

BEIJING (regional)

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



⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	497
Assistance	1,749
Prevention	3,853
Cooperation with National Societies	961
General	-

► **7,060**

of which: Overheads 431

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	91%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	14
National staff (daily workers not included)	32

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- strengthened dialogue with the Chinese authorities during 2 high-level ICRC missions to Beijing and in meetings with senior Foreign Affairs Ministry officials
- organized 2 study tours to prisons in Switzerland and, together with the ministries concerned, 2 seminars on health in detention for Chinese government officials, prison managers and medical personnel
- supported physical rehabilitation centres in China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in providing services to 1,543 people
- submitted studies on the compatibility of domestic legislation with IHL to the authorities in China and the Republic of Korea
- organized a second course on Health Emergencies in Large Populations with Peking University School of Public Health and the Red Cross Society of China
- contributed to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Pavilion at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai

Present in the region since 1987, the ICRC moved its regional delegation for East Asia to Beijing in 2005. The delegation fosters support among governments, experts and National Societies for humanitarian principles, IHL and ICRC activities in the region and worldwide. It promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, military training and academic curricula. It also supports the region's National Societies in developing their dissemination and tracing activities. ICRC/National Society prosthetic/orthotic projects in China and the DPRK contribute to meeting the need for affordable, good-quality prostheses.

CONTEXT

Tensions escalated between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) following an exchange of artillery fire at Yeonpyeong Island in November, in which two marines and two civilians from the ROK were killed. Inter-Korean relations had already been tense in March after a ROK navy warship sank, allegedly due to a suspected DPRK torpedo.

Sino-Japanese relations were strained after a Chinese fishing vessel was detained by Japan near disputed islands in September.

Severe flooding in the DPRK in August left an estimated 15,000 families homeless and over 98,000 lacking clean drinking water. In November, the ROK National Red Cross sent the first government-financed rice aid to the DPRK in more than two and

a half years. The WFP warned that much of the DPRK's population was facing hunger following an exceptionally poor harvest.

At least 2,200 people died and over 100,000 were left homeless when a 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck the Chinese province of Qinghai in April. In addition, the country was hit by a series of floods and landslides causing mass evacuations and affecting millions of people. The authorities did not request international assistance.

Mongolia had to cope with the consequences of its worst winter in 50 years, during which large numbers of livestock, vital to the country's economy, were wiped out.

China held the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai from May to October, drawing a record 73 million visitors, while the ROK became the first Asian country to host a G-20 summit.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

ASSISTANCE

WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals ¹		Total	Women	Children
Hospitals supported	Structures	1		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	1		
Admissions	Patients	124	14	1
	<i>of whom other surgical cases</i>	124		
Operations	Operations performed	124		
Physical rehabilitation ²				
Centres supported	Structures	5		
Patients receiving services	Patients	1,543	270	45
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	582	95	6
Prostheses delivered	Units	1,279	199	39
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	34		
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	3	1	0
Orthoses delivered	Units	11	4	3
Crutches delivered	Units	969		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	28		

1. DPRK only

2. China and DPRK

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Promoting IHL and humanitarian principles and securing support for ICRC operations in the region and beyond remained an important focus of the Beijing regional delegation. In China, dialogue was strengthened with the authorities at various levels, notably through two high-level ICRC missions to Beijing, which led to an exchange of views on current IHL issues and the need for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

The ICRC continued to encourage the authorities in China, the ROK and Mongolia to ratify and implement key IHL treaties. In Mongolia, the national IHL committee held its first official meeting, with ICRC technical support. China and the ROK provided feedback on ICRC studies assessing the compatibility of their domestic legislation with IHL obligations. China ratified Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on Explosive Remnants of War. To support

the development of relations with armed and police forces in the region, the ICRC organized with the ROK Army Judge Advocate General's Office in Seoul a regional conference on the regulation of weapons under IHL, attended by 11 East and South-East Asian countries.

Dialogue and cooperation on detention issues, in particular detainee health, developed with the Chinese Ministries of Justice and Public Security. In this respect, the ICRC organized two study tours to its headquarters and to Swiss prisons for officials from both ministries, including prison managers, and two seminars in China on infectious diseases in places of detention.

The ICRC raised its concerns about the plight of separated family members on the Korean peninsula with the respective governments and National Societies. No real progress was made in resolving this issue owing to deteriorating inter-Korean relations, despite a meeting of families in November at Mount Kumgang.

Together, the National Societies and the ICRC continued to play a key role in the provision of physical rehabilitation services in China and the DPRK. In the latter country, ICRC support to the Songrim centre ended on expiry of the existing cooperation agreement in July, while a two-year extension of support was decided for the Rakrang centre. Following an assessment of surgical and structural rehabilitation needs in three provincial hospitals, a new cooperation programme was under discussion with the DPRK Ministry of Public Health at year-end.

Raising awareness of IHL, ICRC activities and humanitarian issues among specific audiences and the wider public included the production of additional documentation in Chinese and Korean and the posting of information in Korean on the National Society's website. Together with the Red Cross Society of China and the International Federation, the ICRC was actively involved in setting up the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Pavilion at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai.

