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**FOR INFORMATION**

## SEVENTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Director-General****Supplementary Report: Activities of the  
International Occupational Safety and  
Health Information Centre (CIS)  
in 2006–07****Objectives**

1. The strategic objective of the Social Protection Sector in 2006–07 was to enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all. The CIS's role in furthering this was to participate in the execution of operational objective 3(b) (Effective labour protection): "ILO constituents develop and implement labour protection policies and programmes at national and enterprise levels in both the formal and informal economy", in particular, through information-sharing activities.
2. The CIS is an important component of the ILO's knowledge base, continuously monitoring world literature on occupational safety and health through its contacts with publishers and with more than 140 focal points at the national or regional level (CIS national, collaborating and regional centres). Summaries and citations of the most useful publications, as well as products based on the collected information, are disseminated electronically and in print. The Internet has become the primary medium through which the CIS distributes its information, and it is the intention of the CIS to maintain its site as the most important portal for safety and health information in the world. In addition, the network of CIS centres contributes to the exchange of information among professionals and other ILO constituents responsible for the establishment and implementation of national policies and programmes.

**Achievements**

3. Continuing a favourable trend, the CIS exceeded its forecast extra-budgetary income for 2006–07 considerably (see paragraph 18). Part of the reason for this favourable development is that the CIS charges for its priced products in Swiss francs, and the Swiss franc appreciated against the US dollar significantly during the biennium.
4. Updating of the CISDOC bibliographic and the CIS thesaurus databases (70,000 and 15,000 records, respectively) was successfully maintained on the new Oracle database

management system. The rate of growth in CISDOC continued to be 1,500 new records per year. These new records were published in the CIS Virtual Bulletin, available on the Internet, at the rate of six new issues per year.

5. The CISDOC database is now partially trilingual. About 21,000 (up by 6,000 since the last biennium) records have been translated into Spanish, thanks to the cooperation of the Spanish National Centre.
6. There was further development of the **SafeWork Bookshelf** project. The Bookshelf CD-ROMs contain the full text of the *Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety*, as well as of the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) and a large number of ILO normative and guidance documents covering occupational safety and health matters. Its French-language version was published during the biennium (with 1,000 copies produced), while an updated English-language version was produced with 2,000 copies. Both versions are also available on the CIS web site.
7. The web site continued to have new types of information added to it. In particular, there is a new page devoted to links to occupational exposure limits around the world, and two other (interactively produced) pages devoted to occupational safety and health institutions and news in various countries, respectively.
8. Two new centres were added to the CIS network, and two others were revived after long periods of inactivity. The procedure for becoming a new member of the CIS network was started for six other centres.
9. General meetings of the CIS centres were convened in Geneva (14–15 September 2006) and Düsseldorf (19–20 September 2007), the latter jointly organized with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and the CIS National Centre for Germany, the Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin (BAuA).
10. The tradition of CIS regional meetings, started during the preceding biennium, was continued by meetings covering CIS centres in Latin America (held in Buenos Aires, 25 April 2006) and in the Arab States (Damascus, 21–22 November 2007).
11. Work on a new, all-electronic, edition of the ILO *Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety* started during the biennium. Chapters and articles for this new edition will be rewritten following a step-by-step process, concentrating at first on subjects selected on a high-priority basis.
12. A monthly newsletter for centres continued to be compiled and disseminated in electronic form, including through the CIS web site, by a volunteer editor in the United Kingdom. There were altogether 24 issues of this newsletter during the biennium.
13. The number of ICSCs made available to the world on the web site continued to increase. The ICSC collection in some 20 languages, with pages in both HTML and PDF format, remains one of the most frequently visited areas of the site and similar national sites. CIS staff participated in the four regularly scheduled meetings for review of the ICSCs that took place during this period, in Lodz (Poland), Ravenna (Italy), Munich (Germany) and Lyon (France). The CIS is also actively engaged in developing the project's computer infrastructure.
14. The number of successful requests for CIS web pages, with the ICSCs in the lead, varied between 970,000 and 1,435,000 per month, which corresponds to between 3.6 and 4.8 per cent of the total number of successful requests for pages on the ILO web site as a whole.

15. The CIS continues to cooperate with other international and regional safety and health institutions. CIS staff contributed to the preparations for the XVIIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work (organized jointly with the International Social Security Association and the Korean Occupational Safety and Health Agency), to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 29 June to 2 July 2008. The CIS also actively participates in the planning of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, held on 28 April every year.
16. The CIS continued its collaboration with other units in the Office to bring the Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development (WIND) method to the agricultural sector in a number of developing countries, in particular in French-speaking Africa.

## Shortcomings

17. The CIS web site remained incompletely trilingual. While parity in some areas (e.g. the ICSCs and the *Encyclopaedia*) can be maintained by referring visitors to other sites, a number of popular items (e.g. hazard datasheets on occupations) exist only in English, and others (e.g. chemical safety training modules) have been translated into Spanish and French but not yet made available for lack of staff resources.

## Financial situation

18. The preliminary financial results for the CIS's operations during the biennium show income of US\$3,232,625 comprising ILO regular budget contribution of US\$2,882,360, royalties of US\$127,358 and sales of US\$222,907. Expenditure totalled US\$2,998,797 leaving a carry forward for 2008–09 of US\$233,828. These numbers may change slightly as final adjustments are made in closing the 2006–07 financial period.
19. There were no changes in CIS staff numbers during the biennium: the CIS continues to have five P and four G staff. One more G-staff position exists, but has not been filled to date.

## Trends

20. The CIS has acquired a prominent place on the Internet. Its pages are now fully indexed on Google.
21. The number of CIS pages accessed per month has settled into the 1–1.2 million hits per month bracket. Given the range of information products available, increasing the number of "hits" is more a question of more and better publicity than an increase in the number of products.

Geneva, 26 February 2008.

*Submitted for information.*