ABOUT US

Founded in 1863, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organisation that operates worldwide in over 90 countries with an aim of helping and protecting victims of armed violence and strife by promoting compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) by all governments and parties to the conflict.

Together with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and 192 National Societies, we are part of a global humanitarian network known as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Malaysia is home to the ICRC’s first regional office for Southeast Asia, which was formally set up in 1973, nearly three decades after we carried out our first activities in the country. Today, the ICRC Kuala Lumpur Regional Delegation oversees our activities in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, where we work with the IFRC, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS), Singapore Red Cross (SRCS) and the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to fulfill our mandate as the reference organisation for IHL.
“It takes a village” was the theme for the 2022 World Humanitarian Day, referring to the wide-ranging collective effort needed to respond to today’s humanitarian crises. At ICRC our experiences helping people affected by armed conflicts across the world confirmed this. Given the additional pressures of post-pandemic economic uncertainty and unprecedented climate events, the looming question is whether even a village would be sufficient? How can we develop this village to make it future-ready?

For the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the events of recent years have urged a serious intensification of efforts focussed on protecting the important humanitarian gains that have been made over the years, emphasizing preventive and capacity-strengthening action, and insisting on IHL compliance and adherence not just in conflict settings but across peaceful contexts too.

This report provides an account of the ICRC Kuala Lumpur Regional Delegation’s work in such contexts in 2022.

In the next few pages, you will read about our activities in the field – in prisons and immigration detention centers across Malaysia and in rural villages and migrant settlements across Sabah – and our efforts to promote international humanitarian law (IHL), or the law of armed conflict, to a wide range of stakeholders in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

The activities described offer a snapshot of how our mission and mandate to protect victims of armed conflict and promote respect for IHL is translated during peacetime. This is crucial work for our organization because knowledge of and respect for IHL is not a wartime matter alone. The propagation of IHL during peacetime builds an environment conducive for the respect of life and dignity. It’s a critical part of our effort to limit the toll of conflict and violence around the world.

None of the work would have been possible, of course, without the support of all those we work with. And for that, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of our efforts across the year, from our interlocutors in government to our friends in academia, civil society, the media, and of course, our friends and peers in the wider Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

We appreciate the support and are grateful for the contribution to the humanitarian village of 2022 and the anticipated participation in the many such villages we’ll need in the years to come.

OMAR ODEH
Head Of The ICRC Regional Delegation
For Malaysia, Singapore And Brunei
OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

Increase acceptance and support for the ICRC’s work and mandate

Promote respect for international humanitarian law and other relevant norms

Enhance efforts to meet the needs of detainees

Strengthen response to the humanitarian consequences of migration and migration policies

Strengthen the response and partnership capacity of the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement
EXPENSES OVERVIEW 2022

Protection
including detention work, Restoring Family Links services, etc
MYR 7,870,937

Prevention
including IHL training & engagements for armed and security forces, academia, communications, etc
MYR 6,223,092

Working with National Societies
MYR 1,536,521

Assistance
including health and hygiene items for detainees, etc
MYR 2,044,671

TOTAL: MYR 17,675,221

Projected total expenditure for 2022 based on 2022 budget
VISITING DETAINEES AND ENGAGING WITH DETENTION AUTHORITIES

The ICRC aims to secure humane treatment and conditions of detention for all detainees, regardless of the reasons for their arrest and detention.

With the support of the authorities, the ICRC has been visiting prisons and immigration detention centres in Malaysia since 2010. We support national efforts to improve standards of detention, covering areas such as access to healthcare and other services, hygiene management or the treatment of detainees. We also carry out Restoring Family Links (RFL) services, a key programme of the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement to restore and maintain communication between detainees and their relatives.

We conduct training and hold confidential dialogues with detention authorities in Malaysia such as the Prisons and Immigration Departments to promote global best practices in detention management, detainee welfare and recommendations from our visits.

In respect of our strict confidentiality principle, neither our observations from our detention visits nor the content of our dialogue with the authorities are shared publicly or with third parties.

In 2022, we continued our delivery of assistance and other punctual support to detention facilities across the country. The assistance included the donation of medical and non-medical items, from hygiene items to electronic equipment like television and sports gear for the detainees’ recreational use.

