

FORTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE CIS NATIONAL AND COLLABORATING CENTRES

ORLANDO, 18 SEPTEMBER 2005

1. Introduction

The 43rd annual meeting of CIS National and Collaborating Centres took place in the Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida, USA, on Sunday, 18 September 2005. The meeting took place in conjunction with the XVIIth ILO-ISSA World Congress on Safety and Health at Work.

The Meeting was attended by representatives of 15 National Centres and 7 Collaborating Centres of the CIS worldwide Network of occupational safety and health information centres, as well as by 7 staff members of ILO Headquarters (including 2 from CIS itself), 4 OSH Specialists from ILO field offices and 22 Observers. The List of Participants may be found in *Annex I*.

2. Opening Remarks

Mr. Gábor SÁNDI (Head of CIS), opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants. He also thanked the US National Safety Council (NSC) for its support for the preparation and organization of the meeting.

Mr. Assane DIOP (Executive Director, Social Protection Sector, ILO) made a formal opening speech in French, entitled: *La prévention dans une société mondialisée: la réussite par le biais des partenariats* (Prevention in a Globalized World: Success Through Partnerships). A translation of the speech is reproduced in its entirety in *Annex II*.

Mr. Alan McMILLAN (President and CEO of the NSC), welcomed all participants in the name of the NSC. He stressed the importance of innovations that were currently improving the workplace safety and health situation. However, he said, these innovations will not succeed if the information about them did not make its way to the users. He praised CIS for facilitating this process, and challenged it and its centres to do even better.

3. Election of a Chairperson

Mrs. Odette WLODARSKI (representing PREVENT, the Belgian National Centre), seconded by Mr. Hiroto GOTO (representing the Japanese National Centre), proposed Mrs. Maureen C. SHAW (President and CEO of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA) of Ontario, Canada, a CIS Collaborating Centre) to be Chairperson of the Meeting. There being no other proposals, Mrs. Shaw was elected by acclamation.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda for the Meeting (See *Annex III*) was adopted.

5. Adoption of the Report of the 2004 Meeting of National Centres

The Report was adopted as submitted.

6. Report on CIS and SafeWork Activities

Mr. Sándi (Head of CIS) made a presentation on CIS activities during the preceding 12 months. In particular, he discussed the changes involved in the abandonment of the printed *Bulletin* and the increased emphasis the CIS was placing on making OSH information available to the world free of charge through the Internet. He also described how CIS's work fitted into the broader strategy of the ILO's Action Plan on occupational safety and health. He also surveyed the success of the ILO *Encyclopaedia*, not only in English but in other languages – with some translations being published during the previous year.

Dr. Jukka TAKALA (Director of the ILO's SafeWork Programme of which CIS is one of the constituents), talked about current SafeWork activities, with particular emphasis on the ILO's introductory report to the Congress entitled "Decent Work – Safe Work" (<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/wdcongrs17/intrep.pdf>).

7. Report on the CIS Centres Network and on the conclusions of the Regional Meeting held in Geneva in May 2005, including those related to Working Groups

Mrs. Annick VIROT (Coordinator of the CIS Centres, CIS) surveyed the current state of the CIS Centres Network. As of the time of the meeting, there were 137 centres, with two recent additions (Collaborating Centres in Bangladesh and Portugal), and a new National Centre in Algeria coming soon.

Mrs. Virot (Coordinator of the CIS Centres, CIS) made a careful distinction between the well-funded centres, typical of the developed countries and a few in the developing world, and others that were not so well equipped. There are several ways to help the latter, special collaboration with developed centres ("twinning") being one of them.

Dr. Jean-Sylvain BONNY (Observer, Côte d'Ivoire) wanted to know more about the role, organization and operation of CIS centres.

Mrs. Virot (Coordinator of the CIS Centres, CIS) provided an overview of what CIS centres do, regretting that there were so few in francophone Africa. She wished to see the development of many more centres in the region, with the proviso that there were some minimum requirements before an institution could become a CIS centre.

