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REPORTING ON CONFLICTS AND DISASTERS: The media debates its role

Hiroshima, Japan
26-28 November 2014
Asia Pacific Media Conference



ICRC



ICRC

ABOUT THE ASIA PACIFIC MEDIA CONFERENCE



With growing influence comes greater responsibility.

In reporting independently and accurately on conflict, violence and disaster, and the humanitarian issues they generate, media in Asia Pacific can shine a light on the plight of the most vulnerable and demonstrate the need for humanitarian aid. Bringing together senior media representatives from the region, this conference will take place in Hiroshima, not only a city of extraordinary history but also of outstanding resilience.

Hosted by the ICRC, the event will advance discussions on the media's role in reporting on man-made and natural disasters in today's communication environment as well as on how professional journalism can build credibility and trust in the age of citizen journalism and social media.



All credits : ICRC



THE ICRC IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), an independent and non-political organization, has a long history in Asia and the Pacific of providing humanitarian services and expertise. Its work focuses mainly in areas such as emergency response and assistance, international humanitarian law, the restoration of family links, visits to inmates in places of detention, orthopaedic services, water and habitat.

The ICRC is a reference institution for detention-related issues and is committed to strengthen the efforts of national authorities in solving humanitarian problems in prisons. It benefits from worldwide recognition through a unique approach based on discretion, transparency, reliability, independence and impartiality. It stands close to vulnerable persons, while engaging with all concerned. The ICRC usually works in partnership with the National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.



THE ICRC AROUND THE WORLD

Established in 1863 in Geneva, the ICRC works in more than 80 countries around the world and has a tradition in responding to the needs of people adversely affected by situations of humanitarian concern, in particular armed conflicts and violence.

This impartial, non-political and independent organization has an exclusively humanitarian mission to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for international humanitarian law and values.

REPORTING ON CONFLICTS AND DISASTERS
the media debates its role
26-28 November / Hiroshima, Japan

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

SESSION 1
Situations of violence and armed conflict
– reporting on man-made disasters

SESSION 2
Lessons from Typhoon Haiyan,
the Tohoku earthquake, and beyond
- reporting on natural disasters

SESSION 3
The Media of Tomorrow

Wednesday, 26 November

13:00 – 18:00 Kick-off event

Opening of the photo exhibition “War from a Victim’s Perspective” followed by a tour of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, a visit to Hiroshima Peace Museum and a testimony from Hibakusha, an atomic bomb survivor

19:00 – 20:30 Welcome reception and dinner

Words from: **Mr Dominik Stillhart**, ICRC Director of Operations
Mr Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor, Hiroshima Prefecture
Mr Tadateru Konoe, President of the Japanese Red Cross Society
A toast by: **Mr Urs Bucher**, Swiss Ambassador to Japan

Host & MC: **Mr Vincent Nicod**, Head of ICRC Mission in Tokyo

Thursday, 27 November

09:00-10:00 **OPENING CEREMONY**
Speeches by: **Mr Dominik Stillhart**, ICRC Director of Operations
Mr Tadateru Konoe, President of Japanese Red Cross Society

Keynote speech by: **Ms Yumi Kanazaki**, Writer for Hiroshima Peace Media Centre
Humanitarian reporting:
Hiroshima’s role and responsibilities for future generations

Introductory remarks by: **Mr Ewan Watson**, Public Relations Officer for Asia Pacific, ICRC
Journalists and international humanitarian law (IHL)

Coffee break (10:00-10:20)

10:20-13:15 **SESSION 1:**
Situations of violence and armed conflict – reporting on man-made disasters

Chair: **Ms Miki Ebara**, Editor-in-Chief, NHK World, Japan
Introductory words: experiences from Afghanistan, Iraq and Bosnia

Speakers: **Mr Saleem Safi**, Current affairs show host and columnist with Daily Jang and The News, Pakistan
Conveying the voice of the victims of atrocities – the media’s humanitarian contribution

Mr Mohammad Daud Junbish, Senior Editor, BBC Radio, Afghanistan
How to cover situations where people are demanding change?
When volatile political climates turn violent, what are the pitfalls media must avoid?