ASSISTANCE TO PRISONS & IMMIGRATION CENTERS

In 2022, we continued our delivery of assistance and other punctual support to detention facilities across the country. The assistance included the donation of medical and non-medical items, from hygiene items to electronic equipment like television and sports gear for the detainees’ recreational use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face masks</td>
<td>14,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry soaps</td>
<td>13,080</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
<td>11,500</td>
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<td>Toothbrush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shampoo</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water tumblers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**This is not an exhaustive list**
TRAINING FOR PRISON OFFICERS

To promote knowledge about international standards and global practices in prison and detention management, we facilitated several trainings and workshops for prison officers in Malaysia.

Throughout the year, the sessions covered our role and work in detention, international prison and detention standards or the Nelson Mandela Rules, as well as issues related to healthcare in detention, all in support of the Malaysian Prisons Department’s effort to expand local knowledge in these areas. Together with the Health Ministry, Initial Medical Screening workshops were also conducted for detention medical assistants to highlight the importance of such screenings and to improve clinical skills.

In the latter part of 2022, a five-day training course attended by senior female prison officers was jointly delivered with the Thai Institute of Justice (TIJ) to provide guidance and practical knowledge to Malaysian prison officers on ways to translate the Bangkok Rules into practice in the local setting.

We also supported the participation of six senior ranking representatives from the Home Affairs Ministry, Health Ministry, Immigration and Prisons Departments in the ICRC’s 1st World Conference on Health in Detention. Held in Geneva in June, the conference provided a platform for all stakeholders involved in the management of detainee’s healthcare to share their experiences, challenges, lessons learnt and research, and to mutually promote a whole government stewardship approach to health in detention.

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RESTORING FAMILY LINKS (RFL) SERVICES

During conflicts or natural disasters, families are separated, entire populations are displaced or forced into exile, children are lost amid the chaos, and many others go missing while the dead may remain unidentified. Of all the suffering caused by these catastrophic situations, perhaps the bitterest anguish of all stems from not knowing the fate of a loved one.

This is why restoring contact and reuniting families form a major part of the ICRC’s work. We work together with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world to carry out RFL services, which can include connecting people via telephone, internet, and hand-written messages, and frequently entail tracing persons who are unaccounted for, particularly vulnerable persons such as children separated from their families and people held in detention.

In 2022, with the support and knowledge of local authorities, our team in Kuala Lumpur helped thousands of detainees, including those held in Malaysia and abroad in Cuba’s Guantanamo Bay and Syria, among others, establish contact with their families through phone calls, video conference, Red Cross messages3 and Salamat4 (oral) messages. We also facilitated tracing requests from individuals who lost contact with their families due to the situation in Rakhine, Myanmar.

3. Red Cross message: An open letter in which people exchange personal and family news.

A little girl write a Red Cross message to her father, who is detained in relation to the Nagorno–Karabkh conflict.
We engage in confidential and bilateral dialogues with detention authorities to promote detainee welfare through the sharing of our observations and recommendations following visits to detention facilities while exploring other areas of support and collaboration.

In 2022, discussions were held with the Deputy Secretary General of the Home Affairs Ministry, Commissioner General and senior leadership of the Malaysian Prisons Department, the Director-General of the Immigration Department, and other officials in relevant units across both departments.

We also continued our interactions with other actors whose work and interests link with detention and detainee welfare, including but not limited to, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as well as representatives and key individuals from relevant government ministries and agencies, working groups, support organisations and embassies. Specific attention was dedicated to the provision of healthcare services during the two Healthcare in Detention Roundtable Meetings organised with the Health Ministry, the Malaysian Prisons and Immigration Department.

**DIALOGUES & DISSEMINATION**

| 5,059 | DIRECT PHONE CALLS | made by detained migrants to their relatives |
| 191 | RED CROSS MESSAGES | sent by detainees or family members to restore contact |
| 826 | SALAMAT MESSAGES | collected from detainees to inform families of their wellbeing and location |
| 176 | TRACING REQUESTS | were newly opened to assist in reuniting families |

9 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2022
PROMOTING RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) AND RELEVANT NORMS

Through our mandate under the Geneva Conventions to help victims of armed conflict, various activities were conducted to raise awareness on IHL and other relevant norms, encourage compliance and contribute to its development. To achieve this, our teams conducted talks, training sessions, academic lectures and facilitated workshops for militaries, law enforcement agencies, academia and key government agencies and officials. We also engaged with civil society actors, students, and the general public through awareness campaigns and other events to foster an environment conducive for the respect for life and dignity, and to gain support for our work.

