part of the Ministry of Labour and Social Services. In Argentina, new OSH legislation changed the safety and health framework in the country. A new institution, the Superintendencia de Riesgos del Trabajo (SRT), was set up whose main task was to be the national body engaged in prevention, inspection and compensation matters. There was also a commitment by the government that safety and health education would from now on be part of the educational curriculum at all levels, primary schools included.

The CIS Centre in Argentina consisted of a small library and documentation centre. One of its key products was CISDOCTEXT, the CD-ROM regularly published by CIS containing the scanned versions of the full text of almost all documents abstracted by it. In a country like Argentina, where libraries had very limited resources and were often unable to subscribe to even the most important specialized journals in the field of OSH, it was a very useful service to be able to provide copies of the full text of articles in the OSH literature covered by CIS. The Centre had plans in addition to enlarge its specialized library so that it could become an important reference library for OSH in Argentina.

Ms. Véronique DE BROECK (Institut pour la prévention, la protection et le bien-être au travail (PREVENT), Belgian National Centre) described the operations of her centre. The PREVENT information centre serves primarily PREVENT's own staff, the Belgian Ministry of Labour, as well as the Belgian OSH professional community in general. The centre is staffed by 3 professional librarians and 2 expert advisors. Its collection, covering all aspects of OSH, has approx. 10,000 books, subscribes to 150 journals and has a large collection of gray literature publications. It is the legal depository library for all OSH documents published in Belgium.

PREVENT also maintains a wide range of electronic resources, including a large Internet site and a multilingual documentation database, the latter indexed by the CIS thesaurus. One of the specialized collections of the centre is audiovisuals: its large video collection has been digitalized and put on DVDs. PREVENT's specialized knowledge in the area of OSH audiovisuals has earned it the role of organizer of the multimedia competitions at the *World Congresses on Safety and Health at Work*, held every three years.

One of the ways PREVENT maintains a profile of its users is to ask the users of its information services to fill out a questionnaire about their affiliation and interests. PREVENT also sends out by e-mail a notification of its new publications to people whose profile corresponds to the subject matter in question.

Dr Anderson asked Ms. De Broeck about possible duplication with other OSH databases. He also wondered about the criteria used for the list of journals PREVENT subscribed to. Ms. De Broeck said that a certain amount of duplication was inevitable in this kind of database, but also that PREVENT already excluded itself from certain areas, e.g. fire safety and construction safety, which were covered by other institutions in Belgium.

Ms. Maureen SHAW* (Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA), Canadian Collaborating Centre) concentrated her comments on the impact of the recent introduction of Bill C-45 into federal legislation in Canada. This law, the most far-reaching of its kind in the world, is an amendment of the Canadian Criminal Code that would make business executives criminally liable for workplace accidents that were caused, at least in part, by negligence on the part of management. The provisions of this Bill, whose introduction had been prompted by the 1992 Westray coal mine disaster in Nova Scotia (26 dead), will provide a strong incentive to government agents (including inspectors) and business managers to ensure that workplace safety and health regulations are respected. IAPA offers courses and safety advice to companies regarding compliance with the new law.

Another new Canadian law at the federal level was Bill C-13, providing protection to whistle-blowers. Meanwhile there were changes at the provincial level as well: British Columbia brought in new legislation on workplace violence, intimidation and bullying; Manitoba was introducing legislation banning smoking in the workplace.

Other Canadian initiatives reported on included the recent formation of a “Mayor’s Council on Healthy and Safe Workplaces” in Ottawa. The Mayor urged other capital city mayors from around the world to join with him in this initiative, which put the emphasis on stress and mental health (reportedly costing 33 billion Canadian dollars a year to the country).

Ms. Marie LARUE (Commission de la santé et de la sécurité au travail (CSST), Canadian Collaborating Centre) followed up with her own comments regarding Bill C-45. She said that at first labour inspectors in Quebec were sceptical about the effectiveness of the new law, but have since changed their opinion, and were now ready to lay criminal charges under its authority, for example in connection with recent cases of beryllium poisoning in the province and with a case of drowning by a diver who had not been provided proper training. She said that the new law was leading to better collaboration between the labour inspectorate and the police. She did, however, say that the usefulness of such legislation may not be as high in some other jurisdictions, because Quebec is a highly unionized province (40% of the labour force is a union member), and in places with low levels of unionization reliance on such laws may be less effective.

