

• T • R • U • S • T •

Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance

December 2002, No. 10 • Republic of Slovenia

9th Session Of The ITF Board Of Advisors

On October 22, 2002 the 9th session of the ITF Board of Advisors (BoA) was held at the Training Center for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, Ig. The session was chaired by Mr. Julian Bedingfield, the UK representative on the BoA, and Mr. Shigeharu Maruyama, the representative of Japan. The meeting was attended by representatives of 16 donor countries and the European Union.

The main items on the agenda were the presentation of the Intermediate Report on ITF activities for the period January – October 2002, and the follow-up on different subjects discussed at the previous BoA meeting i.e. Presentation of the Situation in the Field of Demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Extension of ITF Activities Outside the Region of SEE. The BoA members were also briefed on the activities of the South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) and regional projects implemented within this framework.

The address at the BoA session was given by Samuel Žbogar, State Secretary at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. State Secretary also asked for the minute of silence



for the tragically killed Stjepan Haban, who had received fatal injuries during a training course at Ig on October 18, 2002.

The ITF BoA received the ITF Intermediate

Report and adopted the decision that all Mine Action Centers from the SEE region should present their annual plans for 2003 at the next ITF BoA meeting, which has been scheduled for March 2003.

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ITF Scholarships For 6 Students From The SEE Region

The scholarship contracts for 6 students from the region of SEE (Blažo Panov – Macedonia; Elisah Jashanica – Kosovo, FRY; Marsel Pušić – BiH; Zinet Bišćević – BiH; Mario Končić



–Croatia; and Nina Pantić – BiH), that will be funded by the French donation and US matching funds, were signed on October 16, 2002. The students, who will attend a three-year study course for Orthopedic Technicians at the University College for Health Studies in Ljubljana, are to return to their countries after the successful completion of their studies.

Battle Area Clearance/Demining/ Quality Control Training for Yugoslav Experts

ITF started the Train and Equip program for FR Yugoslavia. On October 14, 2002 the BAC/Demining/Quality Control Training got underway for the first group of 14 participants. The training finished on November 4, 2002 and was immediately followed by the second



group of another 14 participants. The training is conducted by NGO Stop Mines in Adaševci, FRY, and funded by the European Union. The experts will be trained in demining, battle area clearance, explosive ordnance disposal, and quality control of BAC and demining works. The experts will also be outfitted with necessary demining equipment from the US and EU donation.

Azerbaijan Mine Action Program:

A JOINT INITIATIVE OF THE UNDP
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF AZERBAIJAN

(presented by the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Actions, ANAMA, SEEMACC member since February 2002)

The key aspect of the mine problem in Azerbaijan is the fact that the territorial conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia for Nagorny Karabakh is not finished – only ceasefire has been signed. At that, Nagorny Karabakh and 7 adjoining regions still remain occupied by Armenian troops. Negotiations mediated by OSCE Minsk Group are still in progress. Both parts have expressed their readiness for peace settlement and the world has been closely monitoring the observance of armistice regulations by both parties as well as making a great deal of effort to achieve stability in this region of the world.

Mine Action in Azerbaijan consists of two parts: 1. Providing mine safety on accessible territories, and 2. The readiness to solve this problem on the occupied territories after their liberation. As safety of innocent civilians and safe reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected territories for civil purposes are at stake, a national body should be established for the purposes of implementation of Mine Action activities, in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards.

Presently, a landmine socio-economic impact survey is underway in Azerbaijan, which will enable the development of a specific strategic outline for ensuring mine safety and eliminating the threat of UXOs to people's lives and health, and to remove obstacles to the realization of aid- and development plans.