MALAYSIA

Centre of Military and International Humanitarian Law® (CoMIHL) at the National Defense University (NDUM)

ICRC-supported courses and talks run by CoMIHL throughout 2022 offered participants from various backgrounds (military, NGOs, academia) opportunities to build capacities and enhance their knowledge of IHL and related topics, including the protection of women and children in detention and conflict, terrorism and counterterrorism, the Nelson Mandela Rules, Law of Armed Conflict at Sea, and the humanitarian implications of new technologies of war, among others.

Enhancing IHL expertise among academia and students

We collaborated with several top-tier higher learning and research institutions in Malaysia such as Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Malaya (UM), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Sultan Zainal Abidin University (UNiSZA), Sultan Idris Education University (UPSI) on initiative to raise awareness on IHL and related issues. These included:

- A session introducing an exploratory method to teach IHL to youths to teacher trainees of the UM’s Education Faculty and a session on IHL for teacher trainees at UPSI
- The 7th IHL Role Play and 19th IHL Moot Court competitions took place with the aim of taking IHL out of the classrooms and to encourage students to demonstrate their IHL knowledge in various fictional conflict scenarios

5. CoMIHL was formed in August 2017 following a strategic partnership between the ICRC and NDUM, under the auspices of the Ministry of Defense. Through the centre, the ICRC continues to support IHL training for national and regional militaries.
- The ICRC-MRCS-IIUM roundtable on the “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and Malaysia: Humanitarian and Multidisciplinary Approaches to Post-Ratification” saw support from the Foreign Affairs Ministry’s Multilateral Security Division (MSD) and participation from the Malaysian Nuclear Agency (MNA).
- Co-organised the “Conference on TPNW National Implementation and the Role of the Youth” with the MRCS and IIUM which discussed the role of youth and religious leaders in raising awareness on the humanitarian effects of nuclear weapons.
- In September, the ICRC held its IHL and Islam certificate course in Lombok, Indonesia, where the ICRC supported the participation of key actors from the Global Peace Mission, Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) and Universiti Malaysia

ICRC staff during the International Humanitarian Law Role Play competition with a participating student.  

During these role play sessions, students are encouraged to determine how international humanitarian law protects affected people during situations of armed conflicts and other emergencies.  

Head of Regional Kuala Lumpur Delegation, Omar Odeh, during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Universiti Teknologi Mara Shah Alam (UiTM).  

This year’s Role Play competition took place at International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) campus in Gombak, Kuala Lumpur. The winning team is set to compete in the 2023 Jean-Pictet Competition in Tirana, Albania.
Engaging the authorities, armed and security forces

Upon request, lectures were conducted for the Malaysian Battalion (MALBATT) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and to the International Monitoring Team (IMT-M17) to Mindanao, where topics ranging from the role of ICRC to IHL were covered. Our experts also held sessions on IHL at the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) Defence College. The Malaysian Peacekeeping Centre (MPC) also invited the ICRC to deliver a lecture on the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflict as part of the MPC’s Gender Adviser Course. In January we conducted a Marine Police Officers Virtual Workshop on International Policing Standards and International Human Rights Law based on a request from the Marine Police’s Training Department.

Our experts were also invited to explain our role and mandate to an international audience of military officers during the MAF Defense College’s annual course and the Royal Malaysian Air Force’s Aerospace Management Training Institute (INSPIRA) where the ICRC delivered lectures on the IHL. We also held a workshop in collaboration with the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) to disseminate and enhance the understanding of IHL and other humanitarian norms and standards.

Other highlights include:

- Guest speaker on a panel session themed “The impact of Armed Conflicts on Investment Arbitrations” during the Asia Alternative Dispute Resolution Week hosted by the Asian International Arbitration Centre, Kuala Lumpur.
- The 14th Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) was held in Bali, Indonesia and saw the participation of Malaysian Armed Forces and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces. SWIRMO aims to ensure that IHL is better integrated into military institutions.
- ICRC’s Regional Forensic Specialist conducted a workshop during the international Convention of Forensic Medicine and Science on the management of the dead in Penang, Malaysia.
- With the ICRC’s support, the National Institute of Forensic Medicine of Malaysia participated in the Asia Pacific Medico Legal Agencies Annual Meeting. The conference is specifically catered to forensic science specialists who may be dealing with humanitarian issues related to identifying migrants that die or go missing when migrating from one country to another.
Public awareness campaigns and events