In a more general overview of the Quebec situation, Ms. Larue said that there are approx. 3 million workers in the province. About 100 workers die every year in occupational accidents, and an estimated 100 more die of occupational diseases.

CSST, which functions as the inspection, compensation and prevention authority in the Province of Quebec, has the legal obligation to launch an investigation after every workplace fatality and near-fatality. After the completion of the investigation, there is always a press conference and a press release, in which the conclusions of the investigation are revealed to the public. Every attempt is made to involve the media, including television, in the publicity surrounding serious occurrences. It was the experience in Quebec that publicity allocating blame (usually, of negligence) to enterprises was taken much more seriously by their management than any fine they may have to pay. In addition, all reports of investigations were placed for public viewing on CSST’s web site.

Ms. Sheila Pantry observed, in connection with the banning of workplace smoking, that similar legislation had recently been introduced in Ireland. One of the motivations for government action was the realization that the cost of treating smoking-induced diseases was getting very high.

Dr. P.K. ABEYTUNGA* (Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), Canadian National Centre) made a short presentation on the current situation of CCOHS. He explained that fewer than 10% of the Canadian work force have federal OSH legislation apply to them – most Canadian workplaces are covered under provincial legislation. CCOHS, a federal agency, has no enforcement rights at all: its role is in

information. Today, the primary vehicle for delivering OSH information is through CCOHS's web site, which is fully bilingual (English and French), with Spanish acquiring an important role as a third language. CCOHS also has a strong educational role, in particular through e-learning. CCOHS is also one of CIS's prime partners – both the ILO Encyclopaedia and the CIS database are among the products CCOHS distribute through various means – the French version of the Encyclopaedia would be available on its website from 1 Oct. 2004. CCOHS also maintains the CIS Centres Portal on the Internet.

Ms. Irja LAAMANEN* (Institute of Occupational Health, Finnish National Centre) informed the Meeting that the Director-General of her institute, Prof. Jorma Rantanen, had retired in Nov. 2003 after 30 years' service. Prof. Rantanen was now chairing the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH). The new Director-General of the Institute was Prof. Harri Vainio, formerly of IARC (the International Agency for Research on Cancer).

Under new management, the Institute was pursuing a new strategy for information services. There was also an internal reorganization, leading to the integration of two departments. In the area of occupational health, the Institute was now adopting the new trend of applying evidence-based medical principles.

In its work with the European Union, the Institute's contributions included the maintenance of a database on occupational cancer, in collaboration with partner institutions in Italy, Spain and Sweden, as well as IARC.

The Institute's new URL was: <http://www.ttl.fi/>

Mr. Alexander BEJANISHVILI* (Technical Supervision State Inspection, Georgian National Centre) introduced himself and his institution, which had just become a member of the CIS network. The Centre had in fact been created by presidential order, and with ILO help, in February 2003.

The State Inspection service is an independent state organization, which works in close collaboration with unions. In Georgia, where there are many small enterprises who find it difficult to apply safety rules, it is very important to have an effective enforcement agency.

Among the plans of the Centre is the development of a national profile on OSH, to be prepared in collaboration with unions, industry and other government institutions. The ILO's *Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems* will also be translated into Georgian. The ILO's **Safety and Health in Coal Mines** had been used as the basis of a Georgian-language Code of practice on coal mines, which may acquire legal status in the future. The Georgian centre is translating many other ILO documents into Georgian, and is making them available to the public free of charge.

The Georgian centre collaborates actively with its foreign counterparts, including OSHA and MSHA in the US, and with mine safety organizations in South Africa. The *World Day for Safety and Health at Work* was celebrated in Georgia in 2003 and 2004.