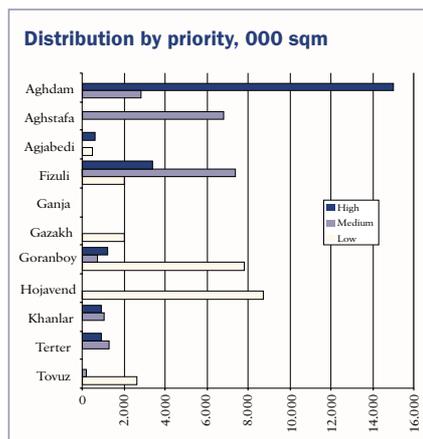
Scope of the landmine/UXO problem in Azerbaijan

It is not possible, at this stage, to measure the extent of the mine and UXO problem in the areas occupied by Armenian forces. Apart from Nagorno Karabakh, the adjoining districts of Jabrayil, Zangilan, Gubadly, Lachin, Kelbajar and partly Fizuli and Aghdam are also controlled by Armenia and have presumably been contaminated with mines and UXOs.

Landmine contamination represents a serious obstruction to the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of the Government and international agencies on the accessible war-torn areas. In the Fizuli district alone somewhere around 145 mine and UXO related accidents have been recorded since the signing of ceasefire. Similarly, normal living conditions in Aghdam, Terter, Goranboy and

other war-torn areas are seriously hampered by mines and UXOs. Safety is IDP's greatest concern when it comes to repatriation and resumption of normal social and economic life in the affected regions.

In the absence of results of a comprehensive landmine socio-economic impact survey that started in Azerbaijan in September 2002, ANAMA has been using existing information from a variety of sources, including the General Survey to draw a comparatively realistic picture of the scope of the mine/UXO problem and to establish the extent of its impact on the communities in the liberated areas. The General Survey results have confirmed mine and UXO contamination of 11 accessible districts (see Chart below).



There is justified necessity in building a national Mine Action capacity to be able to respond to emergency situations in a timely manner. Many valuable lives and resources will be lost if this capacity is not in place and ready for immediate action when a peace agreement is finally signed.

Despite the absence of a peace agreement, the rehabilitation of liberated areas has already begun, and Mine Action programs are currently a priority. Accordingly, it was necessary to establish a national agency in charge of the management and coordination of Mine Action processes in order to ensure that the liberated territories are made safe for the return of displaced population. Therefore, the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Actions (ANAMA) was created by the Presidential Decree on July 18, 1998 as the Government agency for priority setting, planning, co-ordination, execution and management of all landmine/UXO related activities in Azerbaijan.

Institutional Arrangements and Implementation Methodology

The objectives of ANAMA are as follows:

- Development of the national Mine Action management, planning and coordination capacity.
- Development of the national mine clearance, survey and information management capacity.
- Development of the national Mine Risk Education capacity.
- Development of the national Mine Action training capacity.
- Development of the national Quality Assurance capacity.
- Coordination of resource mobilization and becoming the focal point for donors and other organizations for all Mine Action related activities.
- Development of the administrative, procurement and logistic capacity.

Achievements to date

Operations

Survey: Currently, there is a limited Technical Survey capacity in place consisting of only one Team including a Team Leader and four Surveyors. Technical surveys are usually carried out with the support of two Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs). Technical Survey procedures have been revised and updated in accordance with the IMAS requirements.

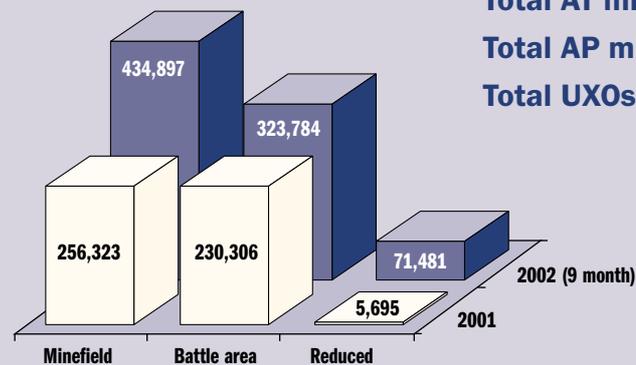
Mine Clearance: ANAMA has developed the capacity of two 38-man manual clearance teams all of whom were trained by US EUCOM instructors in July and August of 2002. In addition to that, EUCOM instructors also trained two 5-men UXO clearance teams.