The ICRC continued to promote the teaching of IHL in major universities in China and the ROK, co-organizing moot court competitions for students and IHL events for academics and delivering lectures on the subject.

Integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the Mongolian national secondary school curriculum was completed and the programme handed over to the Ministry of Education and the Mongolian Red Cross Society. With ICRC technical support, the Chinese Red Cross started using materials adapted from the programme in Shanghai and Tianjin. The ROK Red Cross made plans to introduce the programme in schools in 2011.

Cooperation with the region's National Societies focused on the promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles and on building their family-links and first-aid capacities. The Red Cross Society of the DPRK completed its Korean translation of the ICRC manual on first aid in armed conflict and other situations of violence.

CIVILIANS

In November, the DPRK and the ROK Red Cross Societies organized a round of meetings at Mount Kumgang for family members separated since the 1950–53 Korean War. A total of 313 people from the North met 573 relatives from the South. Nearly 18,000 people had benefited from these encounters since they began in 2000, although they had been sporadic since 2007 owing to strained inter-Korean relations.

More than 87,000 people wishing to have contact with family members across the border, most now over 70 years old, had been registered by the ROK Red Cross.

Throughout the year, the ICRC stood ready to assist in finding a long-term solution to the plight of these families and systematically

raised its concerns with the respective governments and National Societies and key representatives of the international community whenever the opportunity arose.

No Koreans residing in third countries made use of ICRC tracing and RCM services to re-establish or maintain contact with their families at home.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Dialogue between the Chinese authorities and the ICRC on detention conditions in prisons developed, in particular regarding health services for detainees.

In March, 112 prison directors and health personnel from the Ministries of Justice and Public Security attended 2 seminars on infectious diseases in places of detention, co-organized with the ICRC in Kunming and Tianjin. Specific problems related to the prevention, control and treatment of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS and to prison management and overcrowding were addressed.

Ministry of Justice representatives and prison managers from five different provinces travelled to Switzerland in January to discuss health and prison-management issues at ICRC headquarters and to visit a number of Swiss prisons. In November, a similar visit by Public Security Ministry officials, focusing on remand prisons and a secure psychiatric prison, led to further positive exchanges.

Both ministries expressed the wish to cooperate further with the ICRC on these issues, including through additional study tours and through training events.

In Mongolia, where most people arrested in relation to unrest in 2008 had been released, a meeting with the human rights adviser to the president enabled the ICRC to pursue its dialogue with the authorities on its role in detention-related matters and its standard procedures during visits to detainees.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Disabled people in China have access to physical rehabilitation services

Disabled people living in China's south-western Yunnan province continued to access the rehabilitation services provided in Kunming by the Yunnan branch of the Chinese Red Cross. The majority of patients had their worn-out prostheses replaced at the physical rehabilitation centre, while others had their appliances repaired or adjusted at workshops in Kaiyuan and Malipo, near the Vietnamese border. In addition to the provision of prosthetic/orthotic components, raw materials, wheelchairs and walking aids, ICRC monitoring of production and fittings helped the centre further strengthen its capacity to deliver high-quality devices and services to patients.

In December, a new cooperation agreement was concluded between the Chinese Red Cross, its Yunnan branch and the ICRC, allowing for the continuation of the existing cooperation agreement until December 2011.

DPRK physical rehabilitation centre staff enhance their skills

Disabled people in the DPRK received appropriate treatment at the Songrim and Rakrang physical rehabilitation centres, with support from the ICRC and the DPRK Red Cross.

The centres continued to enhance their capacities and grow more autonomous and sustainable, boosted by ICRC training support. Staff at both centres received on-the-job training in the manufacture and fitting of lower-limb orthoses and in gait training for people with prosthetic/orthotic devices, as well as ongoing mentoring of daily patient-fitting and management activities. Four rehabilitation therapy assistants completed a one-year course at the Mobility India Rehabilitation Research and Training Centre in Bangalore, India, while five orthopaedic technologists finished their three-year training course at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics.

In addition to producing high-quality prostheses and orthoses, the Rakrang centre carried out 124 stump revisions for both military and civilian amputees, using essential equipment and consumables provided by the ICRC. However, the planned review of the stump-revision programme could not be conducted, as visa delays led to time constraints during ICRC technical missions to the DPRK.

After the existing cooperation agreement ended in July, the DPRK authorities declared that the Songrim centre, after eight years of ICRC support, had reached a satisfactory level of self-sufficiency and would therefore no longer require the organization's assistance. However, the DPRK authorities asked the ICRC to extend its support to the centre in Rakrang for two more years. To this end, a memorandum of understanding defining the objectives and responsibilities of each party was signed in January 2011.

As agreed with the authorities, the ICRC, together with the DPRK Red Cross, conducted an assessment of surgical and structural rehabilitation needs at three provincial hospitals (Hamhung, Pyongsong and Sariwon) in July. Subsequently, the Ministry of Health, the DPRK Red Cross and the ICRC examined the support to be provided to orthopaedic surgery and related departments in these hospitals on the basis of a draft memorandum of understanding, still under discussion at year-end.