Ms Marilou Cadeliña Manar, Anchor, DXND North Cotabato, Philippines
Reporting independently on situations of ethno-religious tensions: the challenges

Mr Mahfuz Anam, Editor & Publisher, The Daily Star, Bangladesh
Citizen journalism and the democratisation of information:
Challenges and opportunities for journalists reporting on situations of violence

Mr Akihiro Nonaka, Founder and Director, the Asia Press, Japan
Media self-censorship and violence – how and why media puts limits on what it says

Break-out groups on best practices-and expectations from humanitarian organizations
Group leaders: **Mr Yostinus Tomiaryanto**, Tempo Magazine, Indonesia
Mr Wonsuk Choe, The Chosunilbo, South Korea
Mr Wai Min Phyo, Eleven Media, Myanmar

Brief wrap-up by the chair

13:20-14:50 Lunch

15:00-18:10 **SESSION 2:**
Lessons from Typhoon Haiyan, the Tohoku earthquake, and beyond
- reporting on natural disasters

Chair: **Ms Thin Lei Win**, Asia Correspondent, Thomson Reuters, Thailand
Introductory words: experiences from Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand

Special Speaker: **Ms Midori Tasaka**, PR officer, Japanese Red Cross Society
What can we offer the media? Lessons learnt from the Tohoku disaster

Speakers: **Ms Nadia Marie Trinidad**, News Manager, ANC, Philippines
Haiyan: how can we avoid humanitarian issues falling off the news cycle?

Mr Sann Oo, Editor, The Myanmar Times, Myanmar
Safety versus the need to report:
Covering bio-hazards, nuclear fall-out and other disasters

Ms Meena Menon, Deputy Editor, The Hindu, India
Journalists today are expected to do more with less (and also travel to the field less).
Given this, what is the future of emergency reporting?

Ms Maria Andriana, Senior Editor for international news department, Antara, Indonesia
Beyond reporting the facts:
how can the media help communities prepare for and respond to natural disasters?

Coffee break (16:30-16:50)

Break-out groups on best practices-and expectations from humanitarian organizations

Group leaders: **Mr Vishal Thappar**, NewsX news channel, India
Mr Keisuke Matsuo, Jiji Press, Japan
Mr Matiur Rahman, The Daily Prothom Alo, Bangladesh

Brief wrap-up by the chair

Friday, 28 November

09:00 - 12:30 **SESSION 3:**
The Media of Tomorrow

Chair: **Mr Peter Cave**, Former ABC Foreign Affairs Editor, Australia
Reflections on the future of professional journalism

Speakers: **Mr Hiroshi Fuse**, Senior Editorial Writer, Mainichi Newspapers, Japan
Media on the front line:
How do media organisations protect their journalists from abduction & other dangers?
How to cover situations when security concerns limit access?

Mr Johanes Heru Margianto, Assistant Managing Editor, Kompas.com, Indonesia
Harvesting content from social media:
its uses in a disaster, its limits as a tool for journalists - how to verify data?
How to tell both sides of a story?

Ms Khatera Isahaqzai, News presenter/Producer, Khurshid Radio, Afghanistan
Building credibility and trust when reporting on crisis situations

Ms Rong Liu, Editor, People's Daily Online, China
The fine line between allegation and accusation: the media's responsibility

Mr Augustine Anthuvan, Editor for Current Affairs, CNA Media Corp, Singapore
How to faithfully report on highly sensitive political issues, such as irregular migration,
with a major humanitarian dimension

Coffee break (10:30-10:50)

Group discussions: key challenges for professional media - and possible solutions

Group leaders: **Mr Matiur Rahman**, The Daily Prothom Alo, Bangladesh
Mr Wai Minn Phyo, Eleven Media, Myanmar
Ms Yuan Suwen, Xinhua News Agency, China

Brief wrap-up by the chair

12:30 - 14:00 **Closing ceremony and farewell lunch**

Wrap-up of the meeting by: **Mr Ewan Watson**, Public Relations Officer for Asia Pacific, ICRC