There is a need to expand administrative and logistic support to existing operations currently underway in the northwest regions of Azerbaijan.

In particular, mine clearing requested by the Government in Ashaghy Aghjakend village of the Goranboy district should be mentioned. The operations have been performed in support of construction works facilitating the settlement of Azeri refugees from Armenia.

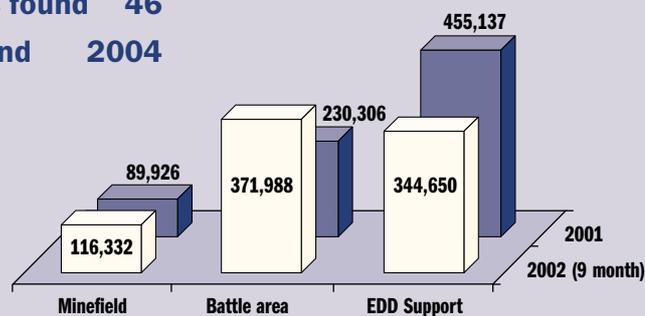
The national NGO IEPF, funded by the Japanese Government in line with the Grass-Roots Projects, performed mine clearance on the area upon the request of the local com-

Technical Survey Progress, in sqm



Total AT mines found 43
Total AP mines found 46
Total UXOs found 2004

Clearance Progress



munity of the Gushgara village, Khanlar district, involving a team of 10 deminers trained by ANAMA MTT. The IEPF clearance team started in early July after the completion of Technical Survey by Dayaq (Relief Azerbaijan). Now this task has been completed with the support of 3 ANAMA MDD teams and the area will soon be handed back to the population.

In December 2002 IFRC, which has been fairly involved in the projects of reconstruction and rehabilitation of war affected areas, asked ANAMA to ensure mine/UXO safety of the area involving 140 houses to be reclaimed in the Alkhanly village, Fizuli district. Now the houses and associated areas have been checked and cleared of mines and UXOs, and made safe for living and working.

In the context of Humpty Dumpty Institute's (USA) initiative Mines to Wines, former vineries and wine factories visited the Fizuli district to facilitate fundraising for the project of demining of vineries and wine factories and their recovery in Azerbaijan. The fundraising process has already been launched.

ANAMA has been receiving more and more requests from the Government and local communities as well as aid- and relief organizations for ensuring mine/UXO safety. Taken together with the facts stated above this means that there is a substantial need for further capacity building in Technical Survey, manual demining, UXO disposal and MDD support.

MDD support: Use of well-trained mine detecting dogs (MDDs) and handlers is one of the most important elements in Mine Action operations. In September 2001 the US Department of State provided six MDDs to support manual clearance operations. This program was implemented by RONCO. The initial plan involved six MDDs with Bosnian handlers, a Bosnian supervisor and an American MDD trainer. This was later

expanded. Currently, there is a capacity of 10 trained national MDDs and handlers in place. As MDD support allows rapid reduction and clearance of mine contaminated areas and effective Quality Assurance of cleared areas, it is planned to expand this capacity by training 4 more MDDs and handlers.

Monitoring, Training and Quality Assurance: The Team established in September 2001 as a pilot project has become a real asset in the short period of time, performing necessary monitoring and training activities. During the EUCOM conducted training the Team acquired additional knowledge and skills, in particular in explosive ordnance disposal that will enable further training and monitoring under the expanded program. Presently, national instructors are capable of training Mine Action specialists with broad knowledge - supervisors, surveyors, deminers and EOD specialists.

ANAMA: strategy and approach

The focus of the Azerbaijan Mine Action Program - a joint project of the UNDP and the Government of Azerbaijan - has been to develop the program so as to ensure mine/UXO safety in currently accessible war-torn territories and the capability to rapidly expand and cope with the mine problem on presently occupied areas after their liberation.

