Test and Evaluation of Humanitarian Demining Equipment and Methods

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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