



Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Please allow me to thank the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for hosting this important regional meeting on challenges in mine clearance and victim assistance in preparation for the “Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World”.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines

- ✓ A total ban on antipersonnel mines
- ✓ Adequate assistance for landmine survivors
- ✓ Increased and more efficiently used resources for mine action



Jody Williams & Tun Channareth receiving the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize



The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) is a coalition of 1300 organisations in 90 countries, which promotes the total elimination of antipersonnel mines, assistance to their victims and increased and better used resources for mine clearance. The ICBL and Jody Williams received the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for their key roles in initiating the historic process which led to the adoption of the 1997 Convention banning antipersonnel mines.

Since 1999 the ICBL has published the annual Landmine Monitor Report (LM), which monitors implementation and compliance with the Convention. Landmine Monitor clearly illustrates how the Convention and the movement to ban anti-personnel mines are indeed making a difference on the ground and that much remains to be done.

As the nations in South and Southeast Asia look towards the Review Conference in Nairobi, the ICBL reminds each State that what the Convention calls for is

- A total ban on antipersonnel landmines
- Adequate assistance for survivors, an issue my friends the landmine survivors with us here today from Cambodia and Thailand will talk on later and at every opportunity they have
- Increased and better use of resources for mine action.

Landmine survivors

- ✓ 1,254 new reported LM/uxo casualties in SE Asia (July 2002 – July 2003)
- ✓ Many more unknown
- ✓ During the past five years, there was a new landmine casualty every two hours in SE Asia



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The ICBL's main goal is to eliminate antipersonnel mines and the suffering they cause to landmine victims and mine-affected communities.

Comprehensive data on landmine/UXO casualties is difficult to obtain, particularly in countries experiencing ongoing conflict, or with minefields in remote areas. Most of these countries have limited resources to monitor public health services. While available data is certainly incomplete, it is likely that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 new landmine casualties each year. Of the reported new casualties, more than 20 percent were children and only 15 percent were identified as military personnel.

Landmine Monitor 2003 reported 1,254 new casualties in this region, but the actual number is definitely much higher. There is a new landmine casualty every two hours in Southeast Asia.

Landmines/ UXO casualties

- **Reported casualties in SE Asian countries in 2003:**
- Burma/Myanmar(114++), Cambodia (834), Laos (~99), Philippines (3), South Korea (15), Thailand (~36), Vietnam (153++).



SE Asia is one of, if not THE most heavily victim assistance needful regions in the world due to decades of armed conflict and extensive mine use.

This number however reflects **only part of the reality** as there are a number of places within the region, where casualties are not recorded or made public.

For example, each year inadequate data collection mechanisms and lack of a comprehensive data collection system make it impractical for Thailand's Landmine Monitor researchers to report accurately on casualties.

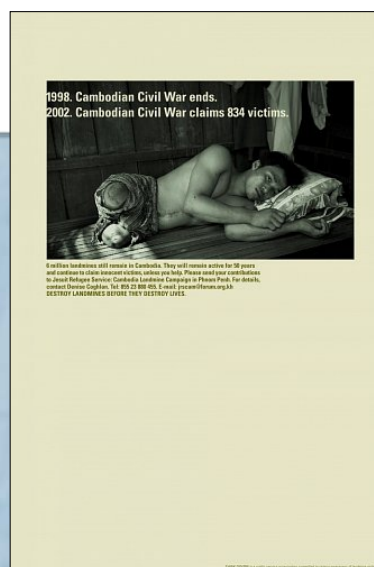
The number of new landmine victims must be added to the total number of landmine survivors who will require a lifetime of care. Addressing the growing need for assistance must be an urgent priority for States Parties.

Based on a limited survey conducted by the Landmine Survivors Network, it was found that 18 percent of landmine survivors are physically and psychologically well, and self-sustaining. In contrast, 82 percent are in need of continuous follow-up and support.

A landmine incident can cause various injuries to an individual including the loss of limbs, abdominal, chest and spinal injuries, blindness and deafness. There is also less visible, psychological trauma not only to the person injured in the incident, but to the families of those killed or injured.

Victim Assistance

- ❑ Rehabilitation services located primarily in urban centers
- Services not affordable
- Limited psycho-social support
- Lack of opportunities for economic reintegration
- Low economic status
- Lack of long-term funding commitments



Regarding rehabilitation, there is a need for appropriate, adequate and accessible assistance in all Southeast and South Asian mine-affected countries. Even when services exist, they are often located long distances from mine-affected areas, making them inaccessible to many survivors and often too expensive.

Landmine survivors, within the context of the Convention, are not seen as separate from other war victims or persons with disabilities. Assistance to landmine survivors should be promoted within the context of a country's overall public health and social services system. Deliberate care must be built in to ensure that people with a disability receive the same opportunities in life – for health care, social services, a life-sustaining income, education, and participation in the community – as every other sector of a society.

Problems include the limited availability of psycho-social support as the majority of resources are directed towards medical and physical rehabilitation. Even though economic reintegration is a key priority for most mine survivors, there are few opportunities for people with a disability to receive vocational training or access employment or other income generating activities.