The Mine Action framework in Azerbaijan is based on two approaches. The first approach is the building of national capacity or nationalization. The aim is to establish and develop national entities to assume Mine Action responsibilities so as to minimize the country's reliance on external support. An example is the need to create a national mechanical mine clearance capacity. The second approach is the ability to respond to the priority needs of affected areas or expansion. There is a need, for example, for additional

Mine Action resources in the North-West as well as for an enhancement of the ANAMA Quality Assurance capacity. It is also necessary to establish a second regional Mine Action office in order to enable efficient deployment of resources in the North-West.

However, operational capacity of Mine Action organizations operating under the auspices of ANAMA is still very limited. Training and other capacity building measures are essential features of the proposed framework. With the development of a national training team, the need for international experts has been minimized. Such trainers help train national supervisors, UXO teams, national dog trainers and handlers.

According to the conducted surveys, most mine-contaminated areas are suitable for mine detection dog deployment however there are also many where the use of mechanical equipment would be the most appropriate approach.

In relation to Mine Detection Dog capacity that was established in mid-2002, attention should be paid to its sustainability and further enhancement. MDD and planned use of mechanical clearance assistance tools are the two critical requirements that ought to be in place in the event of a peace settlement so as to ensure that access routes and IDP reception areas can be checked prior to the expected repatriation of exiled population. Given the ANAMA experience in the Fizuli and Goranboy regions, UXO clearance and EOD response capability is crucial. Another critical requirement for the project to be successful is to enable ANAMA to carry out the external monitoring and Quality Assurance of Mine Action agencies operating in Azerbaijan. Once the abovementioned capacities are developed, the program will reach the level of productivity and efficiency proportionate to the needs anticipated in the field. ●

Second »Night of a Thousand



More than 80 people attended the 2nd Night of a Thousand Dinners in Slovenia



The purpose of the dinner was to raise awareness of the landmine problem

The International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) once again held the Night of a Thousand Dinners™ on December 4, 2002. This event was organized all over the world with the purpose of bringing together caring citizens, business leaders, diplomats and celebrities in order to increase the awareness of the landmine

problem as well as to raise funds for the elimination of its consequences. This was already the second Dinner organized by ITF.

This year the Night of a Thousand Dinners™ was held at the Maxim restaurant and was attended by more than 80 people. The Dinner was hosted by H.E. Mr. Ron Halpin, Ambassador of Canada, and H.E. Mr. Paul

Koller, Ambassador of Switzerland. The honorable speakers at the dinner included Dr. Dimitrij Rupel, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr. Daut Gumeni, Ambassador of Albania; and H.E. Mr. Johnny Young, Ambassador of USA. All the speakers stressed the importance of the raising of the awareness of the dangers that landmines present in the world and of their

tragic consequences: preventing the people to live in safety, graze their cattle and farm the land. There are more than 60 countries in the world (1/3 of the UN members) that are contaminated by these hidden killers and 5 countries in the region of SEE are faced with the mine problem. In Albania, there are more than 25.000-30.000 mines buried along the Albanian/Kosovo (FRY) bor-



Dr Dimitrij Rupel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, was the guest speaker at the Dinner



H.E. Mr. Johnny Young appealed to private donors to donate funds for demining programs



The honorary hosts of the dinner were H.E. Mr. Paul Koller, Ambassador of Switzerland and H.E. Mr. Ron Halpin, Ambassador of Canada



The exhibition of photographs of demining activities and mine victims in Albania also took place alongside the dinner, with photographs took and donated to the ITF by Arne Hodalič

Dinners«™ Held in Slovenia

der that prevent the local population to use their land and move freely. More than 210 mine victims were injured or killed because of these weapons. The mine problem in Albania was made even more tangible with the pictures of Arne Hodalic that were exhibited at the dinner, on which an All-female-demining team working in Albania was presented.