Speech by: **Mr Vincent Nicod**, ICRC Head of Mission in Tokyo
Mr Kazumi Matsui, Mayor, City of Hiroshima

MC: **Ms Hitomi Makabe**, Head of Communications, ICRC Mission in Tokyo

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTORS

Afghanistan



Mohammad Daud Junbish

*Senior Editor
BBC Radio*

Junbish currently holds the position of Head of Production with BBC Media Action in Kabul. Prior to that he worked in London as a producer for the BBC World Service. A graduate in Literature and Humanities, Junbish worked as Assistant Professor at the newly established Faculty of Journalism at Kabul University in the early 1980s. He holds a masters degree from Tashkent State University and in 1993 obtained a PhD in the history of journalism from Moscow State University. He then worked for the Iranian News Agency and the BBC in Moscow before relocating to London.



Khatera Isahaqzai

*News Presenter – Producer
Khurshid Radio*

Khatera Isahaqzai was born in Kandahar and now presents news and current affairs programmes with the Khurshid Radio and TV channels. She graduated in journalism from Kabul University and obtained her masters in

International Relations in India. In 2010, she was appointed head of the Central zone for Afghan Red Crescent Society and is now a member of Kabul provincial assembly. She will host a TV programme named Voice of Women in the near future. She is a published journalist and author of a textbook about Afghan current affairs and two books of poetry and short stories in Pashto.

Australia



Peter Cave

Former ABC Foreign Affairs Editor

Peter Cave is an Australian journalist. He retired as Foreign Affairs Editor for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in July 2012. His first overseas posting was to Japan (1983-86). He later became the chief correspondent for Europe and the Middle East based in London (1987-92) and then bureau chief in Washington (1996-97). In his career with the ABC he has reported on the end of apartheid in South Africa, the Palestinian intifada in the Occupied Territories, glasnost and perestroika in the former Soviet Union, the break-up of the former Yugoslavia and wars in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Kosovo and Lebanon, two Gulf wars, the fall of President Suharto in Indonesia, the civil unrest in East Timor, the first Bali Bombing, three Fijian Coups, the troubles in Northern Ireland, the 2011 Egyptian revolution, the 2011 Libyan civil war and the uprising in Syria. Peter has helped his fellow foreign correspondents with trauma training and peer support. In 2009 he was awarded an Ochberg Fellowship by the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. Peter Cave has also won six Walkley Awards, Australian journalism's most prestigious accolade.

Bangladesh

Mahfuz Anam

*Editor and Publisher
The Daily Star*



Anam was appointed Editor-Publisher of The Daily Star in 1993 and has been at the helm of this newspaper for the last 20 years, turning it into the most widely circulated and the most trusted English newspaper in the country. In 2008, he was appointed Managing Director of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star. He was also the founder publisher of Prothom Alo and served in this role for the first 10 years of the paper (1997 – 2007). He is the founder President of Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) and is a former Chairman of Asia News Network (ANN), a collaborative body of 18 leading English language newspapers in the Asian region headquartered in Bangkok. He is also founder Secretary General of the newly established "Shampadak Parishad" (Editors' Council).

Matiur Rahman

*Editor and Publisher
The Daily Prothom Alo*



Matiur Rahman is an Editor and publisher at the The Daily Prothom Alo, one the most popular newspapers in Bangladesh. He entered journalism in 1970 when he became the editor of Ekota, a Socialist weekly. He left that position after 21 years and then worked as a journalist for Ajker Kagoj ("Today's News"), which was Bangladesh's first modern newspaper. In February 1992, Matiur Rahman partnered with others to found The Daily Bhorer Kagoj ("Morning News"), which he edited for the next six years. In 1998 he founded Prothom Alo, or "First Light", a daily newspaper. Rahman established Prothom Alo's credibility which today reaches a half million readers.

China

Rong Liu

*Editor
People's Daily Online*



Rong Liu is an editor of People's Daily Online. Liu has gained five years' experience in media, two of which she spent working in North Korea as a special correspondent for the Global Times and the International Herald Tribune. She has covered various stories, including the death of Kim Jong-il, the Boston Marathon bombings, the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, and the Sewol Ferry sinking.

