

International Association of Fire and Rescue Services (CTIF) Working Group

«Women in Fire and Rescue Service»

June 1, 2011, St. Petersburg

Dates: May 31 – June 2, 2012 .
Location: St. Petersburg University of Emergency Control Ministry of Russia
Moscovsky prosp., 149
St. Petersburg
Russia, 196105

Participants:

- 1. Alexander P. Chupriyan (Russia)**
CTIF Vice-President, President of Russian National CTIF Committee, Vice-Minister of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergency Situations and Disaster Relief
- 2. Julia S. Shoigu (Russia)**
Director of the Center for Emergency Psychological Assistance, Emergency Control Ministry of Russia
- 3. Tatyana Y. Eremina (Russia)**
President of Women for Safety Autonomous Non-commercial organization
- 4. Valery M. Ardashev (Russia)**
President of Safe Planet Alliance of Companies
- 5. Vera N. Malinovska (Russia)**
Chief Specialist of the Center to ensure the activities of the Federal Fire Service of Emergency Control Ministry of Russia
- 6. Pyotr A. Cheboksarov (Russia)**
Assistant Chief of the University – Head of the Center of the organization and coordination of international activities
- 7. Lena Brunzell (Sweden)**
Project Manager of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
- 8. Hakan Axelsson (Sweden)**
Director of the Department of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
- 9. Silvia Darmstaedter (Germany)**
Press Officer of German Fire Services Association
- 10. Suzanne Prince (UK)**
Head of the UK Business Unit Associate – Fire and Safety Services W.L.Glore & Associates Ltd
- 11. Stephanie Chaubet (France)**
President of Meurthe-et-Moselle Departmental Fire Service Association
- 12. Pamela Hniliczka (Austria)**
Public Relations Officer of Austrian Fire Brigades Association
- 13. Dragan Mihajlovic (Serbia)**
President of Firefighter Association of Serbia
- 14. Ruzica Belanovic (Serbia)**
Vice-President of Firefighter Association of Serbia

Event beginning: 10.30

- 10.00** Participants check-in
- 10.20** Working Group Meeting opening
- 10.30** Welcoming speech by Alexander P. Chupriyan, CTIF Vice-President CTIF Vice-President, President of Russian National CTIF Committee, Vice-Minister of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergency Situations and Disaster Relief
- 10.50** Presentation by Tatyana Y. Eremina, delegate of Russian National CTIF Committee *Women in Russian Rescue Service*
- 11.00** Presentations by meeting participants
Discussion on the directions of Group activity
- 12.15** Exchange of views on the Working Group
- 12.45** Election of Chairperson of the Working Group

Colonel General of the Internal Service Alexander P. Chupriyan, CTIF Vice-President CTIF Vice-President, President of Russian National CTIF Committee, Vice-Minister of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergency Situations and Disaster Relief made a welcoming speech.

Tatyana Y. Eremina spoke on women in Russian Fire and Rescue services. She briefly described the participation of women in Russian Fire and Rescue services and dwelled upon aims and goals of the new Working Group.

Fire fighting and rescuing have traditionally been considered a man's job, yet women in Russia have been successfully working in this field for a long time. According to personnel department of Russian Emergency Control Ministry there are 47 144 women among professional fire fighters in Russia.

As a rule they are receptionists of 112 service, fire safety inspectors, dog trainers, lecturers at fire and rescue service educational institutions, instructors, medics and PR managers. Women also work in research institutions and participate in fire safety developments. Most women work at Federal Fire Protection Service – 37 019 women.

There are 105 female officers in fire fighting.

Nowadays many girls choose “flaming” carrier. 610 girls are studying at fire fighting institutions.

Tatyana Y. Eremina also described the strategies for the Group development.

The next speaker was Julia S. Shoigu, Director of the Center for Emergency Psychological Assistance, Emergency Control Ministry of Russia. She spoke about the Center history, which has been working since 1999. Now it has more than 800 specialists in all regions of Russia who are ready to help those in trouble anytime. The psychological service of Russian Emergency Control Ministry is considered to be the most “female” formation of the Ministry, most of the psychologists are women.

Psychologists of the Center arrive at the emergency zone together with the rescue team and fire fighters and work 24 hours non-stop giving psychological assistance to the victims until the consequences of the emergency are overcome.

Swedish delegates Hakan Axelsson (Director of the Department of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) and Lena Brunzell (Project Manager of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) spoke about fire and rescue services in Sweden. Emancipation is quickly developing in Sweden and several thousand women there are attending fire fighting courses although fire fighting is traditionally a man's job.

The next presentation was by Silvia Darmstaedter (Press Officer of German Fire Services Association). Sylvia spoke about German system of volunteer fire fighters. Many of these volunteers are women, they are willing to work and can work well. The German Fire Services Association (DFV) now has more than 80000 women. Women in Germany are encouraged to take part in this activity.

Suzanne Prince (Head of the UK Business Unit Associate – Fire and Safety Services W.L.Glore & Associates Ltd) spoke about women firefighters in Britain. Women can work as professional fire fighters and their number is growing. In 2009 there were 3.3 % of women in the job (about 2000), while in 2012 there are already 4.1% (2460). Increasing the number of women in fire and rescue services is one of the strategic goals in Britain.

Stephanie Chaubet (President of Meurthe-et-Moselle Departmental Fire Service Association (France) spoke about the development of women's rights movement in French fire and rescue services. At present the proportion of women in volunteer and professional services is 13% (30435). Women mostly work in medical service, there are much fewer women in actual fire extinguishing. Still there is a positive tendency of increasing number of women in this field as well.

Pamela Hniliczka (Public Relations Officer of Austrian Fire Brigades Association, Austria) made a special emphasis on the changes connected with incorporation of women in fire and rescue services. She spoke about particular cases of women working as professional and volunteer firefighters.

In Austria women make up about 4% of the total number of firefighters (more than 14000 women). They take part in volunteer organizations, medical service, some of them are professional fire extinguishers and commanders. Much emphasis is given to education of new generation of fire fighters.

Serbian delegates Dragan Mihajlovic (President of Firefighter Association of Serbia) and Ruzica Belahovic (Vice-President of Firefighter Association of Serbia) briefly described fire and rescue services of Serbia and their interaction. Firefighting Association of Serbia coordinate the work of voluntary fire fighting organizations in Serbia consisting of 310 voluntary organizations and alliances which have 70,000 members. Women play an active role in Serbian fire fighting services, some of them are commanders.

Tatyana Eremina thanked all the speakers for their interesting and informative presentations. Then the floor was given to the guests Vera N. Malinovska (Chief Specialist of the Center to ensure the activities of the Federal Fire Service of Emergency Control Ministry of Russia) and Irina G. Savarovska (fire safety expert).

The next item of the agenda was Chair election. Delegate from Russia, Tatyana Y. Eremina was elected Working Group Chair. The duties of the Chair of leading the working group meetings

and the determining the field of activities, preparation of meeting agenda and creating the conditions for collective discussion.

Election of the co-Chair will be held at the next meeting.

Also the Statutes were adopted and the main fields of activity were discussed. The main aim was stated as spreading the international experience and encouraging women to join fire and rescue services. It was decided to hold the next Group meeting during International CTIF Assembly in Bratislava, Slovakia, Sept. 19-21 2012.

Serbian delegates suggested to hold the third meeting in Belgrad in 2013. This suggestion will be considered at the nearest meeting.