With the voluntary contributions of the Dinner participants more than SIT 2 million were raised. The funds raised at the dinner have been earmarked for the rehabilitation of Fllanxa Murra, a 13-year old girl from Albania. Fllanxa is a mine victim and has lost both of her legs as well as receiving a wound to her hand. The rehabilitation will be carried out at the Institute for Rehabilitation of the Republic of Slovenia and will enable her

to increase her mobility and help her adjust so she can live her life as normally as possible.

The biggest donors included Goodyear-Sava Tires, SAZAS (the Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers of Slovenia), VinaKoper, Vinag Maribor and ITF. Once again it was demonstrated that every contribution, however small, can make a difference. And this difference will be made to Fllanxa, helping to restore her joy for living.

The International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance would like to take this opportunity to once again thank everybody at the Dinner for their contributions and caring, which will help to at least mitigate the tragic consequences of landmines.

THANK YOU!

FUNDS RAISED IN THE 2001 EVENT CLEARED THE ČISTA VELIKA - GAJIČ SITE

The first Dinner held in Slovenia took place on November 30, 2001 and was jointly organized by ITF, Rotary Club Maribor Grad and Lions Club Istra Ankaran under the sponsorship of Adopt-a-Minefield®. It was also supported by the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia and Embassies of the United States and Canada. A special letter of welcome was sent by the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Milan Kučan.

The proceeds of the 2001 Dinner raised by Dinner tickets and voluntary contributions exceeded 2 million Slovenian tolar and were spent on the demining of a minefield in the Čista Velika - vilage in Croatia. The Dinner was held at the Maxim restaurant in Ljubljana and attended by more than 70 people - the representatives of diplomatic corps in Slovenia, prominent representatives of Slovenian economy, artists and members of various organizations and associations.

The Čista Velika - Gajič village is situated in the south-western part of the Croatian community of Vodice. The area is mostly flat and predominantly used for pasture. The first and undoubtedly the most obvious result of the funds raised was the demining of 10,000 square meters of the land surrounding the village. The villagers mostly depend on land for their food and livelihood. Due to mine contamination, farmers and peasants could not cultivate their land safely, and livestock feeding off the land were frequent victims of mines, which resulted in grave economic losses to the owners. That is why the demining of the Čista Velika - Gajič has made such a big difference in those people's lives. They can now start returning to their land without any harboring any doubts in relation to it being safe. Every meter cleared means one meter less that can be a threat to children playing or to farmers working on their land.



Dr Dimitrij Rupel, H.E. Mr. Paul Koller and H.E. Mr. Johnny Young. All guest speakers stressed the importance of raising the awareness of the landmine problem in the world: more than 60 countries are infested with these "hidden killers"



Zoran Predin and Gianni Rijavec provided musical entertainment for the evening



Demining of the Čista Velika-Gajič area

Donation Of 5 Ambulance Vehicles And Start Of Work Of Macedonian Battle Area Clearance/Demining Teams

On September 30, 2002 Macedonian BAC/Demining Teams officially started BAC in Macedonia. The teams had completed the ITF "Train and Equip" training program sponsored by the US Department of State and European Agency for Reconstruction. Currently there are three 8-man teams working in the Kumanovo region, fully outfitted with protective personal equipment and mine detectors

(donated by the US Department of State) and five ambulance vehicles (donated by EAR, Skopje). Two more teams will be joining them

shortly. So far ITF has secured sufficient funding for the work of the Macedonian teams to continue until May/June 2003.



MEMORANDUM SIGNED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINE DETECTION DOG CENTER IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR THE REGION OF SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

On 22 October, the Memorandum of Understanding between Bosnia and Herzegovina – Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communication, US Department of State – Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs and ITF, was signed on the establishment of the Mine Detection Dog Center for the Region of SEE. The Center will be based in Konjic. All the information and plans for the Center can be obtained at www.see-demining.org under Regional projects – MDD Center.

