

City of Osh. ICRC surgeon visit a gunshot victim in his home to change his dressings and remove a fluid drainage tube from his side. The patient does not want to go to the hospital as he is still fearful of being harmed (24 June)



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By Yoshinobu Nagamine,
Head of office

We have the pleasure to announce that there has recently been a reshuffling of positions and persons at the ICRC Directorate in Geneva. As of 1st July 2010, Yves Daccord who had been the Director of the Communication Department, took up the function of Director-General. New Directors were also appointed for other departments including financial resources and logistics; communication and information management; and human resources.

More importantly, the new executive team has reinstated the vision of being a "determined, courageous and human ICRC putting people's need at the centre of its work. It endeavours to be an organisation being able to make a difference in ongoing and emerging humanitarian crisis while being in close proximity to the people it helps. It intends to proactively shape the debate on legal and policy related issues and use its humanitarian diplomacy as a strong lever to influence governments and others."

How does this relate to the ICRC's work in Japan? In a peaceful country like Japan, the ICRC Tokyo office does not have relief or assistance operations in the field. Instead, it shares and exchanges information and expertise on humanitarian action with ministries, media and other stakeholders in order to provide vital support for their humanitarian role abroad. Briefings are conducted as widely as possible, covering issues related to international humanitarian law and specific programmes and activities such as prison visits or restoring family links.

In this regard, we are currently exploring innovative forms of partnership with various institutions; lately, we have been impressed by the number of initiatives stemming from the Japanese Red Cross Society, academia, media, NGOs and other actors. One example is the production of a cartoon on the life of Dr. Marcel Junod, an ICRC delegate who was the first foreign doctor to bring assistance to the people of

Hiroshima after the dropping of the atomic bomb. A road show featuring the cartoon will be organised in Tokyo at the end of July (please see p.5 of this newsletter for more details).

For the next half year, we expect to further enhance our dialogue on humanitarian issues with an extended number of interlocutors. It is worth mentioning that Japan is a country which had embraced the values of the Red Cross movement at an early stage and is exemplary in the ratification of humanitarian law treaties. Japan has also accumulated a wealth of experience in disaster relief for victims of earthquakes, typhoons or cyclones. The acquired know-how is certainly of valuable use for humanitarian assistance during armed conflict.

ICRC Tokyo sincerely hopes to join hands with a wide range of interlocutors and institutions to complement and enhance each other's potential to make a difference; and to work towards finding solutions for various humanitarian needs in Japan as well as abroad. Regardless of the challenges, our focus remains to strive to respond to the multi-faceted humanitarian needs of the 21st century while putting emphasis on its core mandate of assistance and protection for the benefit of victims of armed conflict.



ICRC



The devastated town of Osh



Osh. ICRC President, Jakob Kellenberger is visiting a distribution place in the district of Sharq, populated by ethnic Uzbeks

families and food has been delivered to around 1,000 people being held in places of detention in Osh and Jalal-Abad.

In addition, the ICRC is working with the Kyrgyz Red Crescent to restore contact among family members separated from one another by the recent armed violence, and advising the authorities on handling mortal remains in a way that facilitates identification.

The situation is still very tense. The level of violence has left deep wounds in the communities, and the authorities face real challenges in dealing with resentment and the ethnic divide amid voting taking place on important issues.

Kyrgyzstan : An Unfolding Humanitarian Catastrophe

This past June, the ICRC issued an Appeal for support as ethnic clashes, which started in the city of Osh on 10 June, continued to spread in the south of the country, including to the city of Jalal-Abad, prompting an estimated 80,000 people to flee their homes. More than 100 people were killed and over 1,200 injured, according to Kyrgyz authorities, although the number of confirmed dead is likely to rise when more bodies could be recovered.

The ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger visited the country and discussed the humanitarian consequences of the violence. The ICRC's first priority was to enhance medical facilities to cope with the influx of hundreds of wounded people, as well as help doctors to deal with the crisis in five hospitals in Osh and one in Jalal-Abad. Together with the Kyrgyz Red Crescent, the ICRC distributed medicines and surgical kits in 20 medical centres. A few days after the violence broke out, the ICRC started distributing water to people

who had fled the city of Osh.