Ms. Katalin BALOGH (Public Foundation for Research on Occupational Safety, Hungarian National Centre) presented information about activities in the previous 12 months, during which Hungary became a member of the European Union. The OSH system in the country has since 2003 been in complete harmony with European standards.

The CIS centre was an integral part of the Foundation. Its information services included databases, periodicals, books, reviews of the international OSH literature, the offering of training courses, the running of (mostly EU-sponsored) projects and the publication of Hungarian-language OSH publications.

The Foundation is facing a future where it will have to survive entirely from its own revenues. Among additional services it will be offering will be the provision of fully accredited OSH evaluation of enterprises.

Mr. Hirotoshi GOTO* (Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association (JISHA), Japanese National Centre) was a first-time attendee of CIS Meetings. He made a quick survey of the activities of JISHA. He recalled that as a result of an emphasis on safety and health in Japan, the number of occupational fatalities had dropped from a high of 6712 in 1961 to 1628 in 2003. Current issues of concern in the country were the changing age structure, the diversification of working patterns (and increased work mobility), new developments in technology and the effects of globalization.

Plans for the future include the integrated implementation of OSH management systems, the organization of a zero-accident campaign, the adoption of an OSH philosophy based on volunteerism and continuity, the promotion of a system for the management of harmful chemicals in the workplace, the introduction of enhanced training programmes in response to new technologies and changing social trends, the encouragement of health promotion measures (including measures concerning lifestyle and mental health), and specific mental health protection (important, as more than 60% of Japanese workers report heavy mental stress in their lives).

Ms. Barbara SZCZEPANOWSKA* (Centre for Scientific Information and Documentation, Central Institute for Labour Protection National Research Institute (CIOP-PIB), Polish National Centre) presented the information services offered by her institute, a primarily research-centred body. Much of the information, including some parts of the CIS Bulletin and its 5-year index, is on the web page of the centre. The centre also contributes 30 abstracts a month to CIS.

Overall, CIS information in Poland is primarily used by researchers and students. The availability of CIS information through the centre is publicized in articles written for the Polish professional OSH literature.

Ms Szczepanowska said that she had sent out an information kit on the activities of the Polish centre to all national and collaborating centres during the previous year, and she regretted that very few actually acknowledged reception of this kit.

Mr. Nikolai Petrovich PASHIN* and **Mr. Evgeni Nikolaevich RESHETNIKOV** (All Russia Centre for Occupational Safety and Health (VCOT), Russian National Centre) made a presentation concerning the activities of their centre, which was set up in 1997. He said that the centre is the main source of OSH information for all of the Russian Federation. Its main tasks include the distribution of an information bulletin to partner institutions throughout the Federation, the provision of vocational education, the translation into Russian of foreign OSH publications (including those produced by the ILO). It provides publicity in Russia to OSH activities within the European Union and elsewhere.

The publication of the Russian version of the ILO Encyclopaedia during the previous year was a well-publicized event, attended by many prominent officials including those from the Ministry of Labour and the ILO's Moscow Office.

During the previous year the centre had provided advice to Azerbaijan on how to organize an OSH information centre. It also had ongoing collaboration with OSH information centres in Belarus, Ukraine and Poland.

The Meeting was informed of the upcoming 3rd International Congress on Occupational Safety and Labour Protection, and an accompanying trade exhibition, to be organized in Moscow on 3-5 November 2004 by the National Centre. All participants at the National Centres Meeting were invited.

In addition, the Russian National Centre extended an invitation to the CIS network to hold its 2005 meeting in Moscow, in case the Orlando venue was not possible.

Mr. Roman A. LITVYAKOV (Institute of Industrial Safety, Labour Protection and Social Partnership, Russian Collaborating Centre) gave an overview of current activities of the Institute, founded in 1991. Its main role is the provision of training courses for workers, managers and inspectors. It is also engaged in vocational education, OSH services (consultation and certification), OSH information, and organization of state and municipal OSH programmes. The Institute has the largest OSH library in the Russian Federation - more than 7000 volumes.

