

The 49th Annual Meeting of CIS Centres

Fener Hall, Haliç Congress Centre

Istanbul, Turkey

11 September 2011

1. Dr Igor Fedotov, Occupational and Environmental Health Coordinator for the ILO SafeWork Programme, welcomed the participants to the meeting on behalf of Mr Seiji Machida, Director of SafeWork (See Annex 1 for list of participants). In his presentation, Dr Fedotov highlighted the main achievements accomplished in the implementation of the CIS and SafeWork activity programmes and thanked the centres for their valuable contributions. He underlined the importance of knowledge management and dissemination of OSH information in the strengthening of national capacities for the prevention of occupational accidents, injuries and diseases. Dr Fedotov informed the participants about the new ILO strategy on information and knowledge management which focuses on global research and publications, country-based policy analysis, and the creation of the information and knowledge management gateway. In the context of this strategy, it was stressed that the CIS Centres network needs to intensify its activities, improve coordination and prioritize actions for producing new products and tools whilst developing those existing. Special emphasis needs to be placed on laws and regulations to improve national OSH legislation, the provision of technical guidance, statistical data and reports on best practises and training tools. Dr Fedotov reviewed the current global challenges in the OSH field. He proceeded to outline the recent ILO OSH Conventions, placing emphasis on Convention 187 in particular, noting the core elements of this Convention, including national

OSH systems and their inclusion of promotion and advocacy, legislation, inspection and knowledge support services. Dr Fedotov asked the participants to reflect during the meeting on how CIS can best serve its network and how the role of the CIS Centres can be redefined. In his conclusion, Dr Fedotov underlined the importance of ensuring easy access to OSH data for all those concerned with workers' safety and health at the global, national and enterprise levels. He additionally highlighted the necessity of supporting the ILO Decent Work Country Programmes through the provision and dissemination of OSH information and knowledge.

2. Mr Roman Litvyakov, Technical Specialist, subsequently called for nominations for the election of a chairperson. Mr Ljupco Kocowski of the CIS Collaborating Centre in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, nominated Ms Boryana Barbukova of the CIS National Centre in Bulgaria, NCPHP to take up this position. The nomination was seconded by Mr Chowdury Repon from the CIS Collaboration Centre in Bangladesh, OSHE. As there were no further nominations, Ms Barbukova was elected by acclamation. Mr Kocowski then proceeded to introduce Ms Barbukova to the participants. Responsible for CIS activities, Chief Expert, OSH Information Specialist and OSH Newsletter Editor, Ms Barbukova graduated from the Bulgaria State University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski". Her first employer was the Bulgarian National Radio, where she worked on programmes for a foreign audience. Since 1989, she has worked for the ILO-CIS unit of the National Centre of Public Health Analysis. Her first tasks involved translating abstracts from English to French, where she later progressed to selecting and reviewing articles for CISDOC. She has been responsible for CIS activities since the year 2000, is editor of the *Bulgarian OSH Newsletter* and author of articles on ILO-CIS and its network, SafeWork, the European Agency of Safety and Health at Work, and OSH information resources. Ms Barbukova is an enthusiastic supporter of the CIS network and has participated in most of the CIS conferences and initiatives.

3. The Meeting proceeded with the adoption of the Agenda (Annex II) followed by the adoption of the 2010 CIS meeting report.
4. Mr Roman Litvyakov began his presentation with a report on CIS activities and accomplishments since the 2010 meeting. He explained where CIS is positioned in the organizational chart of the ILO and the OSH cluster, and provided information on the current situation concerning CIS information resources and products. CIS still disseminates ILO-OSH information in electronic form and demand for this information remains high. The Safework website had 1,065,910 hits between August 2010 and August 2011 (768,962 during the same period in 2009-2010) and over 300,000 unique visitors from 222 countries/territories. The CISDOC database, International Chemical Safety Cards, Hazards Datasheets on Occupations, as well as 41 ILO Codes of Practises are available on the CIS website. Mr Litvyakov introduced the new interface for the CISDOC database which was developed last year. The new interface has improved the performance of the database and offers new developmental opportunities. CIS continues to collaborate with the WHO in the framework of the ICSC project involving over 20 institutions from all over the world. A new ICSC database is being developed. This new database will store the chemical safety cards in different languages all in one place. An internet survey launched by CIS shows that the cards are used by many specialists for training/teaching and research purposes, for the purpose of practical implementation in the workplace, and for the classification/labelling of chemical substances. Mr Litvyakov revealed that CIS have issued a new electronic product – the e-OSH DVD - which was distributed to all World Congress participants. The DVD contains all the ILO information available on OSH (ILO Instruments, Publications, Events information) in English, French and Spanish. Mr Litvyakov informed participants that the new edition of the ILO Encyclopaedia is almost ready for publication. The full new Encyclopaedia is available online and is linked to other OSH information resources (including ILO-OSH resources). The new edition will be available on the internet by the end of 2011 or by the beginning of

