

# **Regional Delegation for East Asia**



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# **Regional Delegation for East Asia**

With our long lasting field experience in more than 40 countries on the Belt and Road in Asia, Africa and Europe, I am convinced the ICRC can share its knowledge and bring added-value to the Belt and Road Initiative.

- Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC

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# **BOUT THE ICRC IN EAST ASIA**



Head of ICRC Regional Delegation for East Asia talking to visitors at the Humanity in War exhibition in 2016.

### **About the ICRC**

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. Established in 1863, it is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the world's largest humanitarian network. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities carried out by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also aims to prevent suffering by promoting international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. The ICRC is one of the world's oldest humanitarian organizations and today works in more than 80 countries.

### The ICRC regional delegation

The ICRC Regional Delegation for East Asia covers China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Mongolia. The delegation was initially established in 1987 in Hong Kong and from 1996 was based in Bangkok. In 2005, the delegation moved to Beijing.

The delegation's main focus is to promote awareness and implementation of international humanitarian law, the legal framework that seeks to minimize human suffering caused by war. The delegation also aims to familiarize governments, experts, National Red Cross Societies and civil society with the ICRC's humanitarian work and emergency response around the world. Joint ICRC-National Red Cross Societies physical rehabilitation projects in China and in the DPRK provide direct services to vulnerable groups.



## Domestic implementation of IHL

Through active dialogue with the governments of the region, the delegation promotes their participation in IHL treaties, encourages their implementation in domestic law and provides legal and technical support to national IHL committees. ICRC also facilitates the involvement of States of the region in the application, clarification and development of international humanitarian law.



Francois Bugnion, a member of the ICRC assembly, signing the Chinese edition Vol.II of his book "The ICRC and the Protection of War Victims" in Beijing.



### IHL integration by the armed forces

The delegation works with the armed forces of the region to integrate IHL into their military doctrine, education, training, weapons review and sanctions systems.



ICRC briefing militaries on IHL and peacekeeping during a briefing at the Peacekeeping Police Training Centre in Langfang.



A Red Cross IHL Moot Court Competition in Republic of Korea.



## Teaching of and research into IHL at universities

ICRC fosters interest in and knowledge of IHL and humanitarian action within the academic community through social media, conferences, Asia-wide IHL courses, training and moot-court com-petitions. Working with the leading higher education institutions of the region, ICRC also supports the integration of IHL in curricula by providing advice, training and resource materials to faculties of law, political science and journalism.



The 2016 Humanitarian Education Programme (HEP) National Sharing Meeting in Qingdao.

#### Humanitarian Education Program

In China, the ICRC cooperates with the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and the Ministry of Education to conduct a Humanitarian Education Program (HEP) that introduces young people between 13 and 18 years of age to the basic rules and principles of IHL. Various HEP programs have been developed in Shanghai, Tianjin, Henan, Jiangsu, Beijing, Shandong, Zhejiang, Hong Kong and Macao. Within universities, the program is promoted through optional courses or peer education programs; within secondary schools, teaching material have been adapted and integrated into the curricula; within primary schools, the program takes the form of extra-curricular activities.

# DIALOGUE ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

## Dialogue with the authorities and think tanks

The ICRC maintains a dialogue with civilian and military authorities in the region to ensure support for its operations around the world and recognition of its neutral, impartial and independent approach in responding to the humanitarian needs created by armed conflict or other situations of violence. By maintaining contact with numerous think tanks and related institutions, the ICRC is actively engaged in an exchange of ideas on evolving conflict environments, with a particular focus on the protection of and assistance for the most vulnerable groups in such situations.



ICRC president giving a speech at the Belt & Road Forum held in Beijing in 2017.



Celebration of World Red Cross Day with RCSC volunteers.

### Cooperation with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners

To strengthen the Red Cross' humanitarian voice and a common vision, the delegation cooperates with the National Societies of the region to address key local and global trends and issues. ICRC also helps build National Society capacities to promote the principles of Red Cross humanitarian action as well as the legal responsibilities of National Societies under IHL. For instance, a Special Fund is created to mobilize the Fundamental Principles through innovative projects in local communities in China.

#### **Media relations**

The delegation provides information to the East Asian media about the humanitarian environment and the ICRC's response in the more than 80 countries it works in. It also promotes issues of specific interest to the media, such as protection under humanitarian law for journalists working in conflict zones.



ICRC President answering questions from a Chinese reporter.

### Promotion of humanitarian issues among the general public

The ICRC fosters interest in and understanding of humanitarian is-sues among the general public of the region, particularly through its websites, social media platforms and numerous publications in Chinese, Korean and Mongolian languages.



ICRC communication delegate sharing field experience with RC Club leaders and Peer educators at the Exhibition-Humanity in War held at the Beijing Capital Museum in 2016.

## UMANITARIAN RESPONSE, SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

### Public Health and Orthopaedic Physical Rehabilitation Centres

Over the past ten years, ICRC has supported an orthopaedic physical rehabilitation centre in Kunming, Yunnan province, which provides prosthesis, among others, to landmine survivors. In the DPRK, in cooperation with the DPRK Red Cross, the ICRC supports the Rakrang and Songrim Orthopaedic Physical Rehabilitation Centres with infrastructure, medical and procedural training and supplies. In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health of the DPRK and the National Society, the ICRC assists the three provincial general hospitals of Pyongsong, Hamhung, Kaesong.



RCSC volunteers training Hekou county habitants on First Aid in 2016.

### Enhancing capacity to respond to emergency situations

Throughout the region, ICRC organizes and supports a number of specialized trainings and events to enhance local capacities to respond to emergency situations. This involves building up the local skills and capacities of National Societies to provide safe access for volunteers and staff during emergency action. National Societies have the opportunity to learn from ICRC' experience working in fragile contexts and at the same time to expand collaboration with ICRC for its operations in conflict contexts around the world.

#### **Livelihood Program**

The ICRC is sharing its international experience and lessons learnt with the Red Cross Society of China through a jointly implemented Livelihood Project which is currently operating in the Yunnan Province and Xinjiang Autonomous Region. The Livelihood Project contributes to the Government of China's poverty alleviation strategy. Through the Livelihood Project, poor households develop their own business plans and receive funding for its implementation.



A beneficiary of the Livelihood Programme jointly implemented by the ICRC and RCSC.



A beneficiary of cash grant from ICRC/RCSC hopes to scale up his business and increase his income.

#### **Restoring Family Links**

The ICRC works with National Red Cross Societies of the region to strengthen their capacity to reunite family members separated during armed conflicts, natural disasters or migration.

#### **Health in Prisons**

The ICRC maintains a continuous dialogue with the Chinese authorities on health issue in prisons, co-organizing study tours abroad, seminars and workshops focusing on the health system strengthening and management of infectious diseases in prisons.

#### The ICRC's mission statement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization 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.







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