Dr. Hubert Makengo LUTIMBA (Observer, Belgium and Democratic Republic of Congo) also regretted the lack of OSH information centres in francophone Africa. He noted in particular that nothing had ever existed in former Belgian colonies, and he expressed the desire for the establishment of a regional centre for these countries (DR of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda). He also remarked favourably on ISSA's role in connecting universities in the developed world and the OSH community in Africa.

Mr. Wiking HUSBERG (OSH Specialist, ILO Moscow) surveyed the situation in the ex-Soviet Republics. He said he was responsible for 9 new States, and there were new CIS centres in Georgia and Kazakhstan, and he hoped to see others soon in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. There may also be more collaborating centres in various regions of the Russian Federation. The CIS Collaborating Centre in St. Petersburg, the Institute for Industrial and Occupational Safety and Labour Partnership (<http://www.safework.ru/>), which collaborates heavily with the ILO, has a particularly notable web presence, with 25,000 pages.

Dr. Guy NAMBO-WEZET (Gabon) welcomed the existing collaboration his centre had with CIS, both as a receiver of documents and as a contributor. He reminded CIS that not all centres had the same level of computer access, and he wondered if CIS could help its centres upgrade their computer capabilities.

Mrs. Virot (Coordinator of the CIS Centres, CIS) explained that there may be a possibility of funding projects (including the creation of new CIS centres) in French-speaking Africa by France. She also welcomed the suggestion that regional CIS meetings be held regularly.

Mr. David N'gove LUSSOKE (Angola) reported that his centre was able to satisfy all OSH requests from the country. The centre also had a strong association with the University.

Dr. Takala (Director of the ILO's SafeWork Programme) made several comments relating to the lack of a national centre network in French-speaking Africa. He recalled that ISSA did not have a regional network, but it did have influential government counterparts in major developing countries, and as such could be a good partner for CIS in developing national centres. He also drew attention to the fact that English-speaking countries in Africa had a much better record in establishing CIS centres than French-speaking countries, and their experience was worth looking at. He cautioned, however, that international cooperation funding was a lot harder to find today than it used to be. He also reminded participants that all of CIS's products were available free on the Internet and/or on CD-ROM, and that the French-language version of the *Encyclopaedia* was soon going to be available on CD-ROM as well.

Mrs. Wlodarski (Belgium) reaffirmed the commitment of PREVENT to work with francophone countries in Africa, since French was one of the languages of Belgium.

Mrs. Shaw (Chairperson) said that since Canada also used French as one of its languages, her centre could also offer its help in Africa.

Mr. Carlos Anibal RODRÍGUEZ (Argentina) talked about the recent OSH week in Buenos Aires that had been attended by Dr. Takala. He reaffirmed his centre's willingness to host a regional meeting for Latin American centres.

Mrs. Shaw (Chairperson) expressed her hope for a North-South regional OSH meeting for the Americas, which could also serve as a framework for a regional CIS meeting.

Mr. Sándi (Head of CIS) gave a short presentation on the current state of the CIS Centres Portal, hosted by CCOHS, the National Centre for Canada. He said that few centres had actually taken advantage of the portal's advanced data entry capabilities, and as a result, there was little or no information on the portal relating to many centres.

Mr. Sándi (Head of CIS) then asked representatives of centres present in the meeting whether they all had convenient and reliable access to the Internet. In answer, most of the African representatives indicated that they did not have such access.

Mr. Sándi (Head of CIS) then addressed the issue of Working Groups on the Thesaurus and the Glossary, set up during the CIS Regional Meeting, held in Geneva in May 2005.

Mr. Gerd ALBRACHT (ILO SafeWork) talked about the relationship between CIS and labour inspectorates around the world. He wished to see IALA to have stronger collaboration with CIS centres. He also expressed support for the aspirations of French-speaking African countries, and in this connection he mentioned plans for a conference of labour inspectorates from 35 francophone and Arabic-speaking countries, to be held in Tunisia in 2006.