2012. A new ILO-CIS Network Google map is available on the CIS website. The map shows the location of all CIS Centres with their contact details.

5. Mr Litvyakov started his second presentation by providing information on the new ILO Programme for 2012-2013 and the ILO plans for information and knowledge management. In accordance with the new ILO Programme and information strategy, activities will focus on the collection of data on basic OSH indicators, providing country-level information together with examples of good practises and the monitoring of national statistics on OSH outcomes. The production of new data and information resources on OSH requires modifying and progressively increasing the scope of existing CIS databases. This will be a major task for CIS over the next biennium. Concepts for the new databases on good practises and OSH legislation were presented.
6. Mr Litvyakov subsequently presented a video of the new online Encyclopaedia and its global portal. The new Encyclopaedia will become the centrepiece of a new website which will connect the ILO's own OSH materials and resources with those from specialized institutions from around the world. At the end of his presentation, Mr Litvyakov introduced a new concept for the CIS information structure and highlighted the role of the CIS centres in the development of CIS information resources and cooperation within the CIS Network. IT developments and new information demands require the CIS Centres' network strategy to be reviewed in order to be able to maximize the impact of the ILO's strategy in the OSH field.
7. Mr Kaelo Roderick Yane from the CIS Centre in Botswana asked if links could be provided to National OSH programmes and profiles. Mr Litvyakov stated that these links will be published on the webpage under the country-related information portal which he is keen to put in place.
8. Concerning the collection of good practises, Dr Abeytunga from the CIS National Centre in Canada, CCOHS, stressed that the collection of good practices may pose a challenge since many practices would need to be translated into the official languages of the ILO.

9. With regards to the Encyclopaedia, Dr Jukka Takala, Director of the EU-OSHA in Bilbao, explained that the European Agency has started work on an OSH-wiki. Its concept is slightly different from that of the ILO; the Agency is working closely with institutions and has selected authors who will produce quality work. He urged the ILO to avoid duplication and encouraged strong collaboration between the ILO and EU-OSHA. Mr Litvyakov explained that a steering committee would be put in place and that EU-OSHA would be involved in the process.
10. Mr Solomon Demissie Yimer from the CIS National Centre in Ethiopia thanked CIS for the vision that had been proposed. He added that CIS has supported many countries in the past, but that its support seems to be downsizing. An OSH policy is being developed in his country and he expressed his wish to share it with the network soon. Mr Litvyakov stated that OSH services should be improved and indicators should to be developed. However, in order for a vision to be implemented, numerous resources and strong organization is required. The network would be reactivated but active collaboration from the CIS Centres is required.
11. Mr Wiking Husberg, Senior OSH specialist, ILO Moscow Office, congratulated Mr Litvyakov for his presentation which he stated was very comprehensive. On the topic of the Encyclopaedia, he stressed the need to have a more balanced publication by including articles from countries from all over the world. He added that providing access to knowledge in the various languages was a responsibility of the Centres themselves.
12. Ms Annick Viro, Coordinator of the CIS Centres Network, gave a presentation on the CIS Centres Network activities since the 2010 Meeting. Three Centres joined the network in 2010: MAPFRE (Spain), the Labour Inspectorate in Belgrade, Serbia, and IRSST (Institut de Recherche Robert-Sauvé en Santé et en Sécurité du Travail), Quebec, Canada. Requests to join the network were received from the following organizations: ALASEHT (Asociación Latinoamericana de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo), Potential Regional Centre for Latin America; Ministry of Health (Brunei Darussalam); Bossons Futé (France);