BAC/Demining results of Macedonian BAC teams:

Task	Area	Sq.m cleared	No. mines	No. UXO
ITF-MKT-16/02	Opaje - Slupčane	65,848	2	10
ITF-MKT-17/02	Gurubnica	70,270	0	5
ITF-MKT-18/02	Vaksince - Slupčane	73,895	0	19
Total		210,013	2	34

Conference "Ending the Tragedy of Landmines through Innovation and Cooperation" in Seattle, USA

On 30 September and 1 October 2002 the conference on private-public partnership was held in Seattle sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and hosted by James Madison University. The purpose of the conference was to educate Rotarians from around the world on latest information and best practices regarding landmine eradication, technology, mine

risk education and survivors assistance. The Secretary of State Collin L. Powell made videotaped remarks at the conference.

The conference was important especially as it identified the preparedness of Rotary clubs around the world to help alleviate the mine problem.

IN MEMORIAM

Bojan Ušeničnik 1942-2002

On August 12, 2002 Bojan Ušeničnik, member of the ITF Managing Board lost his battle with a terminal illness. Mr. Ušeničnik was the representative of the Ministry of Defense on the ITF Managing Board from the very inception of ITF. His valuable guidance and contribution to ITF's work will be remembered always.

Ignac Golob 1931-2002

On November 12, 2002 Ignac Golob, member of the ITF Managing Board died. Mr. Golob, State Secretary at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the ITF Managing Board from 1999. His rich diplomatic experience proved invaluable for our success.

SLOVENIA BECAME THE MEMBER OF THE MINE ACTION SUPPORT GROUP

On September 20, 2002 Slovenia became the member of the Mine Action Support Group. The reason for it was as ITF is administering funds for the region of SEE for more than 24 donor countries and more than 30 organizations and companies. Slovenia contributed more than 2,5 million US dollars to Mine Action programs in the period from 1998-2002.

7th Meeting Of South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council

The seventh meeting of the SE Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) was hosted by the Regional Center for Underwater Demining (RCUD) in Bijela, Montenegro (FRY) on September 24, 2002.

The meeting was attended by all SEEMACC members: Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE), Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center (BH MAC), Croatian Mine Action Center (CROMAC) Yugoslavian Mine Action Center (YUMAC), Regional Center for Underwater Demining (RCUD), Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA), and ITF.

The meeting was a continuation of the previous meeting held in Sisak, Croatia. The following items were discussed:

- Presentation of the Technical Survey conducted on the Croatian-Yugoslavian border area.
- Progress report on the implementation of the MDD School project.
- Presentation of the Underwater EOD Training for the region of SE Europe carried out at the Regional Center for Underwater Demining (RCUD).
- Presentation of the conclusions of the GPS Campaign for AMAE that took place in Albania from June 23 to 29, 2002.
- Presentation of Multicriteria Analysis.
- Presentation of the maXML pilot project.
- Briefing on the UNDP/Cranfield Middle Management Course for SE Europe.
- SEEMACC newsletter.

The minutes of the meeting have been made available at the SEEMACC website at

The SEEMACC newsletter funding proposal:

	Unit	Number of units	Unit Cost	Total costs
Editing	Page	35	\$23,00	\$805,00
Language editing/Translation		35	\$35,00	\$1.225,00
Preparation for print	Page	35	\$15,00	\$525,00
Print	Copy	850	\$4,50	\$3.825,00
Total costs				\$6.380,00

Please contact ITF if you require any additional information.

www.see-demining.org under "Meetings". The summary of the conclusions is as follows:

- The Technical Survey on the Croatian-Yugoslavian border area was successfully completed. The mine suspected area is 10 square kilometers. The projects for the demining of the area shall be developed. The demining will be carried out by mutual international tender.
- Borci-Konjic in Bosnia and Herzegovina was agreed as the new location for the MDD School project.
- The first Underwater EOD Training for diving experts from the region of SE Europe was held from September 16 to October 2, 2002.
- All SEEMACC members shall consider the use of Multicriteria Analysis in their work.
- All SEEMACC members will support the maXML project, which will reduce the cost, time and resources required to exchange data. ITF will forward the agreement for the implementation of the maXML project to the SEEMACC members.
- The Middle Management Course for the region of SE Europe for 20 participants

will be held from December 9 until December 20, 2002 and from January 20 to February 7, 2003. All SEEMACC members shall reconsider their respective lists of candidates for the five-week Course.