The ICRC and volunteers from the Kyrgyz Red Crescent also distributed food rations in the city of Osh, and in the Osh province along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border. Over 200,000 people have so far received rations of wheat flour and oil. Kitchen and hygiene items have also been distributed to 1,700



Bazarqurgan. A woman, whose brother is being held by the police, is writing a Red Cross message

Annual Report 2009

The 2009 Annual Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross is an account of field activities conducted out of 80 delegations worldwide. The activities are part of the organisation's mandate to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and to promote respect for international humanitarian law.

You can download the report on the ICRC website:

Home > Info resources > Annual Report > ICRC Annual Report 2009





Visitors write their testimonies on a photo of Halabcha (Kurdish region of Northern Iraq)



Visitors appreciate with the paintings drawn by Japanese and Iranian children at "Friendship and Peace" exhibition

Iran and Iraq

– ICRC's long struggles with weapon contamination –

A regional seminar on weapons contamination, jointly organised by the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC, was recently held in Iran. The event provided a platform to discuss the humanitarian needs of civilians affected by the use of explosive weapons in conflicts such as during the Iran-Iraq war.

From 29 June to 2 July 2010, an International Exhibition was held at the Tehran Peace Museum, to which the ICRC was invited to attend the Opening Ceremony. The Exhibition highlighted the suffering of civilians affected by war and the horror of weapons of mass destruction. This date had special significance as it was the Iranian national day against the use of chemical weapons. More than 20 years ago, on 29 June 1987, Iraq used chemical weapons to attack Sadarsht (a Kurdish village bordering Iraq), resulting in the deaths of thousands of civilians and a large number of disabled persons.

The Exhibition, called "messenger of peace," showcased more than 150 photos of nuclear and chemical attacks on several countries including Belgium, Vietnam, Iraq (Kurdish

region), and Iran. Besides, the Tehran Peace Museum displays permanently atomic bomb photographs from Japan and, this time, some Japan-related events were also held.

The Iranian Red Crescent and the ICRC continued to develop their operational partnership; notably in the fields of restoring family links, physical rehabilitation, mine-risk education; and cooperation in potential rapid deployment scenarios, working with National Societies acting in their own countries



"Hibakusha", Mr. Takashi Teramoto, talks about his own experiences in Hiroshima



Somalia : shelling of a hospital marked with the red crescent emblem

Keysaney Hospital, an ICRC-supported hospital in Somalia, was hit by a shell on 29 June, killing one patient and wounding another. The shell struck the triage building, destroying the roof and wall. The hospital was clearly marked with the red crescent emblem. The ICRC immediately expressed sincere regret. However, more shells hit the hospital on the following day, 30 June, causing damage to the structure despite ICRC's repeated calls to all warring parties to respect international humanitarian law and spare medical facilities.

The conflict has had a devastating impact on the medical facilities, staff and patients, as well as the civilians in Somalia. Said Pascal

Mauchle, who heads the ICRC delegation in Somalia: "The situation is becoming more and more dangerous for patients and medical staff by the day."