Yuan Suwen

*Reporter and Editor
New Media Section, World Service Dept., Xinhua News Agency*



Reporters, Peking University Charity Publicity Awards (for stories on pneumoconiosis patients), and Outstanding News Prizes within Xinhua News Agency. At the senior editors conference, Suwen will outline her thoughts on the topic of "the fine line between allegation and accusation: media responsibility," especially with regards to the case of China.

India



Meena Menon

*Deputy Editor
The Hindu*

Meena Menon is Deputy Editor with The Hindu. She has been a journalist since 1984 and has worked with the United News of India (UNI), Mid-day, and The Times of India. In 2004, she published Organic Cotton: Reinventing the Wheel. Prior to this, she co-authored The Unseen Worker: On the Trail of the Girl Child, published in 1998. She has received fellowships from the National Foundation of India, New Delhi; Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi; Panos London, London; and Sarai-CSDS (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies), New Delhi. She writes on politics and developmental issues including environment, women, human rights and health.



Vishal Thapar

NewsX news channel

Vishal Thapar has been covering the topic of defense for many years. For more than a decade he has worked for one of the most prestigious and oldest Indian newspapers Hindustan Times and has also worked for the English-speaking Indian news channel CNN IBN. Since 2010, he has been the editor of the recently established news channel NewsX, his subject is defense and strategic affairs.

Indonesia



Johan Heru Margianto

*Assistant Managing Editor
Kompas.com/News*

Johan Heru Margianto has been working for Kompas.com since 2000 and is currently News Assistant Managing Editor. Kompas.com is the online version of Kompas Newspaper, the largest circulating print media in Indonesia. Heru is also a lecturer at Bakrie University in Jakarta for an online and multimedia production course and an online journalism trainer for various organizations. He graduated from Driyarkara School of Philoso-

phy and got his master degree from Paramadina Graduate School, both in Jakarta, and also took a short course on multimedia and online journalism at the International Institute of Journalism in Berlin, Germany. Heru has experience in covering human right issues in Indonesia since the reform in 1998 and reported on the military operation that took place in Aceh Province in 2003.

Maria Andriana

*Senior Editor for international news department
Antara*



Maria Andriana has 29 years of experience working as journalist at Antara News Agency in Indonesia. Currently the International Desk Editor, Andriana has also worked as Journalism School Manager, National Desk Senior Editor, and Manager of the Feature and Opinion Desk - all at Antara. Andriana has also worked at the Antara News Agency's Chief Bureau in Tokyo and as a lecturer in Nihon University in Mishima, Japan. Outside of Antara, Andriana is a working group member for the training program on disaster reporting at the Indonesian Board for Disaster Management. Andriana has also provided training in the fields of multimedia at the Radio Nederland Training Center and environmental journalism under an Indonesia Australia specialized training project. The books on journalism Andriana has co-authored or edited include: Menegakkan Benang Basah, Dari Soeharto Untuk Indonesia, Duta Masa Depan, Kisah-kisah Inspiratif Kumpulan Tulisan Antara, and Jangan Panggil Septi Monyet.

Yostinus Tomiaryanto

*Senior Editor
Tempo Magazine*



Yostinus Tomiaryanto is a journalist/editor at PT Tempo Inti Media Tbk PT, an Indonesia-based media company. A native of Indonesia, he has been working in the field of journalism since 2001. Prior to joining PT Tempo Inti Media Tbk PT, Tomiaryanto worked as a coordinator of the research and monitoring division at the Commission on Disappearance and Victims of Violence, where he gained the UNHCR Certificate for Human Rights Capacity Building and also as a volunteer member of the First Lady's Office. As a journalist, Tomiaryanto has received the BNI Press Award and has been certified through the Newspaper Management Course at the International Institute for Journalism in Berlin. Tomiaryanto holds a masters in management from Binus Business School, Jakarta.