Kooperationsstelle (Germany); Ministry of Health (Madagascar); Ministry of Labour (Morocco) and INCVT (Institut National des Conditions de Vie au Travail); Inspección del Trabajo (Uruguay). CIS is redefining its strategy to reactivate its network. For this reason, it has decided to put a halt on the acceptance of new Centres. As a result of this, no new Centres joined the network in 2011. Short of time due to the opening of the World Congress at 4pm, Ms Virost summarized her presentation on the 2011 World Day for Safety and Health at Work. She strongly encouraged CIS Centres to get involved in the celebration of the World Day as it is a good way to raise awareness among traditional ILO constituents and the general public about occupational accidents and diseases and their prevention.

13. Finally, Ms Virost presented a short summary of the annual reports sent by CIS Centres. Over 40 Centres have sent their reports which contained a wealth of information on the Centres' activities. The Annual reports will be placed on the web for sharing. Ms Virost reminded participants of the elements to include in the reports, namely: access to an OSH library; publication of a newsletter; requests from clients; production of publications; training activities; website and number of hits; cooperation with tripartite constituents; databases on OSH; participation in the World Day or other awareness raising event; other types of activities. As regards educational and training activities, most Centres offer training programmes, including online webinars, some have mobile training units. On the topic of participation in the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, it was revealed that a number of countries have found interesting solutions. Ethiopia for example, decided to involve multinationals to help the country produce its promotional material, other countries have been seen to distribute awards, translate the ILO material into local languages and organize a vaccination campaign around the World Day. Discussing the topic of other types of activities, some Centres confirmed that they had participated in research activities and the publication of reports (IRSST).
14. A group discussion ensued and the participants broke into four working groups (Appendix 3). The two subjects to be discussed were: The

updating and promotion of the ILO Encyclopaedia-Portal worldwide and the collection and sharing of good practises. Three questions were asked, namely:

- a) What could/should CIS Centres do to promote the ILO Encyclopaedia?
- b) What kind of OSH good practises should be collected and shared?
- c) How can CIS be helped in the collection of information for the global Good Practises database?

15. For question 1, focusing on what CIS Centres could do to promote the Encyclopaedia, the following suggestions were made:

- a) Include information on or about the Encyclopaedia in training material and publications
- b) Establish links from the CIS Centres to the CIS website and the Encyclopaedia
- c) Use the social media (Facebook and Twitter)
- d) Advertise the flagship publication in the media
- e) Use ILO networks and awareness campaigns such as the World Day to increase visibility
- f) Make parts of the Encyclopaedia available in different languages and place them on relevant websites for sharing (ALI/ALO)
- g) Prepare promotional videos on the model of NAPO for students, young people, and schools
- h) Reproduce chapters and distribute them to targeted audiences
- i) Prepare short descriptions in different languages for websites
- j) Develop e-learning tools in national languages on how to use the Encyclopaedia.

16. For question 2, concerning the kind of OSH good practises which should be collected and shared, the focus group suggested the following:

- a) Information should be collected about national OSH initiatives, interesting case studies, practical information suitable for workers and managers
- b) The messages should be simple and clear and indicate what has been done
- c) Good practises could also be practical messages launched on the World Day and other OSH campaigns, posters, videos and animations
- d) Inclusion of OSH information in educational programs
- e) Good practises for SMEs or from different sectors
- f) Good practises to raise public awareness, good practises improving OSH services
- g) Management initiatives to promote and improve OSH.

17. For question 3 focussing on how CIS can be helped in the collection of information on the global good practise database, suggestions were as follows:

- a) Centres should undertake inspections and collect good practises on an annual basis
- b) Centres should assess good practises and decide if they are relevant
- c) Centres should discuss good practises in international fora and assess their relevance
- d) Centres should send information electronically on a regular basis (6 months)
- e) Reports should also be made on what has not worked
- f) CIS Centres should translate good practises into an ILO language
- g) The CIS should develop a template to guide CIS Centres on the collection of good practises.

