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Codification - The Next Ten Years

The key codification event in 2011 will be 11th Codification World Forum on 9-10 November in Bruges (Belgium). With the theme “Codification – The next ten years”, this forum will examine the challenges for the NCS in meeting emerging requirements and ways of capturing opportunities to enable the NATO Codification System (NCS), in partnership and co-operation with key organisations and initiatives, to better serve all its users, customers and stakeholders. The programme will address AC/135 Strategy, industry perspectives and codification benefits. Specific workshops are scheduled on the following subjects: benefits of adopting ISO 8000, future strategy, benefits of codification, sponsorship for non-NATO countries, use of NMCRL, data quality, etc. The detailed programme including topics for the plenary meeting and workshops, with administrative details, has been published on the AC/135 web-site www.nato.int/codification and will be updated as we progress towards November. **Come and celebrate the NCS story – and come help shape the future!**



New Vision and Mission of AC/135

The 99th AC/135 Main Group meeting took place at NAMSA in Capellen, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on 17-19 May 2011. The Directors on Codification from NATO and Sponsored Tier 2 countries discussed new vision and mission statements along with the key objectives for AC/135, with a view to aligning them on CNAD objectives and current developments. AC/135 aims to present the results at the 100th meeting of AC/135 to be held on 8th November 2011 at NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

The Belgian Armed Forces presented an interesting approach to the Anatomical, Therapeutical and Chemical (ATC) Classification System as a systematic reference for the codification of drugs. Some nations, including France, worked with their

medical services to incorporate into their logistics systems ATC codes that would bring added value to codification data. Many of the benefits of codification data are reaped daily in the supply chain. They need to be described and presented to give a better understanding of the value of codification. AC/135 has undertaken a Codification Benefits Study conducted by Dr King of LSC Group to create a common, definitive international view as to the benefits and costs of codification. The final results are to be presented at 11th Codification Forum in Bruges.



Directors at the Maginot Line (Hackenberg) France

The NATO Automated Business System (NABS) has been serving AC/135 successfully since the year 2000. This paperless office currently enables 40 nations to exchange some 1,500 technical and strategic documents per year. NABS has proved to be cost-effective through saving time, effort and paper in both the NCBs and NAMSA. Recently NABS was upgraded to SharePoint, bringing new communication opportunities for the codification community.

The Codification Directors acknowledged the increasing role of industry participation in codification fora and invited software providers to participate in AC/135 working groups, e.g. the **NCS Transformation Steering Group**, and encouraged more communication via collaboration forums and chat-rooms. The NCS Transformation Steering Group, led by Mr Ian Smith of the UK NCB, will focus its efforts on main projects covering the areas of Supplier Sourced Codification, FLIS transforma-



NCS Transformation Steering Group at Loch Lomond, Scotland

tion, new taxonomy of codification, migration from NADEX to XML data exchange and the codification of services. AC/135 thanked Col Marek Dalkowski from the Polish NCB for chairing the NCS Modernisation WG and wished success to Mr Ian Smith in his endeavours with the NCS Transformation Steering Group.



BSC in Washington DC

The Budget and Strategic Planning Committee (BSC) has been monitoring financial and strategic developments to ensure continued support for NCS enhancements and projects undertaken. The proposal for the first purchasing country to be responsible for codifying was considered as well as system compliance testing for new codification tools and mechanism to ensure system compliance.

By **leveraging codification and UID of items**, there are options to be explored for common data exchange to facilitate Joint Logistics, and the UK will liaise with the UID office to explore potential areas for cooperation.

The 13th Pacific Area Cataloguing Seminar took place from 26 to 28 April in Jakarta, Indonesia and was attended by 14 countries. **PACS** has developed and published a **benchmarking** table concerning productivity, customer satisfaction and quality. It is open for other nations to send their metrics for publication. China is pursuing its NCS implementation plan in 4 steps: first, it is translating most codification standards with manpower of 50 experts. China will then establish a plan leading to Tier 1 sponsorship status, implement its own codification software and integrate current systems with the NCS standard, and finally organize its own data.



PACS has achieved its aims and it was agreed to dissolve PACS as a PASOLS initiative. However, the majority of participating nations recognised the continued need for a regional codification forum. The Chairman underlined the importance of the PACS community and AC/135 will continue to support PACS. There are a number of nations in PASOLS that have not yet been sponsored. It was also stressed that the Pacific region is an absolutely vital region of the world for the future of the NCS. The Chairman thanked Australia and New Zealand for many years of supporting and leading PACS. New Zealand will host the first meeting of the new **Asia-Pacific codification forum** in Wellington in the first quarter of 2012.

Thailand on its way to NCS interoperability

The Thai military consists of three services - Army, Navy and Air Force - that need to support each other and have to maintain their equipment in a constant state of operational readiness to safeguard the sovereignty of the nation. In order to obtain maximum effectiveness of resource management for both equipment and spare parts, Thailand is trying to minimize the duplication of items as well as to maximize the accuracy of logistics data provided for all Items of Supply to all users. Thailand had this purpose in mind when it adopted the NCS concept in 1999. The Royal Thai Armed Forces have promoted knowledge of the NCS by providing the NCS Understanding Course since 2000. Until now, 450 military officers have completed this course. At the same time, the Royal Thai Armed Forces established an NCB in a single location and let the Royal Thai Army, Navy and Air Force establish their own Codification Offices to assign their own NSNs, step by step. By following these national codification methods, many NSNs were created for the same Item of Supply, both within one service and between two services, and the Ministry of Defense decided to improve the methodology of the Thai Codification System. In 2008 - 2010, the Royal Thai Navy developed the RTN Catalog. The related Codification Information System respects the standard rules of the NCS including the steps of item identification, FIIG as well as using information from FedLog or NMCRL. Besides incorporating the NCS Rules, the Royal Thai Navy has translated some of the information or data into the Thai language for a better understanding of the system. Having finished the development of web-based application software, the Royal Thai Navy is now beginning to review and test all of the systems to ensure effectiveness in implementing the future Thai Codification System. In 2012, the Royal Thai Armed Forces intend to implement the RTN Catalog as the Thai Codification System and to introduce policy and procedures manuals. Hopefully, after successful installation of the Thai Codification System Software Application, the Royal Thai Armed Forces will be fully able to act as the Thai NCB and work together with Codification Offices of the Royal Thai Army, Navy and Air Force. At the latest by 2013, when Thailand starts producing "Thai Catalog and Catalog products" under the NCB Code "35", Thailand will be fully compliant with the NATO Codification System.



Present from NCB Thailand at the 99th MG meeting held at NAMSA