The live Facebook series “Human Matters with ICRC KL” continued throughout 2022 with three unique episodes which discussed humanitarian issues and their interplay with national, regional and global trends. This year the episodes covered a session to raise awareness on the effects of nuclear weapons amongst the youths in local schools - this was co-organised with MRCS and was accepted by the Ministry of Education as a co-curricular activity for MRCS members in schools, the journey of long-term volunteers with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and how it enriched their lives and lastly, an episode on how Misinformation, Disinformation and Hate Speech is affecting our lives.

In an effort to raise awareness on issues in the region, we also ran a series of online campaigns promoting information on the Geneva Conventions, ICRC’s policy on working in places of detention, issues related to missing migrants, mental health, IHL, terrorism, counterterrorism, to name a few.

SINGAPORE

We continued to strengthen our engagements in Singapore through networking and partnerships with key actors. Key highlights include:

- First Singapore IHL Roundtable themed “Warfare Technologies and IHL” carried out in partnership with the Centre for International Law of National University of Singapore (CIL-NUS). This session looked to improve the understanding of IHL applies to new weapons and the limits that it poses on the development of such technologies.

Amongst the participants present at the sharing session at the first Singapore International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Roundtable were Benjamin William, Secretary General of the Singapore Red Cross, Jeffrey Chan, Adjunct Professor at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, Martin DeBoer, Head of Operations of the ICRC Kuala Lumpur Regional Delegation and Simon Chesterman, Vice Provost at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law.

Insightful sharing by experts at the first Singapore International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Roundtable jointly organised by the Centre for International Law of National University of Singapore (CIL–NUS), ICRC and Singapore Red Cross.
We continued our long-standing engagement with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Defense Academy throughout 2022 via various initiatives, including raising awareness on IHL during the two-day online lecture on IHL which saw the participation of 43 military officers. Support was also provided to the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society’s role as a host for the Southeast Asia National Societies Youth Forum where it aims to enable youths to discuss and debate issues related to the growth of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Various youth representatives from the National Societies in the region participated in this year’s Southeast Asia National Societies Youth Forum in Brunei.

Chong Cheng Yang from the Malaysian Red Crescent Society’s Youth Council discusses issues related to the growth of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

PROMOTING IHL THROUGH TEACHING AND LEARNING

95
STUDENTS, ACADEMICS & GOVERNMENT OFFICERS
attended courses, seminars, webinars & workshops on IHL

49
STUDENTS, ACADEMICS & LAWYERS
participated in IHL role-play & moot court competitions

WORKING WITH ARMED & SECURITY FORCES

1,112
POLICE OFFICERS, MALAYSIA MARITIME ENFORCEMENT AGENCY & MILITARY OFFICERS
attended workshops & regional events on international policing standards & maritime issues

119
MILITARY OFFICERS & CIVILIAN PERSONNEL
attended courses, seminars & workshops on Law of Armed Conflict across Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei
Malaysia is home to the ICRC’s first regional office in South East Asia and in 2022, the office celebrated its golden jubilee. Hosted in cooperation with the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Putrajaya, the celebration brought together key partners, authorities and movement partners from the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, Singapore Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Present also was YB Dato' Sri Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who expressed appreciation for ICRC’s long-standing contributions to the country and its people over the past 50 years and reaffirmed Malaysia’s commitment to protect and promote international humanitarian law and to strengthen cooperation with the ICRC.

During the event, guests were also greeted by a timeline of ICRC’s history in the country.
STRENGTHENING THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Cooperating with our partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is integral to the ICRC’s mission as it ensures cohesive, efficient and rapid response to situations of armed conflict and other humanitarian emergencies. The ICRC works with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS), the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) and Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society (BRCS) on complementary approaches to respond to humanitarian needs in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. Efforts include continuous collaboration with the National Societies in the joint promotion of IHL and Movement principles, RFL services and in supporting their capacity-building needs.