18. Following this, a general discussion on current issues and future trends affecting the CIS Centres network took place. Mr Demissie Yimer insisted on the need to organize training on how to collect, analyse and disseminate data. Mr Roman Litvyakov reminded all participants that he had the opportunity to attend a meeting back in 1997 in Helsinki which was very interesting and informative. He also reminded that Ms Sheila Pantry had placed the 3rd revised edition (June 2011) of the *Guidelines for the establishment of CIS health and safety information Centres and other information Centres* on her website at www.sheilapantry.com/cis/. These Guidelines will also be made available on the CIS website. Ms Barbara Szczepnowska from Poland, CIOP, attended a training course in Finland which was also very informative, adding that a training workshop used to be organized alongside the CIS Centres Meetings. Mr Roman Litvyakov stated that training was also the role of the regional Centres.
19. Mr K. Chivunda from the National CIS Centre in Zambia stated that Centres needed to be helped to collect statistical information, the challenge remaining to produce statistical data that is complete and accurate. Mr Roman Litvyakov highlighted that a difference needs to be made between statistical data and estimates. So far the ILO, together with the University of Tampere have produced estimates.
20. Ms Barbara Szczepanowska encouraged CIS Centres to prepare abstracts in English for inclusion in the CISDOC database. This is a good way to promote national publications at the international level. Mr Litvyakov insisted that very few Centres were ready to contribute abstracts, noting that abstracting required extensive training. He added that revised guidelines were being prepared.
21. Mr Yves Yeboue Kouame from the CIS National Centre in the Ivory Coast explained that it might be useful to publish a directory of authors of articles included in CISDOC database. Mr Kouame added that he had received a number of requests from students writing theses who needed this type of information. He also suggested that articles from *Les Archives*

des Maladies professionnelles could be included for example. Ms Virost replied that this publication was already abstracted in CISDOC.

22. Ms Lia Tamazashvili stressed the acute need for new CIS Centres training, adding that OSH good practises should be sectoral or enterprise-based. Mr Litvyakov took note of the suggestion.
23. Dr Fared Zakaria (Observer, Higher Institute for Public Health, Egypt) suggested that it would be beneficial to all countries if questionnaires could be prepared on a regional level.
24. Mr Chivunda reported on the challenge posed by the celebration of two events around the same date: The World Day on Safety and Health at Work on 28 April and Labour Day on 1 May. One suggestion was to try and merge the two celebrations.
25. Following this, Mr Husberg congratulated Mr Litvyakov for an excellent meeting. A number of new ideas had been put forward, including on the use of new technologies. He urged CIS Centres to work together in close collaboration and not to expect CIS in Geneva to do all the work. The network should be a collaborative effort from all parties. He suggested that in his region a regional Centre could be set up for Russian speaking countries. He also considered that a core group of key CIS Centres should be set up to boost the network. Mr Husberg proceeded to add that the old "twinning" arrangements should be used again. He recommended that online meetings be organized where people can log in and have a discussion. Mr Husberg affirmed that OSH had become very important in his region. For the World Day, he suggested that the preparations be started well in advance in order for a coherent programme to be drawn up.
26. In conclusion, Mr Litvyakov reaffirmed the central role that CIS in Geneva plays as a global leader in knowledge management and sharing, and stated that the communication strategy between CIS and its Centres is currently being revised. The XXI Century is the century of communication and CIS thus has a bright future.
27. The chairperson concluded the meeting. Ms Barbukova was happy with the number of CIS Centres which attended the meeting (41) and with the

number of participants (63 participants plus ILO staff). She was also pleased with the amount of shared information and exchange that had taken place and the level of interaction and discussion between the participants. Networking was an important aspect of these meetings, in addition to gathering information on developments of CIS at the ILO Headquarters in Geneva.

28. Ms Barbukova proceeded to ask Mr Litvyakov to kindly close the meeting.

29. The meeting was adjourned at 3.30pm.