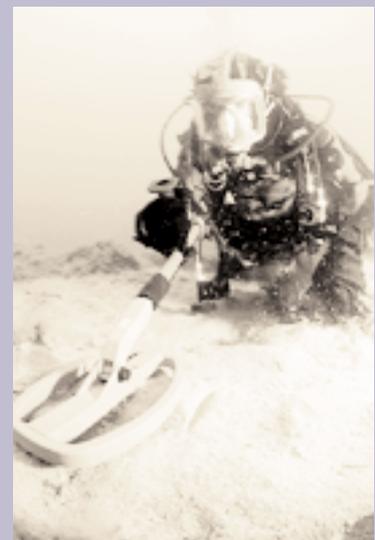
- The proposal of appointing Mr. Damir Goršeta as SEEMACC Advisor & Coordinator was unanimously accepted.

A presentation of the SEEMACC newsletter project was given at the meeting of the ITF Board of Advisors held at Ig on October 22, 2002. It was proposed that the newsletter be published twice a year. The first issue features a presentation of the SEEMACC MACs; it has already been published on the SEEMACC web page. The second issue will present the plans for the year 2003. Under the proposed plan each issue of the newsletter will be funded by a separate donor that will also be able to contribute 2-4 pages about its Mine Action programs in SEE. The newsletter will be distributed throughout the donor community - mainly to provide progress report information in relation to Mine Action in mine affected countries. The funding proposal is in the table above.



First underwater EOD Training

Underwater EOD Training was held for the first time at the Training Center for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief at Ig, Slovenia from September 16 to September 22, 2002, and at the Regional Center for Underwater Demining in Bijela, Montenegro (FRY) from September 23 to October 2, 2002. The training was attended by 12 diving experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and FR Yugoslavia.



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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA: Parliamentary democracy	CURRENCY: Slovenian Tolar/SIT
AREA: 20,273 sq. km	227 SIT = 1 USD (December 2002)
POPULATION: 1,978,334	CAPITAL CITY: Ljubljana,
GDP PER CAPITA IN 2000: 12,000 USD	pop.: 330,000



- ITF HEADQUARTERS
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WE WISH YOU ALL
THE BEST IN 2003

FIRST 100 MILLION US DOLLARS RAISED BY THE ITF ON 30 SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

On September 30, 2002 ITF reached the 100 million dollars milestone in terms of funds raised. From a modest start in 1998 when merely USD 2.9 million were collected, ITF succeeded in raising approximately 20 – 25 million dollars in every year that followed. By November 25, 2002 ITF has thus raised more than USD 102 million in total. We would like to thank our donors once again for supporting ITF's work.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
Donations in mio USD	1.45	10.7	12.7	10.4	14.17	49.42
1st US match	1.45	10.7	12.7	3.15	-	28
2nd US match	-	-	-	-	14	14
Unilateral donations in mio USD	0	0.5	4	4.5	1.7	10.7
Total in mio USD	2.9	21.9	29.4	18.05	29.87	102.12



TRUST

Editor-in-chief: Tomaž Ritlop

Editorial board: Goran Gačnik, Suzana Mihelin,

Mateja Toplak, Eva Vebler

Production: SPEM Communication Group

Photo: ITF archive, Arne Hodalič, Diego Andres Gómez

Language consultant: ASTERIX, d.o.o.

AD&D: ALDA studio

Print: PRINT

Number of copies printed: 1500

Po mnenju Ministrstva za kulturo št. 415-763/99 z dne 18. 6. 1999 je bilten "Trust" tiskovina, od katere se plačuje davek od prometa proizvodov in storitev na osnovi 13. točke tarifnega sistema številka 3.