



MECHEM (PTY) LTD



PLENARY SESSION WORKSHOP 1: EDUCATION OF PARTICIPANTS IN HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

presented by

ASHLEY WILLIAMS
CEO, MECHEM

28 April 2011

subsidiary of 

WORKSHOP REPORT



- Presentations were from a fairly diverse range of speakers with respect to background and field of expertise:
 - Academic (James Madison University).
 - State regulated (CROMAC).
 - Commercial demining company (Mechem).
 - Medical experts.
- Well established management training available from JMU and Cranfield:
 - Initiated and utilized by UN.
 - Accredited by UN?
 - Ideal management training where operational and academic aspects merged.
- Within S-E Europe there are proven, very specific and in line with national legislation, curricula:
 - Three levels of training, namely Basic, Senior and Specialist.
 - Clear that Instructor in Education of MA and Project Designer Courses are very important and need more attention.

WORKSHOP REPORT



- CROMAC plays very important role in region.
- ITF sponsors training.
- Role of medical training in all professions of MA:
 - MA personnel play critical initial role until medical experts take over.
- Discussions very S-E Europe orientated; still following value:
 - Rest of world can learn from experience.
 - Institutions like CROMAC and ITF can be called on for assistance and advice.
 - Synergies in curricula.
 - Training of auxiliary workers.
- General aspects from discussions:
 - Still no international conformity on a MA hierarchy, eg Worksite Supervisor?
 - Recognition of prior learning important for new entrants; save on training time and costs.
 - Military still greatest source of personnel.

WORKSHOP REPORT



- Training costs are high; where possible take training to the ground (especially basic training) and only senior/management training at institutions. Example Africa.
- No one person can be called expert in all professions within the field of Mine Action. Experts such as Dog Handlers, GIS, etc remain important.
- International recognition and accreditation needed of training institutions and curricula.
- Who best suited and who will finance?
- GICHD???