Mrs. Virot (Coordinator of the CIS Centres, CIS) supported the idea of more collaboration between CIS centres and labour inspectorates. She related the idea to the development of technical cooperation projects between France and francophone countries in Africa, combining assistance to labour inspection and information dissemination.

Dr. Lutimba (Observer, Belgium and Democratic Republic of Congo) praised the SafeWork Bookshelf and was looking forward to its publication in French. He also wished to see the creation of CIS centres in Central African countries.

Mrs. Virot (Coordinator of the CIS Centres, CIS) said that the publication of the Bookshelf in French was foreseen for the near future. A Spanish-language version was also technically feasible, although less material was available in Spanish than in the other two languages.

Mrs. Betzabé TORRES (Mexico) said that an OSH portal for the three NAFTA countries (Canada, Mexico and the US) was a desirable aim.

Dr. Benjamin FAYOMI (Observer, Benin) expressed his disappointment that training programmes in the OSH field often failed to achieve their aims. As for the information offered by international information sources were far removed from the everyday concerns of developing countries. There were three ideas for improving on these matters: (1) twinning with centres in the developed world; (2) more chemical information; and (3) better and more appropriate training.

Mr. A.R. Chowdhury REPON (Bangladesh) wished to know how a CIS centre can develop a minimum action plan?

Mr. Enrique Pérez MENDOZA (Chile) suggested that the experience of well-established centres was the best guide to such action.

Mr. Husberg (OSH Specialist, ILO Moscow) thought that the best way for new centres to act was to keep things simple. He described the experience of the Tampere Institute of Technology with various projects in the Russian Federation. A highly useful partner in establishing such partnerships is the Russian Internet Academy. It is thanks to this relationship that the OSH effort in the Russian Federation has such strong Internet presence – for example, the *Encyclopaedia* has been translated into Russian and placed on the Internet, as part of the

SafeWork Bookshelf project. To show the importance of Internet access in the world of OSH information, the projects handled by ILO Moscow always included a component of at least \$500 for placing the information on the Internet.

8. General discussion

Dr. Fayomi (Observer, Benin) wished to know about the impact of the DANIDA project, which had included his country about 8 years ago.

Mr. Rodríguez (Argentina) commented on the universal problem of lack of funds, as well as on the fact that there was not enough OSH information available in Spanish. He also remarked that while the European Union was giving OSH information away for free, it seemed to him that the ILO had lost its priority interest in the subject.

He wanted to emphasize that information should not be seen as an end but as a tool for a purpose. The key emphasis should be on the creation of appropriate policies appropriate to a specific culture. There was a lack of information in society about OSH, and universities did not do a sufficiently good job of filling this gap. Governments did not pay attention to OSH measures, especially if they were seen as a brake on economic development – and thus, workers pay for development with their own health and lives.

Mrs. Valentina FORASTIERI (OSH Specialist, ILO San Jose) said that, being the only OSH expert in any of the ILO offices in Latin America, she was de facto in charge of OSH activities in all Spanish-speaking countries of the region. She regretted that at the present time there were no OSH projects in Latin America (any more than in Asia or Africa), even though the situation in the region called for such a project. She hoped that there would be a change in this matter in 2006. She also recommended the establishment of more direct links among national centres in the area.

Mrs. Shaw (Chairperson) supported the idea and hoped that North American centres could be involved.