The economic situation of many mine-affected countries remains an obstacle to the provision of adequate assistance to landmine survivors, and local NGOs and agencies often lack the financial resources to continue programs after international organizations have withdrawn. A commitment to long-term funding is needed to ensure sustainability and to build local capacities.

[Assistance for mine victims is more than just a medical and rehabilitation issue; it is also a human rights issue as people with a disability often face discrimination,

CHALLENGES:



Landmine Survivors and ICBL participating in the 5MSP Interfaith Service September 2003 Bangkok Thailand



The ultimate goal of mine victim assistance is the complete rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors into the wider community.

The challenge ahead is for mine-affected States...

- **to listen** to landmine survivors and other actors,
- to identify the gaps in mine victim assistance,
- to formulate a national plan of action;
- to assess the resources required to implement the plan of action;
- to make known their needs, and for donor States
- to provide resources to assist mine-affected States in meeting those needs.

Adequate and appropriate assistance will benefit not only mine survivors but all persons with disability in mine-affected countries in Southeast Asia.

6 mine affected countries in South East Asia

Burma/Myanmar,
Cambodia,
Laos,
Philippines,
Thailand,
Vietnam



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Humanitarian Mine Clearance

Cambodia
Laos
Thailand
Vietnam



Deminer prodding in Sa Kaeo province, Thailand



Humanitarian mine clearance by international, national and non governmental actors was underway in at least 35 countries in 2002-2003, including Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam

In Cambodia in 2003, the three (MAG, CMAC, HALO Trust) mine clearance agencies and Royal Cambodian Army Force cleared 41.7 million square meters and 60,626 APmines, 1096 AT mines and 118307 UXO destroyed.

In Thailand, the Thailand Mine Action Center cleared 735,647 sq. meters including 415,049 sq. meters of land cleared under a joint project composed of HMAU1, GCCF and JAHDS at Sadok Kok Thom in 2003. In the first three months of 2004, 281,429 square meters of land were cleared.

Based on LM 2003 - Laos, 8.4 million square meters of land were cleared and 98,963 items of UXO destroyed.

From 1975 to 2002, Vietnam reported that 1,200 million square meters have been cleared of 4 million landmines and 8 million UXO.

Other clearance activities

Burma /Myanmar
China/Vietnam border



Deminer and dog in
partnership
Thailand



Other more limited clearance activities were underway in at least 32 countries, during the same period including Burma/Myanmar. Limited mine clearance for tactical purposes was noted in 8 countries, including Burma/Myanmar. There was continued practice of ATROCITY DEMINING in Burma/ Myanmar as the military forced civilians to walk in front of them in order to detonate the mines.

In December 2002, China reported that new mine clearance activities had started along its border with Vietnam following the signing of a bilateral border agreement, in which the 2 countries agreed to complete technical surveys of mined areas by 2005.

Starting in September 2002, North and South Korea both undertook mine clearance in the (DMZ) to prepare for a transportation project. This is believed to be the first mine clearance inside the DMZ.

Three mine-affected States Parties in the region will reach their deadlines for clearance of mined areas in 2009 and 2010. In this year of the First Review Conference of the Convention, it is critical for mine-affected States Parties to ensure that national and strategic mine action plans are in place, and that adequate resources are available for them to be able to meet this important deadline of the Convention.

Cambodia (2010)

Philippines (2010)

Thailand (2009)

Mine Risk Education

MRE programmes implemented in:

- ✓ Cambodia
- ✓ Laos
- ✓ Thailand
- ✓ Vietnam

Limited MRE activities in

- ✓ Burma (Myanmar)



HMAU leads Mine Risk Education activity



Landmine Monitor recorded **Mine Risk Education programmes** in 36 countries in 2002-2003, including in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. New programs were initiated in 9 countries, including Vietnam.

Limited MRE activities were recorded in 21 countries, including Burma /Myanmar, and the Philippines.

In Cambodia at least 8 organizations are involved, including community-based mine risk reduction and MRE in schools and associated with mine clearance.

The Thailand Mine Action Center and four TCBL NGOs conduct MRE in mine affected provinces and in six Burmese refugees camps located in Thailand.

The Vietnamese government conducts mine and UXO risk education as part of a national injury prevention program. NGOs also hold MRE in some heavily affected provinces.

Mine Action funding

US\$1.7 billion in mine action contributions from 1992-2002

Among major recipients

- ✓ Cambodia
- ✓ Laos
- ✓ Vietnam



Methee from Thailand



Mine Action Funding.

More than US \$1.7 billion has been contributed to mine action between 1992 and 2002, with 70% of this (or \$1.2 billion) since the signing of the Convention. For 2002, we have identified \$309 million in mine action funding by more than 23 donors, representing a significant increase of about \$ 72 million (30%) from the previous year.

Cambodia and Laos are among the biggest recipients of mine action funding, with \$173 million and \$50million respectively. Vietnam has received a total of \$31million in recent years.

