

**JORDAN: OPENING CEREMONY IN PRESENCE OF  
NATO SECRETARY GENERAL**

January 2009



**Mrs Linda Bird, NAMSAs Director of Logistics Programmes and Operations, addresses the audience. Photo: NAMSAs.**

On 10 January 2009, a ceremony was organized in Amman, Jordan to celebrate the opening of the first NATO Trust Fund in a Mediterranean Dialogue Nation.

The event was attended by 70 participants and guests including NATO Secretary General, HRH Prince Mired (Chairman of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation), the Chief of Defense Staff, the Ambassador of Switzerland to NATO representing the three Lead Nations for the project, and 17 other Ambassadors (Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States). NAMSAs was represented by Mrs Linda Bird, NAMSAs Director of Logistics Programmes and Operations.

The well organized ceremony was concluded by the presentation by the Secretary General of vehicles and equipment bought by the Trust Fund to the Royal Engineer Corps and the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR).

In his speech, the Secretary General noted *“Not only will this project save lives but I also hope it will demonstrate clearly to the Jordanian people that NATO is a reliable security partner that can bring improvements for them”*. The projects indeed aims at assisting in identifying and eliminating the Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) on the territory of Jordan, enhancing Jordanian Armed Forces’ capacity to effectively deal with currently declared surplus, unserviceable and obsolete stockpiled ammunition and helping identify further Safe and Suitable for Service (S3) ammunition.

The event received intensive media coverage to include local TV and the following Arabic language newspapers: Al-Rai distributed to 80,000 subscribers daily, Ad-Dustour distributed to 50,000 subscribers daily, Al-Ghad distributed to 50,000 subscribers daily, and Al-Arab al-Youm distributed to 25,000 subscribers daily.