

UNDP Provides Cutting-Edge ATV Fire-Fighting Equipment to EMS Teams

Bucharest, June 26, 2007. The citizens of Romania will benefit of yet another example of cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES). After UNDP projects improved the intervention capabilities of the Flooding Search and Rescue Teams in ten counties, now the fire fighters are helped with technical alternatives for working in restrictive and difficult conditions where traditional fire-fighting means cannot be properly employed.

Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, Nicholas Taubman, US Ambassador, Lieutenant General Vladimir Secara, Head of GIES, State Secretary Paul Victor Dobre, members of the press and of GIES gathered to witness a commercial presentation on the occasion of the donation of Polaris Express All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) to the GIES.

“Considering the actual traffic not only in Bucharest, but also in other large cities of Romania, it is easy to anticipate that such alternative vehicles will reduce the intervention time, thus helping save more lives and reduce the damage to the affected properties,” said Ms. Jung in her opening remarks.

The fruitful collaboration between UNDP and GIES started in 2005 when UNDP provided an effective assistance to the Romanian Government by purchasing 12 high-speed rescue boats for the areas heavily affected by floods. Since then, UNDP also supported the training of the first professional water rescue teams in Romania, which later played a key role in saving many lives during the last wave of floods. In 2006 UNDP continued to strengthen Romanian Government capacity to deal with difficult situations generated by natural disasters, by training, among others, 36 scuba-diving specialists; preparing and distributing the first training manual for aquatic rescue operations; and providing various forms of relief assistance including 8 medium capacity water pumps.



ATV fire truck.



Soknan Han Jung, UN RC/UNDP RR signing the GIES Honor Book.



US Ambassador Taubman signing the GIES Honor book.

“Today’s presentation is more than welcome because, in a rapidly developing technological environment, the access to high-performance technical firefighting means leads to a safer world for everyone,” concluded Ms. Jung.

Ambassador Taubman thanked “UNDP for making this important donation to the Romanian people,” explaining that the new American cutting-edge equipment “provides a needed alternative for extinguishing fires in remote areas where no other conventional vehicle can go. It is widely used in situations in which the usual fire truck would be rendered useless due to its size. For rural communities of Romania, it would be an accessible vehicle able to intervene in forests and confined spaces and mountains areas where no entry roads exist that are capable of supporting a conventional vehicle.”

During the successful demonstration, a fire fighter using an ATV truck put down a car fire and a pile of logs spot fire in under two minutes.

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