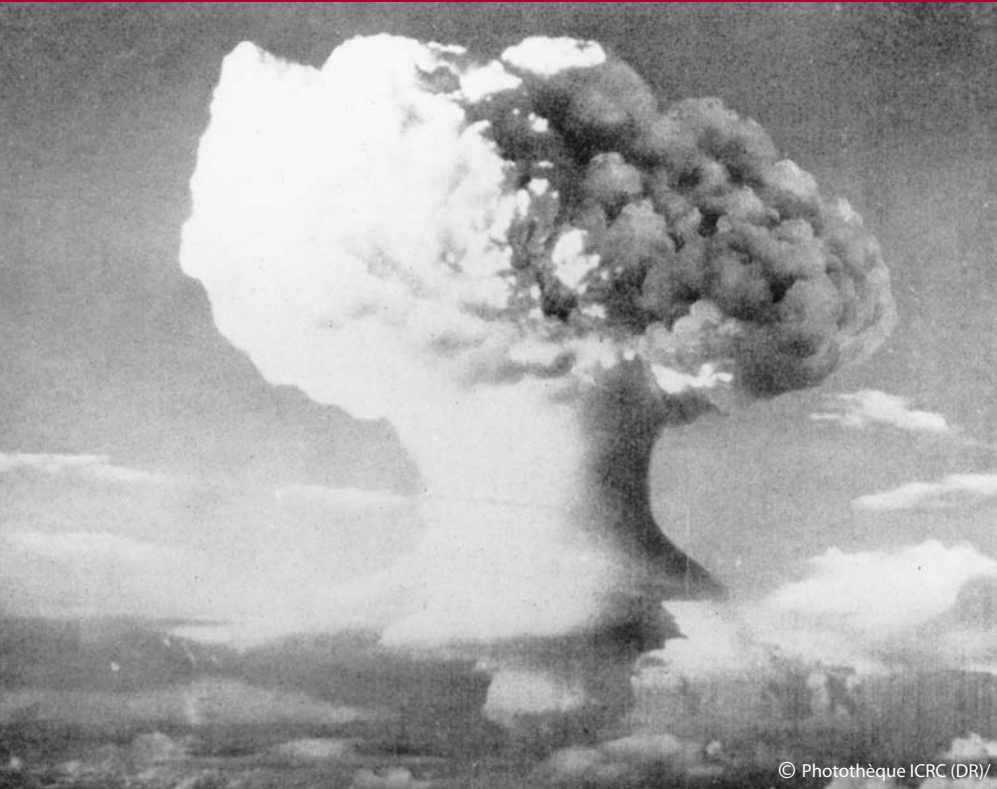
Under International Humanitarian Law, all parties to the conflict have an obligation to comply with specified rules of conduct. Attacks may be directed only against persons taking a direct part in hostilities and against military objectives, and warring parties must spare the civilian population and civilian objects at all times.

After the shells landed on 30 June, once again the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent Society

reminded all parties to the conflict that launching attacks against medical facilities marked with the red crescent emblem is a violation of International Humanitarian Law. Whether launching an attack or deploying military personnel and equipment, all those involved in the hostilities must take every feasible precaution to minimise the potential harm to civilians and to civilian objects such as hospitals.

Since the beginning of the year nearly 1,400 war patients have been treated at the Keysaney Hospital, including over 300 women and around 200 children.

Ending the era of nuclear weapons



© Photothèque ICRC (DR)/

The ICRC believes an historic opportunity currently exists to bring the nuclear era to an end.

On 20 April, the ICRC President appealed to States to ensure that nuclear weapons are never again used.



© Photothèque ICRC (DR)/NAKATA, Satsuo

Hiroshima, Naka-ku. Devastation following the explosion of the atomic bomb

Summary of Statement by Jakob Kellenberger, ICRC President

In recent weeks and months, the issues of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation have assumed a new urgency on the world stage.

The International Committee of the Red Cross firmly believes that the debate about nuclear weapons must be conducted not only on the basis of military doctrines and power politics. The currency of this debate must ultimately be about human beings, about the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law, and about the collective future of humanity.



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The ICRC has a legitimate voice in this debate. In its 150-year history, the organisation has witnessed immeasurable human suffering caused by war and understands the potential of international humanitarian law to limit such suffering.

The suffering caused by the use of nuclear weapons is increased exponentially by

devastation of the emergency and medical assistance infrastructure. The specific characteristics of nuclear weapons, that is, the effects of the radiation they generate, also cause suffering and death for years after the initial explosion. For survivors, the immediate future may include life-threatening dehydration and diarrhoea from injuries to the gastrointestinal tract, and life-threatening infections and severe bleeding caused by bone marrow suppression. If they survive these threats, they face an increased risk of developing certain cancers and of passing on genetic damage to future generations.