9. Reports by Centres

Note: The full text of those Reports that have been made available to CIS will be placed on the CIS web site (<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/cis/>)

The main points of each contribution are listed:

Mrs. Maureen C. SHAW (Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA) of Ontario, CIS Collaborating Centre, Canada):

- “First Four Weeks” – a program to train supervisors of newly hired young workers in OSH techniques
- A new initiative on OSH in small businesses
- A new charter for CEOs: “Health and Safety Leadership Charter”
- A project, carried out in collaboration with the Université de Laval (Quebec City), on Mental Health at Work
- A new centre for innovation in OSH

Mr. Wiking HUSBERG (OSH Specialist, ILO Moscow):

- A survey of new centres (national centres in the ex-Soviet Republics, Regional Centres in the Russian Federation)
- Great success of the World Day (all countries of the region participated)
- Web site called the “Virtual Academy of SafeWork”)
- OSH was increasing in public awareness and government policy
- The portal was now: www.safework.ru
- CD-ROMs with topical subjects were issued on a continuous basis
- Organization of a labour inspectorate audit
- Emphasis on the provision of practical information

Prof. Grigory Z. FAYNBURG (Perm Regional Centre for Occupational Safety and Health, Collaborating Centre, Russian Federation):

- Need for OSH management at the enterprise level
- The Perm Regional Centre, created in 1987, is a leader in the field of OSH training at both the regional and the national level
- OSH legislation in the Russian Federation is based on compulsory requirements, including mandatory certification of employers
- The budget of the Centre is approximately \$ 500,000 per year, provided by enterprises
- One of the activities of the Centre is to translate ILO publications into Russian

Mr. Renán Alfonso Rojas GUTIERREZ (Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad, National Centre, Colombia):

- The main activities of the Council and its plans for the future are described (information, training)
- The Council is one of the few CIS centres that has provided information to the CIS Centres Portal

- Many virtual products, including a large amount of full-text information on the Internet
- In a network with universities for the centralization of information on OSH research
- Connection with many ministries

Dr. Carlos Aníbal RODRÍGUEZ (Superintendencia de Riesgos del Trabajo, Centro Nacional de Información en Salud y Seguridad en el Trabajo, National Centre, Argentina) :

- Main activities of the Centre (library, training, information dissemination, surveillance of occupational risks, maintenance of a web page) – 70% of requests come from workers
- international cooperation
- Principal products and services (virtual library, integration of catalogue with the UNISALUD network, electronic magazines, bibliographic searching on demand)

Mrs. Jin-Young KWON (Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), National Centre, Republic of Korea):

- Survey of KOSHA databases (including demonstration of KOSHANET)
- OSH dictionary (3670 terms)
- Special publications (including translations of HSE documents)
- Publications for foreign workers (from Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh and Malaysia)

Mrs. Ifeoma Christiana NWANKWO (Information and Training Section, Factories Department, Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity, National Centre, Nigeria):

- Most Nigerians (75%) live in rural areas
- Only 6000 workplaces are registered under national legislation – most small and medium-sized enterprises are not covered
- There are 55 factory inspectors in the country
- The number of workplace accidents reported per year is about 70
- World Safety Day was celebrated in 2004 and 2005
- There are efforts to establish a workplace information management system
- There is increasing reliance on information in the three main languages of the country (Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba)

Mr. Finn SHEYE (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work):

- Survey of the principal tasks of the Agency
- Network of focal points (EU, EEA, others)
- Global partners
- Activities involving candidate countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Turkey)
- Presence on shared Internet sites (joint, global, overseas)
- Consolidation of two main web sites
- Fact sheets (2 pages each)
- Proposed collaboration with CIS concerning Thesaurus (furnished by Australia)
- The Risk Observatory

Mr. A.R. Chowdhury REPON (Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE-BD), Collaborating Centre, Bangladesh):

- Description of the Centre (trade-union based)
- Participation-oriented safety improvement training programme
- Positive experiences
- Ongoing and future action plan

Mr. Sammy T. NYAMBARI (African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC), Collaborating Centre, Zimbabwe):

- OSH activities by ARLAC, a regional centre covering much of English-speaking Africa
- African dimension of OSH programmes
- WHO/ILO connections
- Policy issues connected with labour inspection, development, OSH policies and African Union meetings
- HIV issues
- Future strategies for OSH

Mr. Hirotoshi GOTO (Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association (JISHA), National Centre, Japan):