AUTHORITIES

Missions to Beijing by the ICRC's director of operations and director-general strengthened dialogue with Chinese political decision-makers. In addition to briefings on ICRC operations and concerns worldwide, discussions with high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials centred on neutral, impartial and independent

humanitarian action, the benefit of greater exchange between Chinese embassies and ICRC delegations, and the results of a recent ICRC study on the current state of IHL.

The Chinese IHL committee and the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs analysed the findings of ICRC studies on the compatibility of domestic law with IHL obligations, respectively discussing the findings with the ICRC in a working session and providing written comments.

China ratified Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on Explosive Remnants of War, at the prompting of the national IHL committee.

During its first formal session, held with ICRC guidance, Mongolia's IHL committee clarified basic organizational issues and identified priorities.

China, the ROK and Mongolia participated in the third Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees held in Geneva, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*).

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Military operational decision-makers in the region and the ICRC maintained contact, not least in view of recurring tensions on the Korean peninsula. Working relations between the Chinese and the ROK armed forces and the ICRC developed. Military lawyers discussed current IHL issues, including the notion of direct participation by civilians in hostilities, the legal review of new weapons and a future arms trade treaty.

Experts reviewing Chinese doctrine on the handling of detainees gained new insight on this issue at an ICRC workshop. During a first official visit, a high-level delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army learnt more about the organization and discussed future cooperation at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. The Military Law Centre of the China University of Political Science and Law taught a new master's degree in military law, with ICRC participation.

Military officers and diplomats from 11 East and South-East Asian countries enhanced their knowledge of the rules governing means and methods of warfare and IHL implementation during a regional seminar organized by the ROK Army Judge Advocate General's Office and the ICRC.

Two senior officers from China and two from the ROK took part in the fourth Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations held in Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*). Both countries also sent participants to a conference at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.

At lectures and presentations, members of the armed forces of China, Mongolia and the ROK gained greater understanding of IHL and the ICRC.

Police personnel from China and military personnel from the ROK attended ICRC briefings before their deployment on overseas missions. The Chinese People's Armed Police and the ICRC established first contacts outside the field of peacekeeping.

CIVIL SOCIETY

General and specialist audiences in China and the ROK enjoyed increased access to ICRC multimedia material on IHL, humanitarian principles and other humanitarian issues in their own languages, including through the ICRC's Chinese-language website and sub-site within the ROK Red Cross site. Journalists worked with the ICRC to cover topical humanitarian themes and received help in contacting ICRC delegations worldwide.

Over 1 million visitors to the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai gained a vivid picture of the suffering of victims of conflict and natural disaster at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Pavilion, set up by the Chinese Red Cross with the International Federation and the ICRC.

To strengthen its teaching of IHL, Ewha Women's University in Seoul signed a memorandum of understanding with the ICRC. Academics, practitioners and researchers discussed IHL issues, including provisions on the protection of civilians, and teaching challenges at workshops organized jointly by academic institutions and the ICRC in Beijing and Seoul and at regional events in Malaysia and Singapore (see *Kuala Lumpur*). Students improved their IHL knowledge during ICRC-supported regional and national moot court competitions organized by universities and National Societies in Beijing, Hong Kong, Seoul and Taipei.

In Mongolia, following the integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the official school curriculum, the Ministry of Education and the Mongolian Red Cross took over full responsibility for the programme. In China, with material adapted from the programme, the National Society and education authorities organized a teacher-training course in Tianjin and a symposium in Shanghai. Young people were introduced to the materials at a Red Cross summer camp in Nanjing. The ROK Red Cross planned to introduce the programme in schools in 2011.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Societies in the region, with ICRC financial and technical support, worked to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles and to improve their capacities to meet humanitarian needs in the event of emergencies.

Following a review of its dissemination programme in 2009, the Chinese Red Cross developed new communication strategies and capacity building in specific areas and enlarged its network through regional training seminars.

At a first China/Association of Southeast Asian Nations Red Cross and Red Crescent symposium on disaster management, participants included in their final statement a reference to family-links activities in disaster response. The Chinese and ROK Red Cross Societies received further related training at an ICRC workshop (see *Kuala Lumpur*).

Some 30 volunteers honed their first-aid skills at a Chinese Red Cross/ICRC workshop and 28 health professionals from the National Society, government and armed forces shared their experiences at the second Health Emergencies in Large Populations course organized with the Peking University School of Public Health and the Chinese Red Cross.

The Chinese Red Cross and the ICRC conducted joint missions to the Tibet and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Regions, identifying branch needs and discussing possible future support.

The DPRK Red Cross translated and printed the ICRC manual on first aid in armed conflict and other situations of violence. Together with the International Federation, it provided emergency relief to flood victims, which included the distribution of over 1 million ICRC-supplied water purification tablets. A cooperation agreement strategy meeting with the DPRK Red Cross and its Movement partners was held in Sweden.