



beijing (regional)

The ICRC opened its Beijing regional delegation in July 2005. As of 1987, it covered the region from Hong Kong and, as of 1996, from Bangkok. The delegation fosters support among governments, experts and National Societies for ICRC activities in the region and worldwide. It continues to promote the ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties and the integration of IHL into military training. It also promotes IHL among civil society, in particular academic institutions. It supports the National Societies of the region in developing their dissemination and tracing activities. ICRC/National Society prosthetic/orthotic projects in China and in the DPRK contribute to meeting the need for affordable, good-quality prostheses.

COVERING

China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mongolia, Republic of Korea (ROK)

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	145
Assistance	2,577
Prevention	2,401
Cooperation with National Societies	1,094
General	-

► **6,217**

of which: Overheads 379

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	89%
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PERSONNEL

15	expatriates
28	national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2007, the ICRC:

- ▶ together with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held a regional seminar in Beijing to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1977 Additional Protocols
- ▶ published the Chinese-language version of the ICRC study on customary IHL
- ▶ organized the first ever national IHL moot court competition in China
- ▶ conducted pre-deployment briefings for Chinese and ROK peacekeepers
- ▶ began operating a mobile unit for prosthetic/orthotic repairs in the DPRK so as to be able to carry out follow-up home visits to beneficiaries

CONTEXT

East Asia continued to enjoy peace and speedy development in all areas, which contributed to its growing importance worldwide. Nevertheless, there remained a number of unresolved issues that could pose a threat to the region's future stability, such as the situation on the Korean peninsula and the standoff over Taiwan.

In February, the six-nation talks on the DPRK's nuclear programme resumed in Beijing, during which the DPRK pledged to shut its nuclear reactor in return for fuel aid.

A summit between the leadership of the DPRK and the ROK took place in October, during which it was agreed that the two countries would enhance bilateral relations.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

		Total	Women	Children
WOUNDED AND SICK¹				
<i>Physical rehabilitation</i>				
Patients receiving services	<i>Patients</i>	1,752	280	32
Prostheses delivered	<i>Units</i>	1,310	207	25
Orthoses delivered	<i>Units</i>	15	1	5

1. China and the DPRK

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to promote IHL in the countries covered, concentrating on the authorities, the armed forces, the media and academic circles. It maintained its support for the governments' efforts to implement IHL at national level, and to this end advocated the establishment of national IHL committees.

Representatives of China, Mongolia and the ROK attended the Second Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees in Geneva, Switzerland, following which the government of China set up an IHL committee.

The ICRC supported the Chinese government in holding a number of events to promote IHL and humanitarian issues, such as a seminar on health in detention and a regional seminar on the 1977 Additional Protocols. The delegation also sponsored the publication and launch of the Chinese-language version of the ICRC's study on customary IHL.

The ICRC consolidated its contacts with the armed forces of the region, focusing on China and the ROK. It worked with them to heighten their awareness of IHL or to support the integration of IHL into their training programmes. Several training events were held either by the ICRC or with ICRC support, including seminars and pre-deployment briefings for peacekeepers departing on mission abroad.

The regional delegation continued to strengthen and expand its interaction with the media, focusing on China and the ROK. Via articles, live interviews and its Chinese-language website, the ICRC raised awareness of IHL and issues of humanitarian concern.

The ICRC expanded its contacts with Chinese universities by organizing training sessions and delivering lectures. It again supported the annual regional IHL moot court competition organized by the Hong Kong Red Cross (Branch of the Red Cross Society of China), and held China's first ever national moot court competition.

Introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools throughout Mongolia continued in cooperation with the Mongolian Red Cross Society. In China, the programme remained at the pilot stage, but teachers and the National Society were keen to extend it to more schools.

In addition to IHL promotion, the ICRC continued to play a key role in the provision of physical rehabilitation services in China and the DPRK. In cooperation with the respective National Society, it ran two centres and a new mobile repair unit in the DPRK, and one centre and two repair workshops in China. As well as supplying raw materials, the ICRC provided on-the-job training and supervision to prosthetists/orthotists and physiotherapists.