Data for 2002 are: Cambodia \$27.3 million, Vietnam \$17.7million and Laos \$8million.

It is expected that the Nairobi Summit will result in renewed commitments of assistance to mine-affected States Parties and communities.

A widespread rejection of anti-personnel mines

- 143 Countries ratified/acceded to MBT, including 5 in the Southeast Asian region

Newest member State:
Papua New Guinea
acceded on 28 June 2004



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The AP Mine Ban Convention

- 5 States Parties in SE Asia (Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Timor Leste)
- 2 signatories (Brunei and Indonesia).
- States not party (Burma/Myanmar, Laos, Singapore and Vietnam)



Other States Parties in the broader region include Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Maldives, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste.

Several countries in the region have contributed to the work of the Convention by serving as Co-Chairs of the various Standing Committees in the intersessional work programme, including: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Thailand. And, of course, Thailand hosted the 5th Meeting of States Parties and serves as the President until the Nairobi Summit.

Decrease in use

Globally in 2003:

- Fewer governments used antipersonnel mines.
- 6 confirmed users: **India**, Iraq, **Burma/Myanmar**, **Nepal**, **Pakistan**, Russia.
- Credible allegations: Burundi, Georgia & Sudan.
- No use reported by Coalition forces in Iraq.
- Fewer armed Non State Actors used APMs.



Globally, fewer governments are using antipersonnel mines. Landmine Monitor received confirmation that 6 governments have used this weapon since May 2002, including in the broad Asian region ((India, Iraq, Burma/**Myanmar**, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia). This compares to 9 governments last year and 13 governments in the year before. In addition, we also received credible allegations of use by 3 other governments (Burundi, Georgia & Sudan).

Opposition groups (armed NSAs) are also reported to have used AP mines in at least eleven countries (this compares to 14 in last year's report), including in this region, in Burma/Myanmar.

Production

Significant decrease globally as of 2003:

- At least 36 countries have ceased production since the early 1990's.
- 15 producers remain, including 9 in Asia: **China**, Cuba, Egypt, **India**, Iran, Iraq, **Myanmar**, **Nepal**, **North Korea**, **South Korea**, **Pakistan**, Russia, **Singapore**, United States, **Vietnam**.



Since the beginning of the 1990s, at least 36 countries have ceased production of antipersonnel mines. Today, nine of the 15 countries, still found on the list of producers, are in the Asia-Pacific Region (**China**, Cuba, Egypt, **India**, Iran, Iraq, **Burma/Myanmar**, **Nepal**, **North Korea**, **South Korea**, **Pakistan**, Russia, **Singapore**, United States, **Vietnam**).

[EMILIE FYI: It must be noticed that Russia refrains from producing some types of mines, and the US has not produced APMs since 1997, but reserves the right to do so.]

Stockpiles

Globally:

- ✓ 200-215 million APMs stockpiled in 78 countries
- ✓ 68 States Parties to the Convention have destroyed more than 37 million APMS
- ✓ All 4 ASEAN States Parties have completed their stockpile destruction



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Landmine Monitor estimates that there are approximately 200-215 million antipersonnel mines currently stockpiled by 78 countries.

The first deadlines for stockpile destruction were reached on 1 March 2003, an important milestone for the Convention.

All States Parties whose deadline has passed to date have reported completion of stockpile destruction – an impressive accomplishment.

Bangladesh is the only State Party in the Asia/Pacific region with a stockpile left to be destroyed. It reported a stockpile of 204,227 antipersonnel mines and is retaining 15,000 for training, which the ICBL would urge them to reduce in keeping with practice by other States Parties. Bangladesh is the current Co-Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction.

A total of 68 States Parties to the Convention, including 4 in the region, have destroyed over 37 million APMS.

SP destruction in the region

- ✓ 4 States Parties in ASEAN completed SD,
- ✓ Malaysia - 94,721 mines in January 2001,
- ✓ Cambodia - declared destroyed in 2002
- ✓ Thailand - 337,725 in April 2003
- ✓ Philippines – destroyed stockpiles prior to the Convention



Stockpile Destruction Ceremony in Lopburi, Thailand April 2003



Malaysia was the first country in ASEAN to destroy its entire stockpile of 94,721 mines in January 2001.

Japan completed destruction of its 1,000,089 stockpiled antipersonnel mines on 8 February 2003.

Thailand completed the destruction of its 337,725 stockpiled antipersonnel mines in April 2003. It retains 4,700 mines for training purposes.

Cambodia declared in 2002 the completion of stockpile destruction, but officials continue to find, collect and destroy mines from various locations.



I am happy to answer any questions assuming that I know the answer or where to find it. If anyone would like a copy of the Landmine Monitor reports, CDs or Executive Summaries, please contact TCBL members.

The TCBL and the ICBL are confident that this workshop will contribute greatly to improving this region's involvement in our important work to get rid of AP mines in Asia, to assist survivors and to clear mined areas.

We look forward to continue working with you and urge all States in the region to prepare well for and participate in the Nairobi Summit.

Thank you.