Japan

Miki Ebara

*Editor-in-Chief
NHK World*



Miki Ebara is currently Editor-in-Chief for NHK World, the 24 hour English Channel. She joined NHK, Japan's sole public broadcaster, in 1987 and has been posted as foreign correspondent in London, Bangkok and New York. She has covered many of the world's conflicts and disasters, including war in Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Israel/Palestine, as well as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the Haitian earthquake.

Miki has covered major political events in the US, including the US Presidential election, and received the Ricardo Ortega Memorial Silver Prize for her coverage of the Nuclear Weapons non-proliferation treaty. She holds a B.A. in American History from Osaka University and an M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.



Hiroshi Fuse

*Senior Editorial Writer
Mainichi Newspapers*

Hiroshi Fuse has been a senior editorial writer of the Mainichi Shimbun Newspapers since 2010 and also works as general editor of a quarterly magazine called The Arabs. He served as a Washington correspondent and North American manager of the Mainichi from 1998 to 2002, covering 9/11 and the war in Afghanistan. He also served as Cairo correspondent from 1989 to 1992 and covered a number of events including the Gulf War and Middle East peace efforts. In 1995, he was invited by the Harry S. Truman Research Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as a visiting journalism fellow. His works include Curse of the Arabs, published by Shincho-sha in 2001.



Keisuke Matsuo

*Writer for Foreign News Desk
Jiji Press*

Keisuke Matsuo is a staff writer at the Foreign News Desk of Jiji Press, a Japanese wire service based in Tokyo. Since graduating from the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 1992, Matsuo has gained 22 years of experience in journalism with Jiji Press. Matsuo has not only worked in Tokyo and Okinawa, but has also reported news from London as a foreign correspondent.



Akihiro Nonaka

*Founder and Director
The Asia Press*

Born in Hyogo, Akihiro Nonaka is a journalist and film producer based in Japan. He is the founder/director of Asian Press International and is currently a professor at the Graduate School of Journalism in the Political Science and Economics Department at Waseda University. He has reported on a wide range of issues in Asia and beyond, including the Afghanistan civil war, famine in Ethiopia, Taiwanese-Japanese soldiers in WWII, the Cambodian civil war, ethnic minorities in Burma, HIV/AIDs in Thailand, independence war in East Timor and the break-up of the Koreas. In 1987, Nonaka founded Asian Press International, one of Japan's few agencies for independent journalists based in Asia and received the Broadcasting Creators Association of Japan award in 2004.



Yumi Kanazaki

*Writer
Hiroshima Peace Media Center*

Born in Noshiro, Akita Prefecture in 1970, Yumi Kanazaki gained a bachelor's degree in law from Hokkaido University before joining the Chugoku Shimbun in 1995. After serving

as a correspondent with the newspaper's Tokyo bureau and as an editorial writer, she became a staff writer for the Hiroshima Peace Media Center, a wing of the Chugoku Shimbun. Her coverage centers on A-bomb survivor stories and arms control issues.

South Korea

Wonsuk Choe

*Deputy Editor
The Chosunilbo, South Korea*



Wonsuk Choe is the Deputy Editor of the World News Desk in the Chosunilbo, one of the major newspapers in Korea. A journalist since 1997, Choe has covered stories in various fields of society, culture and industry, and has specifically focused on the automobile industry and Hyundai Motor Company. Choe's interviews with international CEOs and field coverage of successful companies and industries have been reported in the Weekly Biz column of the Chosunilbo.

Singapore

Augustine Anthuvan

*Editor
Channel News Asia, Singapore*



Augustine Anthuvan is a journalist, TV producer, radio producer/presenter, voice talent, forum moderator, facilitator and commentator for major 'live' events. His more than 30 years of experience in TV and radio make him one of the most effective media trainers in the region. In addition to conducting the annual 5-day broadcast journalism course in Singapore, he lectures in mass communications in Singapore and travels abroad to teach backpack journalism and conduct media literacy workshops. Augustine also designs and conducts specialized strategic media & communications training for government agencies, corporate clients, foundations, think tanks & NGOs and is also a regular conference speaker on themes like: 'media as a catalyst for change'.