The regional delegation continued to support the National Red Cross Societies of the region, focusing on dissemination of IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

Little progress was made in finding lasting solutions to the plight of families separated for more than half a century by the Korean war. The ICRC continued to advocate a clear separation between political considerations and humanitarian obligations regarding communication and meetings between separated family members. It maintained dialogue with the National Societies concerned and reiterated its readiness to play a role in facilitating such contacts.

CIVILIANS

Hundreds of thousands of Korean families were split up during the 1950–53 Korean war. Since 2000, some 15,000 people had been able to meet relatives face to face during 14 family meetings at Mount Kumgang in the DPRK, but were not allowed any further contact thereafter. Similarly, some had been able to speak via television screens, but were subsequently prohibited from applying for face-to-face meetings and from exchanging news. Measures to improve the links between separated families were agreed upon during a summit between the leaders of the two countries that took place in October. These included the creation of a permanent structure in 2008 to increase the scale of the meetings.

The ICRC kept in close touch with both National Red Cross Societies and with the authorities on the Korean peninsula in order to share its concerns about the process, which it considered to be a cause of additional anxiety for those concerned. The organization remained ready and willing to assist in finding a long-term solution to the plight of the separated families.

In April, families in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China received RCMs bringing news of relatives held in the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Physical rehabilitation in China

Physically disabled people continued to benefit from the services provided by the physical rehabilitation centre at the Yunnan Red Cross branch in Kunming. The centre and its two repair workshops in Kaiyuan and Malipo near the Vietnamese border received additional raw materials and components as needed.

Two prosthetic/orthotic technicians, three bench technicians, three physical rehabilitation assistants and four repair technicians received further on-the-job supervision and training. Two ICRC-sponsored students graduated from the Chinese Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists and resumed their work at the physical

rehabilitation centre in Kunming under the supervision of an ICRC specialist. The Yunnan Red Cross branch finished fitting amputees in the prefectures and districts bordering Myanmar and started working in Wenshan and Honghe prefectures, also near the Vietnamese border, replacing lower-limb prostheses that had suffered wear and tear. Some 250 amputees had their artificial limbs repaired or adjusted at the Malipo and Kaiyuan workshops or during outreach visits conducted by the repair technicians.

- 617 patients (including 114 women and 13 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre and 2 repair workshops
- 237 new patients (including 41 women and 7 children) fitted with prostheses
- 290 prostheses (including 55 for women, 10 for children and 22 for mine victims), 1 orthosis, 51 crutches and 3 wheelchairs delivered

Physical rehabilitation in the DPRK

Disabled people in Pyongyang and other parts of the country continued to receive services from the Songrim and Rakrang physical rehabilitation centres, with support from the ICRC and the National Society. Ten technicians attended an advanced training course at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, with the aim of boosting the centres' capacities and helping them to become increasingly independent and self-sustainable. Meanwhile, on-the-job training given by ICRC prosthetists/orthotists and physiotherapists continued at both centres.

A new mobile repair unit began operating. Nearly 100 patients benefited from its services during two field trips organized with the support of the National Society and the Ministry of Health. Some were referred to Songrim for further treatment.

- 1,135 patients (including 166 women and 19 children) received services at the 2 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- 682 new patients (including 96 women and 6 children) fitted with prostheses and 16 (including 1 woman and 7 children) fitted with orthoses
- 1,020 prostheses (including 152 for women, 15 for children and 14 for mine victims), 14 orthoses (including 1 for a woman, 5 for children and 1 for a mine victim), 1,494 crutches and 60 wheelchairs delivered

In addition to fitting amputees with high-quality prostheses, the Rakrang centre was equipped with a surgical annex where stump revision surgery could be carried out. In 2007, some 160 patients were thus treated.

AUTHORITIES

In 2006, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in China and Mongolia had expressed interest in setting up national IHL committees. Representatives of the two countries therefore attended, as observers, the Second Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees in Geneva in March 2007. Representatives of the ROK, which had established such a committee, participated fully. Afterwards, one of the Chinese participants briefed the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry, armed forces and National Society on the meeting, and the ICRC explained the structure and function of a national IHL committee. In November, China established a national IHL committee, comprising the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Defence, the army, the Cultural Property Administration Bureau and the National Society, which was designated chair.