The Information Centre, which functions as a CIS Collaborating Centre, provides OSH information to enterprises, manages a large internet site, creates software and associated technical support, and collaborates with the ILO in the translation of foreign-language publications for a Russian audience (including the ILO's Encyclopaedia, which is also available online through the Institute's web site). The "Russian Information System of Occupational Safety and Health (RISOSH)", financed by the Russian

government, is also managed by the Institute. Its portal, available in Russian only, is an essential access point for all OSH professionals in the country.

Among the most important products of the Centre are the “Virtual Academy of Safe Work”, a paying online information service, and a database of OSH legislation in the Russian Federation, with more than 4500 documents covered.

The Centre also manages an online OSH discussion forum and a question and answer service, with answers to common questions stored in yet another database.

CD-ROMs issued by the Institute contain the Russian-language version of the Encyclopaedia and of other ILO publications. Future projects include the publication of the Russian version of the ILO’s SafeWork Library and SafeWork Bookshelf, as well as of the original English-language version of the ILO Encyclopaedia.

Dr. HO Sweet Far* (Occupational Health Department, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore National Centre) said that the most important challenge for her Department was to find out how to raise the profile of OSH in the local context and how to get the right OSH message directly to the workers and employers who needed it, given that Singapore is a small country with limited resources and that the national OSH budget suffers continuous cuts.

In order to maximize the effectiveness of the service, there were special advisory committees dealing with OSH in specific industries (e.g. “Shipbuilding and Repair”). Two such committees were set up in the current year, dealing with the biomedical industry and health care.

The main trends in the message of her department are that OSH is good for business and that a healthy lifestyle resulted in higher productivity and a healthier workplace. Protection of family life was also a priority for the Singapore government, and as a sign of its commitment to this aim, the 5-day work week was introduced on 1 Sept. 2004. Special attention is given to increasing the safety awareness of “pre-workers”.

Awards and incentives are also part of the OSH effort in the country. An *Annual Safety Performance Award* is given out to the company applying good OSH practice. Another new approach to good public relations for OSH was the recent inauguration of an OSH Exhibition Centre (“OSHLAND”, see http://www.mom.gov.sg/MOM/oshland/exhibition_pods.html), open to the general public as well as to guided visits from workplaces and schools. The Department also took the OSH message to the community, to schools and roadshows.

The Singapore National Centre maintained excellent relations with its partners in other countries – study visits and staff exchanges were organized with organizations in the US, the UK, New Zealand and Japan.

Singapore is a multilingual country, although English was the everyday language for most official purposes, including OSH information dissemination. Where it is important to make contact with the working population, safety brochures could, however, be published in up to 7 languages – as was the case with a recent publication on bird flu.

Mr. Hamisi I. KITUMBO (Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA), Tanzanian National Centre) was pleased to be present – it was his first-ever attendance at a CIS National Centres Meeting. The Authority, of which he is the Chief Executive, is in fact the labour inspectorate for the country. Since the coming into force of the new *Occupational Health and Safety Act* in 2003 it has been responsible for the safety and health of all workers in Tanzania. Its many duties include the registration of workplaces, labour inspection, examinations of plant and equipment, enforcement of safety on construction sites, electrical safety, the medical examination of workers (pre-employment, periodic, after dangerous occurrences), the carrying out of industrial hygiene surveys, the holding of training seminars, the prosecution of offenders and the creation of OSH awareness among all sectors of the community.

One of the main challenges of the Authority is to fulfill its mandate with its very limited resources. Right now it has only 25 inspectors for the whole country, from various backgrounds (engineering, medicine, occupational hygiene), although permission has been given to recruit 15 more. In addition to not having enough personnel, the main problems of the Authority are political interference, difficult transportation conditions, staff whose training needs upgrading and less-than-optimal equipment.

The information centre of the Authority, which serves as the CIS Centre, is being strengthened. Mr M. Sigalla has been appointed to run it. The ILO Encyclopaedia is now in place. It is planned to have internet access and a web site by 1 Jan. 2005.

The main tasks of a CIS Centre in Tanzania were the possibilities of exchange and dissemination of information, the translation of OSH material into Kiswahili, responding to information requests from customers, strengthening of tripartism and help with compliance with the new *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Any ideas and assistance for the centre by other members of the CIS network are welcome.