- In a collaborative effort with the MRCS to enhance its Youth’s understanding of IHL and their ability to further disseminate it, a Youth Communicators Workshop was organised for 26 participants from across Malaysia.
- ICRC provided its support and expertise to a facilitator’s training on the usage of interactive methodology to disseminate IHL to the youth.
- In its third year, the communications workshop for National Societies in 2022 focused on digital communications for its leaders. Held at the MRCS’ headquarters, the workshop saw participation from the MRCS, SRC and BRCS. Another training was also held in Sabah specifically for members from various states who are in charge of social media.
- The ICRC also supported the launch of MRCS’ Red Gallery to further highlight its Covid-19 vaccinations efforts.
- A workshop was held in Sabah for the MRCS Sabah states to introduce the basic elements of using the Safer Access® approach to ensure national societies are responding safely, effectively and in a principled manner.
- A Sexual and Gender-Based Violence workshop was conducted for MRCS by ICRC’s Regional SGBV Advisor Valentina Codeluppi, IFRC’s Regional Advisor on Protection Gender and Inclusion Dr. Sinha Wickremesekera and MRCS’ volunteer Dr. Nadirah Babji - it saw participation from its governing board and Secretary-General and aims to increase awareness on the issue and equip members with sufficient knowledge to further share about it.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT WORTH**

MyR390,500 provided to enable MRCS to provide equitable and accessible healthcare to underserved populations with a focus on primary health care, maternal and child health. These efforts are carried out via outreach mobile health services.

MyR86,188 provided to the establishment of BRCS’ National Emergency Centre.

6. The Safer Access framework aims to increase the ability of National Societies to prepare and actively position itself to respond to any situation – especially in health emergencies. It aims to strengthen the National Society’s access to vulnerable communities in a safe and secure manner.
A Malaysian Red Crescent Youth volunteer makes a case for the importance of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) during a workshop targeted at improving the youth’s skill on disseminating IHL.

Into its third year, this year’s digital communication workshop focused on leveraging off the social media of the National Society’s leaders.

A session on best practices for social media was held for the various Malaysian Red Crescent Society branches in Sabah.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society’s members interact with guests during its RED Gallery “The Untold Stories” photo exhibition.

As part of the ICRC’s work in Sabah, we also ensure continued dialogues with authorities such as the National Security Council of Sabah.

Valentina Codeluppi, the ICRC’s Regional Sexual Violence Adviser interacts with a participant during a workshop held for the Malaysian Red Crescent Society’s volunteers.
Diplomacy is an important instrument of the ICRC's humanitarian work. Different from State diplomacy, the ICRC's humanitarian diplomacy entails a careful cultivation of relationships with a wide range of contacts for strictly humanitarian objectives, chief among these to make the voices of conflict victims heard.

At the delegation level, this means participating in key multilateral forums, organising bilateral dialogues with relevant stakeholders or partnering up to host forums, and working with national and regional think tanks, research institutions and the diplomatic community on initiatives in support of our work or that influence national and regional policy discourse.

MALAYSIA

2022 was a special year for our Malaysia operations as it marked the 50th anniversary of our physical presence in the country. Many of our engagements celebrated this milestone; from our anniversary celebration in June to all our meetings, dialogues and exchanges with government representatives, think tanks, civil society, the diplomatic community and other actors, discussions centered on the continuation of our humanitarian contributions to Malaysia and her people. Some highlights include:

- Our legal team conducted three sessions during the ICRC-National Heritage Department Cultural Property Protection Workshop on the scope of protection and practical measures towards the implementation of the Hague Convention and First Protocol. The March workshop was attended by civil servants, including representatives from the Defense and Foreign Affairs ministries.
- A special session to introduce the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the Foreign Affairs Ministry was co-organised with the MRCS in April, during which we explained the distinction between each Movement component and our respective scope of work, and provided updates on our operations in conflict-stricken contexts of interest abroad such as Ukraine, Afghanistan and Myanmar. The session also served as a platform to exchange critical information on issues of mutual interest, such as Malaysia's own humanitarian assistance programmes in the mentioned contexts.
- We also delivered a guest lecture on IHL for junior diplomats enrolled in the annual Diploma in Diplomacy Course offered by the Institute of Diplomatic and Foreign Relations (IDFR), a diplomacy training institute under the Foreign Affairs Ministry.
- In May, the “Promoting Respect for International Humanitarian Law: A Handbook for Malaysian Parliamentarians” book, which highlights the relevance of IHL in Malaysia and the role of lawmakers in promoting understanding of its rules at the domestic level, was launched at the Malaysian Parliament building. Officiated by Tan Sri Azhar Azizan Harun, then Speaker of the House of Representatives, the launch was a joint initiative of the ICRC and MRCS, and supported by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Parliament and the Institute for Political Reform and Democracy (REFORM Malaysia).
- On the sidelines of our 50th anniversary celebration in June, the ICRC's Asia Pacific Regional Director Christine Cipolla and then-Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah exchanged on issues of mutual interest, including our work in the country and Malaysia's position on humanitarian events abroad.
Held at the National Department for Culture and Arts, an ICRC staff conducted a session focusing on the role of IHL on the protection of cultural property and national heritage to authorities present.