In 1996 the ICRC welcomed the fact that the International Court of Justice, in its Advisory Opinion on nuclear weapons, confirmed that the principles of distinction and proportionality found in international humanitarian law are "intransgressible" and apply also to nuclear weapons. It stated **"the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and particularly the principles and rules of humanitarian law."**

The position of the ICRC, as a humanitarian organization, goes – and must go – beyond a purely legal analysis. **Nuclear weapons are unique in their destructive power, in the unspeakable human suffering they cause, in the impossibility of controlling their effects in space and time, in the risks of escalation**

they create, and in the threat they pose to the environment, to future generations, and indeed to the survival of humanity. The ICRC therefore appeals today to all States to ensure that such weapons are never used again, regardless of their views on the legality of such use.

In the view of the ICRC, preventing the use of nuclear weapons requires fulfilment of existing obligations to pursue negotiations aimed at prohibiting and completely eliminating such weapons through a legally binding international treaty. It also means preventing their proliferation and controlling access to materials and technology that can be used to produce them.

The opening sentences of Marcel Junod, the ICRC doctor who was in Japan following the bombing, began: **"The physical impact of the bomb was beyond belief, beyond all apprehension, beyond imagination. Its moral impact was appalling"**.

The ICRC today appeals to all States, and to all in a position to influence them, to seize with determination and urgency the unique opportunities now at hand to bring the era of nuclear weapons to an end.

The Advisory Opinion of the ICJ regarding nuclear weapon

On 8 July 1996 the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, gave an Advisory Opinion about the Legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. In its opinion, ICJ stated "there is in neither customary nor conventional international law any specific authorization of the threat or use of nuclear weapons" or "any comprehensive and universal prohibition" of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. Moreover, it confirms the threat or use of nuclear weapons "should also be compatible with the requirements of the international law applicable in armed conflict, particularly those of the principles and rules of international humanitarian law." In detail, it stated two principles of international humanitarian law, the distinction between combatants and non-combatants and the prohibit on the infliction of unnecessary suffering on combatants, were "intransgressible principles of international customary law" and, therefore, able to apply on nuclear weapons. For these reasons, ICJ stated "the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and particularly the principles and rules of humanitarian law." ICRC welcomes supports this opinion. However, Advisory Opinion of ICJ has no legal effect and there are also dissenting opinions.



The scene of Hospital in Hiroshima after atomic bombing

Doctor Junod's Life

Born in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, on 14 May 1904, Marcel was the fifth of six children. He was in his teens when his father died and his mother brought the children to live in Geneva. Thanks to financial support provided by a relative, Junod achieved his ambition to become a doctor and specialized in surgery. In 1935, the ICRC asked him to carry out a short mission in Ethiopia. After the Italian victory in Ethiopia, Junod was dispatched to Spain to coordinate ICRC's operations during the civil war.

The outbreak of the Second World War saw Junod back in action throughout Europe, visiting prisoners of war. In June 1945, travelling to Japan via Cairo, Moscow, and then on the trans-Siberian railway. In 1948, he was appointed representative in China for the newly-created UN Children's Fund. In 1952 he became a member of the ICRC Assembly. Marcel Junod died as he had lived: in action, while bringing a patient round from surgery on 16 June 1961. In 1979 a monument was put up in his memory in Hiroshima.

Animation Movie "Junod": Ready to be on Show

<Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography:Screen Time>

*Off Day: 9/6, 10/12, 10/18, 11/8

9/1-11 19:00

10/9-22 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00

11/6-11 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00

Contact: NPO "MOCT"

☎082-223-0790 <http://www.junod.jp/>



War 1939-1945. Moosburg, Stalag VII A. Visit of Dr. Marcel Junod, ICRC delegate-doctor, with detention authority

Delegate's Struggle in Hiroshima

Everyone knows about Hiroshima, the town attacked by an atomic bomb.

However, few people know the foreign doctor who made a great effort to save bomb survivors. His name was Marcel Junod. On 9th August 1945, on the very day that the Americans dropped the second atom bomb on Nagasaki, Dr. Junod arrived in Tokyo as the new head of the ICRC's delegation in Japan. His first task was visiting Allied prisoners of war held in Japan.