Ms. Trinh Huong NGUYEN* (Working Environment Technology Department, National Institute of Labour Protection (NILP), Vietnam General Confederation of Labour, Vietnam Collaborating Centre) demonstrated the web site of the Institute. The English-language part of the site has a lot of information on the Institute's history and role.

The Institute collaborates with OSH institutions in Belgium and Australia on the topic of OSH in small enterprises. It has received a mobile OSH medical clinic as a gift from Germany. The Institute also has a mobile information unit, containing a small library and samples of personal protective equipment.

Among the publications of the Institute is a bilingual (Vietnamese/English) newsletter and a magazine (in Vietnamese only).

Future plans of the CIS Centre include a conversion of its static websites into dynamic ones.

Ms. Sheila PANTRY (Observer and Editor of the CIS Newsletter, United Kingdom) gave an overview of the CIS Newsletter, for which she receives contributions from throughout the CIS network, as well as from other sources. She uses the newsletter to draw attention to important new publications and to new OSH strategies. She also covers interesting new web sites, new OSH products and a diary of events. The newsletter is distributed in several formats: on paper (thanks to PREVENT), by e-mail (to more than 140 subscribers), via the web site www.sheilapantry.com/cis and through a link on the CIS web site. All past issues of the CIS Newsletter are also available through the web site.

9. General Discussion

Ms. Szczepanowska wished to see a discussion of electronic means of communications among staff of national centres, e.g. through chat lines and/or newsgroups. She pointed out that none of these would be of much use if people did not participate in them on a regular basis.

Dr Clevenstine demonstrated the new Internet interface for CISDOC and the CIS Thesaurus. He also showed how to access a very useful new database that lists all documents recently received by CIS, whether they went on later through the abstracting process or not.

On the whole, Dr Clevenstine continued, consensus seemed to be that the CIS database should continue even after the Bulletin is discontinued.

He wished to see a discussion of whether CIS Regional Centres should be established.

On next year's meeting, he said that CIS would like to see the maintenance of the tradition that the CIS meeting is held in conjunction with the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work. Next year this Congress will be held in Orlando, Florida, USA on 18-22 Sept. 2005. CIS hopes to be able to organize its National Centres meeting as usual on the Sunday the Congress opens, namely 18 Sept.

One justification for holding the CIS Meeting in conjunction with the Congress is that many potential attendees of the Meeting also attend the Congress, and it may be difficult for them to justify two missions in a year.

Ms. Laamanen supported the idea of having the CIS Meeting in the US, as there was much to be learned in the United States about the world of OSH information. She also suggested that a European regional Meeting be held in May 2005.

Ms. Shaw said that it may be a good idea for North American centres (or even centres throughout the Americas) to hold a regional meeting before the Orlando meeting.

Mr. Kitumbo wished to have news about ARLAC in Harare. Dr Clevenstine said that Mr Mashumba had quit ARLAC, and has not been replaced yet. However, Mr Sammy Nyambari, Director of ARLAC, is very positive about the need for information as a prevention tool, and has even proposed the holding of a regional meeting – for which, unfortunately, no funding has been found.

Ms. Laamanen announced that the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) will offer next year free training to one or two OSH information specialists from developing countries. Travelling and living expenses will have to be provided by some other agency.

Ms. Szczepanowska asked Ms. Pantry if she was ready to issue an updated guide to the management of a CIS Centre. Ms Pantry said that she would do so if there was really a need, but that it would take a certain amount of time. Dr Clevenstine noted that the re-publication of such a document was an excellent idea, and that as a first step CIS could place the original version on its web site, so that everyone could look at it.

Ms. Szczepanowska also asked about the current status of the joint WHO / ILO / European Agency portal. Dr Clevenstine reported that for the time nothing was done, as WHO had not yet reported back with its approval (or absence of it).

Ms. Szczepanowska asked if there was any follow-up to last year's proposal to set up a CIS consortium to subscribe to OSH journals in bulk. Dr Clevenstine said that CIS has simply not enough manpower to coordinate such activities. Ms. De Broeck said that she welcomed the idea, and suggested that a small working group could be set up among the Centres to work on the proposal.