The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the ICRC, organized a symposium to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1977 Additional Protocols, bringing together representatives of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, the DPRK, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, the ROK, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The meeting focused on accession to the 1977 Additional Protocols for countries that were not yet party, and implementation of the protocols at national level for those that were.

With ICRC support, the Chinese Ministry for Public Security, responsible for remand prisons, organized a seminar on health in detention. Sixty-six Chinese prison staff, including some 15 prison doctors and health workers, discussed, in particular, the management of HIV and tuberculosis in the detention environment.

The ROK IHL committee held a workshop to promote IHL implementation among representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Defence and Education, the National Society and academic circles.

Twenty-five diplomats from the DPRK attended a seminar aimed at improving their understanding of the ICRC's role in IHL implementation.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

With ICRC support, the region's armed forces pursued their efforts to integrate IHL into their training and operations.

The ROK armed forces worked on intensifying IHL training within their legal branches. To this end, the judge advocates general of the three forces, legal advisers to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Combined Forces Command, and the general counsel of the Ministry of Defence sought the ICRC's advice.

In China, relations were established with a number of Chinese military education and research institutions. An understanding was reached regarding the initiation of ICRC briefings for Chinese military and police before their deployment on UN peacekeeping operations abroad. Two such briefings were conducted at China's Civilian Police Peacekeeping Training Centre in 2007. Chinese military officers also participated in various IHL-related events in China and abroad.

The Mongolian General Staff's IHL training programme continued to receive technical support and limited financial contributions for the production of training and reference materials.

Peacekeepers and other military personnel at the ROK's National Defence University attended pre-deployment briefings.

Six officers from China, the ROK and Mongolia attended an ICRC workshop in Malaysia on peace-support operations (see *Kuala Lumpur regional*).

CIVIL SOCIETY

Raising awareness of humanitarian issues among the general public

Strengthened contacts with Chinese and ROK media representatives led to increased coverage of IHL-related issues on television and in the press. Chinese journalists sought interviews with ICRC staff, and secured the organization's participation in a live television debate on the situation in Iraq. The content of the ICRC's Chinese-language website continued to grow and included multimedia content generated in cooperation with the Chinese media. Students of journalism attended the first ever ICRC presentation at the China Communication University.

Promoting IHL among academic circles

The ICRC stepped up its efforts to promote IHL among universities in China. Nearly 70 university lecturers from 32 law schools attended teacher-training sessions organized together with the universities of Wuhan and Beijing, and 8 teams of students took part in the first ever national IHL moot court competition. Furthermore, 16 teams from across the Asia-Pacific region competed in the fifth annual IHL moot court competition organized by the Hong Kong Red Cross (Branch of the Red Cross Society of China).

With ICRC support, the China Law Press published the Chinese-language version of the study on customary IHL, which had been translated with the help of Chinese universities. The launch of the study brought together representatives of the authorities, the military, universities and civil society.

Teaching secondary school children humanitarian principles

In China, the pilot version of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme continued to be implemented in schools in Shanghai and Sichuan provinces in cooperation with the National Society. Preparations were under way to extend the programme to more schools.

Two representatives of the Hong Kong Red Cross (Branch of the Red Cross Society of China) participated in one of the teacher-training sessions in Shanghai. Subsequently, they approached the Hong Kong education authorities, which expressed an interest in implementing the programme.

In Mongolia, implementation of the tripartite agreement between the Ministry of Education, the National Society and the ICRC was in full swing. Teacher-training and the translation of the teaching materials continued, in preparation for the full integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the official school curriculum by September 2008.

After expressing an interest in implementing the programme, representatives of the ROK Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Education and Defence and a group of teachers attended an ICRC presentation to learn more about the programme and its benefits.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies, with ICRC financial and technical support and training, continued to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles among their own staff and volunteers and among external audiences.

Following the signing of an agreement between the Red Cross Society of China and the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, 350 National Society staff and volunteers were trained in first aid and security management in mass emergencies, in preparation for the 2008 Games. The ICRC's first-aid manual was translated into Chinese.