After one of the ICRC delegates in the field sent Junod a telegram with details of the Hiroshima disaster, Junod immediately contacted the American command and asked for emergency medical supplies. Moreover, he was also the first foreign doctor to set foot there after the catastrophe. It is said that his effort saved hundreds thousands people's lives.

The Scene Viewed through Junod's Report

"The 8 September 1945, we take off from the Air Facility Atsugi[...]. At this moment, on 20 kilometres, all is nothing but destruction, the site where was the town seems like a kind of floor, brick red, of rusty iron."

"The number of injured was estimated at about 100,000; but most of them died because of the extent of their wounds or the lack of care."

Destroyed buildings

55,000 entirely burned; 2,300 half burned; 7,000 demolished; 3,700 half demolished; most of schools, banks and factories vanished

Destroyed vehicles

90 wagons; 87 trams; 44 fire engines; 122 trucks completely destroyed

Destroyed means of communication and electric power

90% of the phone lines burnt; all power stations burnt

Destroyed hospitals and casualties among the professionals of medicine

All hospitals destroyed but the Red Cross one

Casualties: 270 out of 300 doctors; 1,654 out of 1,780 nurses; 112 out of 140 pharmacists; 132 out of 162 dentists



Historical Relationship between Japan and the ICRC

A new historical series about Japan-ICRC relationship

First contact between Japan and the Red Cross

The Birth of a New Idea

The first Japan-ICRC encounter was at the Paris World Expo in 1867, where Japan, represented by the Edo government, and the Saga and Satsuma clans, had a pavilion.

Also present at the event was the newly established International Committee for Relief to the Wounded (the predecessor of the ICRC). Two of the Japanese representatives, Tsunetami Sano of the Saga clan and Ryouun Takamatsu from the Edo government, took an interest in the organisation and its principles.



Paris World Expo

Later, these two gentlemen would work for the establishment of the Red Cross Movement in Japan.

The Hakodate War : Ups and Downs

When Takamatsu returned to Japan, the Boshin War between the Meiji government and the vassals of the former Edo government was going on.

A representative of the Edo government, Takeaki Enomoto, decided to move their base to Ezo (Hokkaido) and asked his old friend Takamatsu to take over the Hakodate hospital. Takamatsu began to put into practice the idea of the Red Cross, i.e. to aid wounded soldiers in war, regardless of their affiliation or origin.

However, with the deteriorating war situation, things were very uncertain. One day, the Meiji government military broke in the hospital. Takamatsu managed to prevent any bloodshed or damage by convincing one of the commanding officers of the importance of neutral humanitarian action.

Not so lucky was Koryuji, a branch of the

Hakodate hospital where, one doctor was killed, another one was tied, and Koryuji itself was set on fire by the military. This illustrates how the Japanese at that time thought of the Red Cross.

The Origin of the Red Cross in Japan

From 1871 to 1873, the Meiji government sent the Iwakura Mission to Europe for preliminary negotiations aimed at revising treaties as well as to study development processes in Europe.

The around time, Sano was a diplomat in Vienna. It is said that he viewed the Red Cross Pavilion together with the Mission when it visited the World Expo.

Shortly thereafter, the Mission went to Geneva and met with Moynier, the Chairman of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, a meeting which was reported in the journal of the organisation.

Encouraged by Iwakura and Ito's positive attitudes, the Committee felt encouraged to spread the Red Cross Movement to Japan.

Establishment of the Philanthropic Society

The battles of the Southwestern Rebellion

The Philanthropic Society (predecessor of JRCS) was founded by Tsunetami Sano during the hostilities between government troops and the Satsuma military during the Southwestern Rebellion in 1877. There was resistance to its formation as the government did not understand a Society which aids wounded soldiers in war, regardless of which side they are on. Finally, Sano obtained permission from Arisugawanomiya, Imperial Prince Taruhito who was the head of the government forces. In May 1887, the organisation was renamed as the Japan Red Cross Society (JRCS).

