

Test and Evaluation of Humanitarian Demining Equipment and Methods

Robert Stuart
Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies

Technology is Required to Support the Mine Ban Convention

- States Parties must:
 - Delineate and mark mined areas,
 - Remove mines from their territories,
 - Destroy stockpiles,
 - Provide victim assistance,
 - Etc.
- These function are technical. Currently available techniques are inadequate to ensure compliance with the articles of the Treaty.

Technology Integration

General Procedure

- Definition of the requirement
- *Research and development (R&D)*
 - *Proof of concept*
 - *Exploratory development model*
 - *Advanced development model*
 - *Engineering development model*
- *Acceptance testing*
- Production and marketing

Research and Development

- Process of innovation
- May be undertaken by:
 - Operators in the field
 - Industrial concerns
 - Government laboratories
 - et cetera

Requirements

- Users must establish requirements
 - Capability deficiencies
 - Safety requirements
 - Supportability and sustainability
 - Cost and availability
 - Operability and interoperability

International Test & Evaluation Program (ITEP)

Aim:

To provide for independent, scientifically robust and unbiased T&E of equipments and methods introduced for use in demining operations

- International players
BE CA EC NL SE UK US
- Recognised competence in T&E
- Accredited facilities and methodology

ITEP

- Develops test methodology
- Maintains, develops and documents facilities
- Maintains and develops standards
- Performs T&E on:
 - Existing equipments
 - Systems under development
 - Promising technologies, processes, etc.
- Keeps records and provides information

Communication

- ITEP must be in communication with all the stakeholders, including:
 - Equipment manufacturers
 - User community (MACs, NGOs and demining contractors)
 - Donors and investors
 - Research organisations *and*
 - *The whole mine action community.*

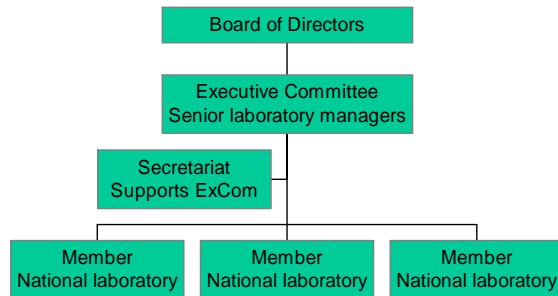
Where are we now?

- MoU signed July 2000
- Secretariat put in place Oct 2000
- Adoption of lessons learned, for example:
 - National T&E activities for inclusion in ITEP standards,
 - Metal detector “pilot project”,

Where are we now?

- Inventory of T&E capabilities in the Balkan states (a “pilot project” for a global inventory),
- Proposed project to establish a regional T&E capability in Southeast Europe with eventual associate ITEP membership for the region,
- EC and EU member states to collaborate with CEN to establish standards.

ITEP - Structure



Current situation

- Market is small and specialised
- Technical players are independent, uncoordinated
- Information from the field often does not get back to developers
- Donors are not the users, therefore market feedback is not efficient
- Contracts are small, funding is difficult to concentrate