



The Deminer Post

Foreword Foreword

▪ Siraj Barzani *

Foreign Embassies in Iraq are gradually opening their consulates in Erbil and with the arrival of an increasing number of consular officials the level of direct bilateral cooperation between the Kurdistan Regional Government and other States is stepping up. Kurdistan Regional Government ministries are increasingly engaged in different cooperation programs with other nations in a variety of areas including those covering specific KRG training needs.

International cooperation and assistance in Mine Action is one of the important pillars of the Mine Ban Convention as well and this subject has been given a high level of importance as highlighted in article six of the convention. Training and qualification needs of a Mine Action Center is indeed best achieved through international cooperation where specific training needs can be met by a number of training and research organizations around the world. Some of the mine action training and educational opportunities are actually available free of charge. To maintain high qualification standards and increase competence and skills of IKMAA staff, we are actively pursuing bilateral and UN led cooperation programs with States that are in a position to offer different mine action training possibilities and KRG is increasing willing to fund such programs. In our case, the transition from a UN led program to an entirely indigenous program has already been fully achieved but the institution building process requires enduring investment in human resources.

* Head of IKMAA

Celebration of the Summer School Project



▪ Ako Aziz Hamad *

On August 9th, IKMAA MRE Directorate organized two different events for the children who attended the Erbil and Dohuk summer school projects in Choman and Sarsang Districts. A number of local officials and the families of the participating children in addition to the inhabitants of both areas attended in the graduation ceremony. The ceremony included an exhibition of the pictures and materials that were drawn and made by the children reflecting the extent of their benefit from the project.

The other part of the ceremony consisted of a party in which the children displayed different activities of singing songs, reading poems, acting, role playing, and dancing. All the attend-

ees and especially the families of the talented children were pleasantly surprised when they saw their children performing such activities on the stage and in front of hundreds of audience in a professional manner. The advantages of the summer school project indeed go beyond the mere distribution of MRE messages and materials. It is worth mentioning that for the first time, IKMAA used a live TV broadcasting system thanks to which the local villages surrounding the school could directly view the proceedings of the summer school and the final ceremony as a way of conveying MRE messages and lessons to the family members.

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High level GICHD delegation visits IKMAA

Public relations

A high level GICHD delegation comprising Ambassador Stephan HUSY, Director of GICHD and Mr. Pehr LODHAMMAR Project Officer, Mechanical Study, visited the IKMAA Head Quarters in Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq on Tuesday August 17 and met with Mr. Siraj Barzani, Head of IKMAA. The delegation was accompanied by Mr. Soran Hamawandy, Mine Action Technical Advisor, UNDP-IRAQ. During the meeting, the delegation was briefed on the mine action situation in the Kurdistan Region and different cooperation possibilities between IKMAA and GICHD were discussed.

Later on the same day, the delegation conducted a visit to IKMAA's main operations base in Rawanduz District. Different departments of the base were visited by the delegation. The guests were later taken to a minefield on top of Korek Mountain where a cable car project is being implemented and an IKMAA team is currently conduct-



ing clearance operations. The Supervisor and Team Leader briefed the delegation on the progress of work at this minefield and

answered the questions of visiting delegation.

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IKMAA EOD teams destroy discovered mines & UXO

Mukhlis Sharif Sofi*

IKMAA Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams carry on removing the hazards of mines and UXO on the neighboring communities.

During August 2010, EOD teams conducted several mines and UXOs destruction tasks. Among them, there were four tasks which were very exigent. On August 1st, one V-69 AP mine was found in the Sidakan sub district river near the coarse aggregate and sand factory. After IKMAA Erbil Operations Manager was informed, the EOD team was immediately deployed and the task was ac-

complished.

On August 5th, the community focal point(CFP) in Rayat village close to the Iranian border, informed Handicap International community based MRE team in Soran/Erbil governorate of the finding of 7 AP M14 mines during the main road reconstruction works which required some excavations. The mines located there were a mere 250 meters away from the Rayat primary school. IKMAA Erbil operations manager and the EOD team arrived at the location and they neutralized all mines and removed them to

the demolition pit for destruction.

On August 15th, a VS-50 AP Mine was located near the house of the the Muhktar (chief) of Darband village. The mine was removed and destroyed by IKMAA EOD team.

On August 24th, at the Ashi Bra Juz village in Choman district, three UXOs and one VS-50 mine were discovered during a house construction. The EOD team transferred the items to the demolition pit for destruction

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