- Events in Japan (National Industrial Safety and Health Convention 2004, held in Osaka; Safety, Health and Comfortable Workplace Fair, held in Tokyo, May 18-20, 2005)
- Visits from overseas
- Joint organization of OSH conferences with overseas partners (Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia)
- Training courses held by JICOSH

Mr. S. K. KANG'ETHE (Occupational Health and Safety Information Centre (OHSIC), Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety Services (DOHSS)), National Centre, Kenya):

- Description of the Centre (aims, history)
- Database for the use of inspection services
- Enquiry services (providing hard copy of OSH documents)
- Workplace Information System (WIS)
- Safety and Health Committees in the workplace

Mrs. Agnieszka MŁODZKA-STYBEL (Central Institute for Labour Protection, National Research Institute (CIOP PIB), National Centre, Poland) made a short presentation on the activities of her Institute.

10. Summary and Concluding Remarks

Mr. Sándi (Head of CIS) summarized the proceedings, and thanked the participants in the name of CIS and the ILO.

Mrs. Shaw (Chairperson) also expressed her appreciation of the informative contributions made by participants. She then closed the Meeting.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

43nd MEETING OF THE CIS NATIONAL AND COLLABORATING CENTRES

Orlando (Florida), United States, 18 September 2005

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ANNEX II

SPEECH OF MR. ASSANE DIOP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL PROTECTION SECTOR
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE, GENEVA
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CIS NATIONAL
AND COLLABORATING CENTRES

18 September, Orlando
Orange County Convention Centre, Room 105 A&B

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PREVENTION IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD:
SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dr. Mei-Li Lin,
Dr. Takala,
Mr. Sándi,
Dear colleagues and friends from ILO Headquarters and from field offices,

In the name of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Mr. Juan Somavía, I am very happy to welcome all of you to Orlando, as participants in the 43rd Annual Meeting of CIS National and Collaborating Centres.

This is the fifth time that I have the privilege of participating in your activities, and I am very pleased to do so. Indeed, I have the feeling of being part of a close and dynamic family that has been able to maintain a unique purpose in its 46-year old history: that of collecting and treating validated information in the field of occupational safety and health (OSH), and, in particular, of bringing this information to the attention of those who need it.

However, I would have preferred to welcome you in a country that has not been struck by the murderous tragedy that has recently affected some of the States of the southern United States, in particular Louisiana and Mississippi. The National Safety Council (NSC), and the United States in general, who welcome us today within the framework of the XVIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, have done everything within their power to make this important meeting successful. They have devised a comprehensive and varied programme, satisfying the technical, political, educational and even recreational needs of its participants, who will surely learn much about the latest developments in the world of OSH. However, just when our hosts would be able to see the beneficial results of their efforts, they must respond to an enormous security and health challenge affecting a large segment of their population. I would like therefore to express my heartfelt thanks for the cordial welcome offered to us under

very difficult circumstances. I am deeply touched, as I am sure all of you are as well. I would also like to thank the International Social Security Association (ISSA) for its excellent collaboration in organizing this Congress.

I am fully aware that your meeting lasts only a day, and that many of you wish to present an account of the activities and good practices of your Centres. I shall therefore try to be brief.

These World Congresses are key events for you, safety and health and information specialists of the world. As you know, the theme of this year's Congress is Prevention in a Globalized World: Success through Partnerships. I am going to start by sharing with you some of my thoughts concerning, on one hand, the challenges faced by the OSH world in a globalized world society, and, on the other hand, the solutions that the CIS Centres Network can propose within the scope of its partnership arrangements.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

First of all, we can draw up a mixed balance sheet for the OSH situation today. Certainly, some occupational diseases and types of accidents have greatly diminished in number in the developing world. However, we see an explosive increase in other work-related health conditions, for example in musculoskeletal disorders and diseases related to asbestos. In addition, in some countries the problem of under-notification is endemic, and there is an exponential increase in the number of work accidents and occupational diseases. We also note an undeniable progress in sensitizing people to the economic benefits of good OSH policies. In recent years, occupational safety and health has risen to become one of the priorities of governments and political decision-makers, together with employment, freedom of association, collective agreements and environmental protection.

ACTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

The International Labour Office (ILO) has contributed greatly to this increased sensitization. In 2003 the International Labour Conference (ILC) adopted a global strategy on OSH, with five main action areas. These constitute a toolbox in which we can find in addition to promotion, awareness raising and advocacy in favour of OSH, and the reinforcement of international collaboration a very important element: knowledge development, management and dissemination. In addition, during its 2005 Session the ILC discussed an instrument aimed at the definition of a promotional framework for OSH. This discussion will be continued during the 2006 Session. If an Instrument is then adopted in 2006 by the Member States of the ILO, this will create a strong movement in favour of OSH, with an important component concerning information exchange.

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

You will wonder in what way this will change your daily work involving OSH information exchange. In my view all these elements will combine in giving OSH a higher priority, a better visibility and greater legitimacy. At both the national and international levels, this means that OSH and, consequently, OSH information activities, will benefit from increased financial and budgetary resources.

OSH SOLUTION PATHWAYS

In my view, it is essential that you benefit from these trends, and therefore are able to develop and reinforce your activities. Throughout the world we can see a trend in the direction of economic integration, a trend that has resulted in positive effects due to greater efficiency and relevance. Thus, the European Union, NAFTA, CARICOM, CAFTA and APEC have all proven their usefulness, and I see a similarity between these models of economic integration and the information integration that you all advocate. In the case of the CIS Centres Network, what we are looking at is the sharing of resources in order to develop a large exchange of knowledge and skills in the OSH field, and the creation of an international warning and surveillance system. We need economies of scale in the information area, so that we avoid duplication of effort. It is useless trying to reinvent the wheel.

This does not mean that CIS should abandon its traditional role of collecting, treating and disseminating OSH information. On the contrary, it must continue on this path, it must continue to be a purveyor of information. However, it must also help in the creation of synergies, it must establish and maintain partnerships in order to be able to supply information that is of high quality, that has been validated, that is inexpensive and that can be accessed easily and quickly in various languages and formats. We must produce quality information and we must make it available to users free of charge. CIS has always been able to innovate it was among the first to use computers, and it is my firm belief that it is CIS's capacity for innovation that has enabled it to develop and indeed, to survive.

I will ask you therefore to reflect during the meeting about how best to collaborate at the regional and subregional level. In addition, you can think about how best to reinforce collaboration with organizations such as ISSA, the European Union, WHO, PAHO and ASEAN-OSHNet. You may also consider the best ways to help those countries that are the least well developed in information resources to give themselves the capacity for collecting and diffusing information. Finally, I ask you to use the CIS Centres Network in order to collect information (in particular, statistical data) concerning the informal sector in countries where it occupies an important place in the national economy, as well as to suggest information products adapted to the needs of workers in this sector.

In my opinion your mission goes well beyond the collection and dissemination of information. In truth, you are building bridges of understanding among peoples, and the network of solidarity you establish this way contributes to a significant reduction in the information divide, and thus in a reduction in poverty levels as well.

I said at the first Regional Meeting of European and Mediterranean CIS Centres, held in Geneva last May, that I felt the winds of change coming. I am very pleased that there is a new dynamism, a new spirit of opening and a veritable desire to transform your network into one capable of satisfying the needs of its users.

I thank you for your attention.

ANNEX III
2005 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 IV

LIST OF ACTIVITY REPORTS RECEIVED BY CIS FROM NATIONAL AND COLLABORATING CENTRES for 2004-2005

NC Angola
NC Barbados
NC Colombia
NC France
NC Israel
NC Korea
NC Japan
NC Netherlands
NC Poland
NC Singapore
CC South Africa