The Beginning of JRCS-ICRC Cooperation

Finally, the Edo government's national isolation policy ended and 30 years after opening up the country, in September 1887, JRCS began to work with the ICRC. Thereafter, Japan surprised the World by its careful treatment of prisoners of war during Japanese-Sino War and Japanese-Russo War.



Tsunetami Sano, founder of the Japan Red Cross Society

Reference: Olive Checkland (ed.), Norikazu Kudo (tran.), "Humanitarianism and the Emperor's Japan, 1877-1977", Hosei University Press, 2002.

Takashi Masui, "Sekai to Nihon no Sekijuiji", Times, 1999.

Takashi Masui, "Iwakurashisetudan no Sekijuiji Homon" from "Sogo Bunka 2", Sogo Bunka Kyokai, Dec. 1999.

URL : JRCSHP : <http://www.jrc.or.jp/about/jrc/est/index.html> Sano Tsunetami Museum HP : <http://www.saganet.ne.jp/tunetami/>

1863 Establishment of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded	1877 the battles of the Southwestern Rebellion Establishment of Philanthropic Society	1939 World War 2
1864 Signing on the First Geneva Convention	1886 Signing of the Second Geneva Convention	1941 the Pacific War
1867 The first Red Cross International Conference Paris World Expo	1887 Renamed JRCS Joined in ICRC	1942 Establishment of representative office of ICRC in Japan
1871 Iwakura Mission	1894 Japanese-Sino War	1945 Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki War's end
1873 Vienna World Expo Meeting of Iwakura Mission and Moynier, the Chairman of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded.	1904 Japanese-Russo War	1949 Establishment of Four Geneva Conventions
1876 Renamed the International Committee of Red Cross	1914 World War 1	1953 Accedence of Japan to four Geneva Conventions
	1919 Establishment of IFRC	1977 Establishment of two Protocols
	1920 Three JRCS nurses receive prized Nightingale Medal	2004 Accedence of Japan to two Protocols
	1931 Manchurian Incident	2009 Establishment of Japan Office of ICRC
	1937 Sino-Japanese War	

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

– JRCS activities as a part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement –

Need for Humanitarian Law education for youth

Recently, JRCS organized a seminar on “Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL)” for the principals of elementary, junior high and high schools from all over the country. Mr Sukhdave Singh, the ICRC’s Regional Adviser on EHL, explained its methodology, citing examples of its implementation in other Asian countries.

What is EHL?

Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) is an international education programme for young people between the ages of 13 and 18. The ICRC, together with the National Red Cross/Red Crescent Society in each country, works with the authorities (usually the Ministry of Education) in the integration of EHL into mainly the public school education curriculum.

“Exploration” is the curriculum’s main pedagogical approach

EHL encourages both teachers and students to discuss issues such as humanitarian concepts and principles, the rules of war (International Humanitarian Law), the needs of vulnerable populations, child soldiers and so on through various activities (Role Playing, Discussion, Brain Storming, Video viewing, etc.).



Singh delivering a lecture to teachers



Purpose of the EHL Programme

1. Understand the need to respect life and human dignity, especially in times of violence and armed conflict
2. Be aware of the various aspects of the humanitarian issues/ the Humanitarian Law and of the complexity of putting the International Humanitarian Law into practice
3. “Read” local and international current events from a humanitarian point of view
4. Engage actively in community initiatives that promote solidarity and prevent or defuse violence

By learning to look from the humanitarian viewpoint, participants understand the need for rules during armed conflicts. They also see how international humanitarian law applies to situations of conflict and what it says about limiting the impact of war on vulnerable groups. Finally, they are able to connect the ideas that they learnt together and relate them to events in their daily lives.



Top : Outside the pavilion

Bottom-left : Face photographs of volunteers from around the world

Bottom-right : Students staring at a screen made of fog



China: Shanghai Expo, Under the Tent of Humanity

From 1 May until 31 October, the ICRC and its Red Cross/Red Crescent partners had an exhibition booth at the Shanghai Expo.