For the first time, the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation between the Malaysian government and the Movement members in the country.

During the launch of the “Promoting Respect for International Humanitarian Law: A Handbook for Malaysian Parliament”, the Secretary General of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) and the then head of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Delegation, met with an Sri Azhar Azizan Harun, then then-Speaker of the House of Representatives and Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz, National Chairperson of the MRCS.
SINGAPORE

Owing to its strategic location and influence as a regional hub, Singapore plays an important role as a convener and facilitator of bilateral and multilateral engagements on global and regional events that impact our operations.

In appreciation of this and with the resumption of face-to-face activities in 2022, we were able to hold meetings and dialogues with many key representatives from government, think tanks and academic institutions, and participate in a series of events and activities.

These included our participation in the 19th Shangri-La Dialogue, which reconvened in-person after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. As Asia’s premier defense summit, the dialogue presented an important opportunity to contribute to discussions on the region’s and world’s most pressing security challenges.

Meetings were also held with the ASEAN and International Organisations directorates of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and with representatives from influential think tanks and graduate schools like the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, ISEAS Yusof Ishak and the Center for International Law, to name a few. In addition to promoting IHL and sharing updates from our operations, the discussions were an opportunity to understand overlapping interests and to identify potential collaboration opportunities.

BRUNEI

Brunei, with its close ties to neighbouring Malaysia and Singapore and membership in ASEAN, holds strategic importance for the ICRC.

In 2022, several missions were organised to the country where, with the support of the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, meetings were held between ICRC delegates and representatives from the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Health Ministry, and other agencies, to discuss humanitarian issues of concern, including updates from our operations in key contexts abroad, reflections from Brunei’s 2021 ASEAN chairmanship and collaboration opportunities.
OUR WORK IN SABAH

The ICRC has been active in Sabah since 2013, working alongside the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) Sabah to run health and hygiene, and community programmes for remote and marginalised communities, and gazetted migrant settlements with the support of the state’s security and health authorities.

In remote communities with limited access to healthcare, the ICRC and MRCS volunteers provide first aid training to villagers, taking into account their needs and availability of resources. These sessions are aimed to equip villagers with basic first aid skills, allowing them to respond effectively during emergencies until necessary medical support arrives.

In addition, we provided funding and other forms of technical, material and logistical support to MRCS to aid its operations in Sabah and held joint dialogues and dissemination activities to promote the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its work to relevant audiences.

In 2022, we also continued our ongoing support to MRCS and the district health authorities in their efforts to raise awareness on dengue and to administer polio and COVID-19 vaccinations.

- Continuous efforts to enhance the knowledge of Community Health Volunteers via multiple trainings throughout the year such as the Health and Hygiene workshops where it aims to prevent the spread of communicable diseases with a focus on good daily hygiene practice and the First Aid training which focuses on utilising household items in an event that there is a lack of resources.

We worked with the Tzu Chi Foundation to start a waste management project involving various rural communities in Sabah. The foundation also assisted in providing training to Community Health Volunteers on a proper recycling process.
WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

At the ICRC, we recognise the value of media agencies as a tool to communicate and engage with people on humanitarian issues. We continue to promote our insight and experience to the relevant audience in order to influence the policy agenda to change lives for the better. Here are some of our key media highlights from 2022:
Interview in a local Chinese newspaper, Sin Chew Daily, with Michelle Chew, Chair of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society’s Youth Council, highlight on the importance of International Humanitarian Law with Sahar Haroon, Regional IHL Adviser, in a local Malay newspaper, Harakah, feature on an amputee football team in Gaza supported by the ICRC by Singapore’s Channel News Asia.

Feature of the Kota Kinabalu team in Sabah in a local Chinese newspaper, Sin Chew Daily and an interview with Anita Dullard on Bernama, a local news programme.