

The ICRC in East Asia



Regional Delegation for East Asia



ICRC

Promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

National implementation of IHL

The delegation maintains contacts with the governments in the region and organizes events to encourage countries to accede to IHL treaties and to incorporate the provisions of these instruments into their national legislation.

IHL integration by the armed forces

The delegation works with the armed forces of the region to strengthen their capacity to instruct IHL, as well as to integrate the relevant provisions of the law into their doctrine.

Teaching of and research into IHL at universities

Having established contact with the leading universities of the region, the delegation provides training and resource material to promote the integration of IHL in the curricula of law, political sciences and journalism courses.

IHL knowledge by secondary school students

In China and Mongolia, the delegation cooperates with the Ministries of Education and the National Red Cross Societies on the introduction of an educational programme on IHL and related issues called Exploring Humanitarian Law, designed for secondary school students.

IHL knowledge within the National Red Cross Societies

The delegation works with the National Red Cross Societies of the region to help train staff and volunteers to implement the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as the basics of IHL.



ICRC legal experts present the ICRC Study on Customary IHL to government representatives and academicians from the region.

Dialogue on Humanitarian Issues

Dialogue with the authorities

Being based in the region has allowed the ICRC to increase the dialogue with governments aimed at securing support for its operations around the world through an increased understanding of the ICRC's unique mandate, notably in the field of protection of and visits to people deprived of freedom.

Cooperation with the media

The delegation provides information to the media about the humanitarian environment and the ICRC's response in the more than 80 countries it works in. It also manages the Chinese language version of the ICRC's website.

Dialogue with think-tanks

The ICRC engages in dialogue with numerous think-tanks and related institutions on evolving conflict environments, with a particular focus on the protection of and assistance for the most vulnerable groups in such situations.

Pre-deployment briefings to peace-keeping forces

The delegation briefs the contingents on the humanitarian environment in the countries to which they are deployed.

Dialogue with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners

As the guardian of the Movement's Fundamental Principles, the ICRC maintains a dialogue with its Movement partners on the evolving humanitarian environment.



An ICRC delegate discusses questions about the ICRC's work with members of the Mongolian Armed Forces.

Humanitarian Response

Physical Rehabilitation Centres

The delegation jointly operates one centre in China and two in North Korea which provide orthopaedic and physiotherapy services to amputees free of charge.

China: Kunming Physical Rehabilitation Centre

The Kunming Physical Rehabilitation Centre is operated by the Yunnan branch of the Chinese Red Cross. The centre opened in 2004 and began to expand its follow-up services in 2005 with the opening of two external repair workshops.

DPRK: Songrim and Rakrang Physical Rehabilitation Centres

The ICRC supports two Physical Rehabilitation Centres in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Since 2002, it supports the Songrim Centre, located south of Pyongyang, which is operated by the Ministry of Public Health. In 2005, it helped set up the Rakrang Centre, located in Pyongyang, which is operated by the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, with technical and material support. The support to both projects is carried out in cooperation with the DPRK Red Cross Society.

Reestablishing Family Links

The ICRC works with National Red Cross Societies to strengthen their capacity to reunite family members, separated as a result of armed conflict or other disasters. It continues to impress upon both the governments and the National Societies of the Korean peninsula the importance of finding a solution to the longstanding anguish endured by families separated as a result of the Korean war.



Physiotherapy treatment provided at the Songrim Physical Rehabilitation Centre in the DPRK.

About the ICRC in East Asia

The Regional Delegation and its main activities

The ICRC Regional Delegation for East Asia covers China, North Korea, South Korea and Mongolia. The delegation was initially established in 1987 in Hong Kong and from 1996 was based in Bangkok. In July 2005, following the signing of a headquarter agreement with the Chinese authorities, the delegation moved to Beijing.


The delegation's main task is to promote awareness and implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the legal framework that seeks to minimize the human suffering caused by war. It also aims to familiarize governments, experts and National Red Cross Societies with the ICRC's humanitarian work. In particular, the delegation works with governments to promote the ratification and national implementation of humanitarian treaties and the integration of IHL into military doctrine and training. The ICRC also promotes IHL among civil society, in particular academic institutions, and supports the National Societies of the region in developing their dissemination and tracing activities. ICRC/National Society physical rehabilitation projects in China and in the DPRK contribute to meeting the need for good-quality prostheses.


MISSION

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 war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It 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 International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Contacts



 ICRC regional delegation

 ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

International Committee of the Red Cross Regional Delegation for East Asia

B2 Qijiayuan Diplomatic Compound
9 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Beijing 100600, China

T+86 10 8532 3290

F+86 10 6532 0633

E-mail: beijing.bej@icrc.org



ICRC

www.icrc.org