Past the white tent entrance and inside the pavilion, visitors enter an area of darkness where images are displayed that illustrate many kinds of situations in which the need for humanitarian assistance may arise. A short film introduces audiences to the diverse array of activities carried out by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to meet needs and strengthen communities. Visitors also discover how to translate their humanitarian ideals into concrete reality. A “great wall” of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers consists of faces from around the world, as a way of paying respect to the central role played by individual volunteers. Visitors are encouraged to “make their move” by learning how to join the nearly 10 million volunteers throughout the world who are already part of the Movement, finding out more about specific activities and by meeting Chinese Red Cross staff and volunteers.

This Pavilion is not the only Red Cross/Crescent Movement presence. Staffed by 165 volunteers and Red Cross doctors in rotating 16-hour shifts, first-aid posts were set up, representing one of the ways through which the International Red Cross/Crescent Movement is actively and uniquely involved in humanitarian affairs worldwide.

Making a clearer distinction between civilian and combatant

– The ICRC's "Interpretive Guidance on Direct Participation in Hostilities (DPH)" –

In a recent visit to Japan, the ICRC's legal adviser, Dr. Nils Melzer, delivered a lecture on "Interpretive Guidance on the Notion of Direct Participation in Hostilities (DPH)" at a seminar hosted by the Japan Institute of International Affairs, Japan International Law Association and Kyoto University International Law Students Society. He also had the opportunity to exchange views with Ministry of Defense officials.

During the lecture, Dr. Melzer explained the need for discussion on the concept of DPH. An important rule of International Humanitarian Law is the importance of making a distinction between combatants and civilians, as a means of protecting persons who are not, or no longer participating in hostilities. Thus under IHL, there are those who would be considered as legitimate targets while others are protected persons. The former includes anyone from organized armed forces belonging to a party in the armed conflict while the latter includes civilians, hors de combat and so on.

It is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish between civilians and combatants because of the changing nature of armed conflicts. For example, armed groups may change their uniform to less readily identifiable designs and colours. In addition, armed groups may blend into civilian populations or civilians themselves may intermittently participate in internal armed conflicts. In an attempt to address these situations, the Interpretive Guidance defines the concept of civilian, direct participation in hostilities, and the modalities governing the loss of protection.

One of the categories addressed by the Guidance is that of private contractors and civilian employees of a party to an armed conflict.

Clearly, they are civilians and entitled to protection against direct attack unless and for such time as they take a direct part in hostilities. Their activities or location may, however, expose them to an increased risk of incidental death or injury even if they do not take a direct part in the hostilities.

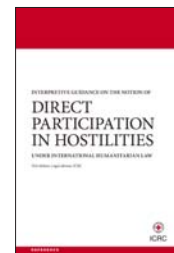
Those who attended the lecture were obviously interested, leading to a lot of questions and opinions expressed.

The "Interpretive Guidance on the Notion of Direct Participation in Hostilities" can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://www.icrc.org> >
Humanitarian Law >
Reaffirmation and Development >
ICRC Publication



ICRC's legal adviser, Dr. Nils Melzer, delivering a lecture at Kyoto



More Japanese into the Humanitarian Field

– Lecture at the Aoyama Gakuin University –

ICRC Tokyo was given time to talk to students during an International Humanitarian Assistance class at the Graduate School of Aoyama Gakuin University International Politics, Economics, and Communications Global Expert Program (GLEP). We spoke about the ICRC's history, structure, legal basis, international humanitarian law, the training of ICRC staff and so on (GLEP is the programme which trains Japanese nationals for the diplomatic service or as International Organization Officers).

Establishment of ICRC Support Unit (ISU)

The ICRC Support Unit (ISU), which is a joint GLEP-ICRC programme, will be operational from this September. Students will work on holding events, research, update of ICRC's Japanese Website, and so on, with support from ICRC Tokyo.

The aim of ISU is, by making students participating in the ICRC activities, to give them a glimpse of the activities and the reality of humanitarian assistance they could take advantage of into their future careers.

The ICRC's Mission Statement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.