Ms. Pantry wished to know if CIS was going to issue a Press Release about the Meeting. Dr Clevenstine answered that he was going to do so, assuming the ILO authorized it.

Ms. Szczepanowska wished to hear more concrete information about the present and future activities of CIS.

Dr. Clevenstine said that only two more issues of the printed CIS Bulletin would be issued, to be followed by the 5-year index that was due for publication this year. After that, the database CISDOC, on which the Bulletin is based, would be made available on the new expanded CIS web site, and through the customary CD-ROM and online

versions. As for printed products, CIS will be publishing updates of the ILO Encyclopaedia, and – possibly – occasional special publications on topical subjects, which may include recent updates of the CISDOC database as well.

Dr Clevenstine then made a brief demonstration of the new free web versions of the CIS database (URL: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/cisdoc/index_html?p_lang=e) and the ILO Encyclopaedia (URL: <http://www.ilo.org/encyclopaedia/>). Both of these online services had gone on line just the day before the meeting.

Mr. Sándi reminded participants that the LEGOSH part of the CIS web site, which contained the legislative part of the CISDOC database, was becoming quite out of date. He said that a dynamically updated version was in development, and that it would be made available on the Internet in the near future.

Ms. Virot said that an updated directory of CIS National Centres and their personnel would be published as soon as possible.

10. Closure

Dr Clevenstine summed up the proceedings, and thanked the participants in the name of CIS and the ILO.

Ms. De Broeck made the final remarks. She proposed that small working groups be set up to discuss various ideas raised during the Meeting and the workshop that had preceded it. She asked CIS to prepare a working document on the creation of Regional Centres.

She thanked all the participants and closed the Meeting.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II
2004 CIS CENTRES MEETING
AGENDA

Friday, 17 September, 9:00 am

- Opening
- Election of a chairperson
- Adoption of the agenda
- Adoption of the report of the 2003 Annual Meeting
- Report of the CIS
 - Events since the London meeting
 - State of internet sites
 - CIS as an ILO unit - present and future programmes
- Report of pre-meeting workshops
- Reports of Centres
- Constitution of regional/linguistic groups
- Group discussion
- Reports of groups

Saturday, 18 September, 9:00 am

- Reports of groups, continued
- Reports of Centres, continued
- Summary and concluding remarks

ANNEX III

REPORT ON CIS ACTIVITIES

(Note à CM/CB: Prenez chacune des 29 pages de H:\CIS-MEET\42nd-04\cisrep04.ppt)

ANNEX IV

REPORTS OF NATIONAL AND COLLABORATING CENTRES

NATIONAL CENTRES

Argentina	Centro Nacional de Información en Salud y Seguridad en el Trabajo
Belarus	National Information Center in Occupational Health and Safety
Bulgaria	National Center of Hygiene, Medical Ecology and Nutrition
Canada	Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)
Finland	Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH)
France	Institut national de recherche et de sécurité (INRS)
Georgia	National Information Centre on Occupational Safety and Health
Italy	Istituto Superiore per la Prevenzione e la Sicurezza del Lavoro (ISPESL)
Japan	Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association (JISHA)
Korea, Republic of	Korean Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA)
Netherlands	Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Library and Documentation Centre (BIDOC)
Poland	Central Institute for Labour Protection – National Research Institute (CIOP-PIB)
Portugal	Information and Documentation Unit (Divisão de Informação e Documentação – DID)
Romania	National Institute of Labour Protection
Russian Federation	All-Russia Centre for Occupational Safety and Health (VCOT)
Singapore	Occupational Health Department, Ministry of Manpower
Spain	Biblioteca Nacional de Ciencias de la Salud (BNCS)

COLLABORATING CENTRES

Australia	Mining Safety Research Group, Edith Cowan University
Canada	Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA)
Pakistan	Centre for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (CIWCE)
Russian Federation	Perm State Technical University (PSTU)
Viet Nam	National Institute of Labour Protection