

REGIONAL DELEGATION KUALA LUMPUR



A regional maritime security operations workshop to discuss enforcement challenges and humanitarian issues in maritime setting.

The International Committee of the Red Cross' (ICRC) earliest activities in Malaysia can be traced back to the 1940s, during the pre-independence days of Malaya. The ICRC's Kuala Lumpur regional delegation was subsequently established in 1973 and has since 2001 been carrying out its activities in Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore.

The regional delegation of the ICRC promotes humanitarian values and relevant international norms and standards with government agencies, detaining authorities, armed and security forces and civil society groups. We also engage with national and regional bodies, including ASEAN, to understand common

issues of concern, and to share technical expertise, experience, analysis and other support. Much of our work is conducted jointly with the Malaysian, Brunei and Singapore authorities and with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, Brunei Red Crescent Society and the Singapore Red Cross.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMANITARIAN DEBATES

The ICRC works closely with government bodies and the Attorney-General's Chambers on the integration of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and other related norms into domestic legislation. The ICRC also

works in cooperation with multilateral organizations such as the ASEAN, notably through Chair Nations and its working committees.



A strong turnout at the seminar commemorating the 70th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions proves their relevance in today's world.

September 2019
Singapore © Singapore Red Cross

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Malaysia, the ICRC supports the Prisons Department, the Immigration Department and the Federal Special Task Force in Sabah to address the needs of persons deprived of freedom.

Through regular visits to immigration detention centres, temporary detention centres and prisons across the country, the ICRC supports the efforts of the authorities towards humane places of detention in line with national and international standards. Efforts include promoting good health and hygiene practices, and access to recreational activities for detainees. The ICRC also supports the authorities in attending regional and international fora on best practices in the management of correctional facilities.

Working with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and other National Societies in the worldwide Family Links

To reach future decision makers and opinion leaders, the ICRC supports the teaching and learning of International Humanitarian Law and its principles in universities, secondary schools and among the youth in the National Societies. In all three countries, students and academics participate in various local and regional events including the International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition and Role Play.

We closely monitor regional trends and have an active voice in regional humanitarian debates, especially on migration, on implementation of IHL domestically, civil-military relations and new means and methods of warfare (including cyber warfare).

Network, the ICRC makes it possible for detainees to re-establish contact with their families.



A football tournament for detainees organized by the prison, with support from the ICRC.

December 2019
Malaysia © Sin Chew Daily

WORKING WITH ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES



Military officers from the Asia Pacific region apply their knowledge of IHL while planning a military operation during an IHL workshop.

March 2018
Brunei © ICRC

The relevance of IHL is constantly reaffirmed, with new technologies and an ever-shifting geopolitical landscape raising novel humanitarian and legal problems.

To ensure better preparedness in navigating these contemporary challenges, ICRC provides regular support in disseminating IHL to military officers in Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore through Military Staff and Defence Colleges, training units and military exercises.

In Malaysia, we work with the Joint Warfare Centre (PESAMA) for doctrinal review and at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre in Port Dickson for pre-deployment training of Malaysian and Brunei military officers and UN observers.

We also organize seminars and workshops for all levels of the Malaysian Armed Forces to enhance understanding and application of humanitarian law in their operations. The ICRC provides inputs in exercise planning and execution and plays its mandated roles during the execution of the military exercises.

A Centre for Military and International Humanitarian Law has been established in partnership with the National Defence University of Malaysia with the support of Ministry of Defence, Malaysia. The centre raises awareness about military law and IHL among the Malaysian Armed Forces and the region's military and legal communities, building indigenous capacity within the region.

HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY

The ICRC offers its practical expertise in humanitarian matters and IHL via operational and diplomatic means by participating in key multilateral forums such as the World Economic Forum, ASEAN, Shangri-La Dialogue and the Asia Pacific Roundtable. We also maintain

Working closely with the Royal Malaysia Police, the Marine Police and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, the ICRC disseminates and shares expertise on best international policing standards, including public order management.

Military officers from ESSCOM or those patrolling the border areas also attend these events. In addition, we maintain a close dialogue with the ASEANAPOL Secretariat to promote knowledge, understanding and acceptance of our mandate amongst member countries..

regular dialogue with ASEAN desk officials in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei and other ASEAN entities such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the ASEAN Foundation and the ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children.



Working with the authorities, the ICRC promotes the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols that form the core of International Humanitarian Law.

Close engagements with key think tanks, such as the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia and MiDAS in Malaysia and with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore are also significant for our work in the region.

The ICRC engages with humanitarian organizations, including religious NGOs and academics, to exchange experiences and best practices on humanitarian action and principles. We also work closely with the media to highlight humanitarian stories.



Youth volunteer of the Malaysian Red Crescent shares his experiences on communicating about the activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

WORKING WITH MOVEMENT PARTNERS

The ICRC cooperates with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, the Singapore Red Cross and the Brunei Red Crescent Society in areas such as the promotion of IHL, Restoring Family Links and public communication.

Together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the ICRC helps all three National Societies strengthen their capacities and promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

We help establish mechanisms and platforms to facilitate the Movement's humanitarian response across the region.

In collaboration with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, the delegation maintains a presence in Sabah, working to strengthen understanding of the needs of its communities and empowering them through training sessions and workshops on topics like health and hygiene and basic first-aid.



Volunteers of Singapore Red Cross celebrating the 70th anniversary of Geneva Conventions that reflect universal values of ethical behaviour.