Myanmar

Sann Oo

*Editor
The Myanmar Times*



Sann Oo is currently the editor of The Myanmar Times, a weekly paper published in English and Burmese. He has held this position since 2006. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Yangon's Dagon University and holds several journalism certificates including in Reporting Disaster and Crisis from the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Wai Minn Phyo

*Chief Editor
Eleven Media*



Since 2000, Wai Minn Phyo has been the Editor-in-Chief of Eleven Media Group Co. Ltd, which produces Myanmar-language news and was awarded Media of the Year 2011 by Reporters Without Borders. He holds a degree in philosophy from the University of Yangon and has attended several journalism courses including by AFP.

Pakistan



Saleem Safi

*Current affairs show host and columnist with Daily Jang and The News
Daily Jang and The News*

Saleem Safi is one of Pakistan's leading journalists. He started his career with NNI (News Network International) and as Bureau Chief, covered all of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, FATA and Afghanistan. He has written over a thousand columns on Pakistani politics, foreign policy, Afghanistan and socio religious issues. His in-depth understanding of the region has made him a valuable reservoir of knowledge, especially in the post 9/11 context. In 2004, Saleem's first book, "Afghanistan: The Role of US, Taliban and Pakistani Religious Parties", received widespread acclaim and he became a successful author. He has been working in electronic media for more than a decade and his high-profile current affairs talk shows tackle politics and emerging trends. He is an expert on war and conflict issues in this region.

Philippines



Marilou Cadeliña Manar

*Anchor
DXND North Cotabato*

Marilou 'Malu' Cadeliña Manar currently heads the Research Department of the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corporation (NDBC), a radio network run by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, which has been operating in Kidapawan City and in other parts of Central Mindanao, for more than 50 years. She hosts bida specials, a 30-minute radio documentary program which tackles a variety of issues. The program has received several national awards coming from different award-giving institutions including the ICRC. Before this, Manar used to anchor the news and public affairs programmes.



Nadia Marie Trinidad

*News Manager
ANC*

Nadia Marie L. Trinidad has been working for ABS CBN News Channel, the Philippines' only 24-hour news channel, since 2004 and is currently its news director. Prior to that, she headed ABS CBN News' North America Bureau and produced "Strictly Politics," a political talk show. She is a

lecturer at the ABS CBN Talent Center and has won several awards including Best Documentary for "TNT", Migration Advocacy and Media Awards 2006, the ABS CBN 20/20 Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2007 and the ABS CBN Mahatma Gandhi Awards for Ethical Journalism. She is a Communication Arts graduate from Manila University and a journalism fellow from Stanford University.

Thailand

Thin Lei Win

*Asia Correspondent
Thomson Reuters*



Thin Lei Win is an accomplished multimedia journalist with some 14 years' experience writing for local and international newswires, magazines and online titles covering topics from travel and lifestyle to human interest and hard news. Born and bred in Myanmar, Thin has for the past six years been based in Bangkok, Thailand, as a regional correspondent for Thomson Reuters Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Reuters news agency. Thin was the first Foundation journalist to be based outside of London. Thin has covered the humanitarian issues arising from disasters in the region extensively, including Cyclone Nargis in 2008, Padang Earthquake and Typhoon Ketsana in 2009, Typhoon Bopha in 2012 and Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Thin is also a member of the Reuters' Pulitzer Prize winning team that covered the plight of the stateless Muslim Rohingya minority in western Myanmar. Prior to joining the Foundation, Thin lived in Vietnam and Singapore, working for various publications. Thin has a masters in Multimedia Journalism.

Japanese Red Cross Society

Midori Tasaka

*PR officer
Japanese Red Cross Society*



Midori Tasaka is a member of the Planning and Public Relations Department at the Japanese Red Cross Society. Before her current position as Communication Officer, Midori was working for the Youth Red Cross Department, where she served until March 2013. Midori has experienced living in various countries such as the Philippines, South Korea, Jordan and Bangladesh.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Ewan Watson

*Communications Coordinator
ICRC Geneva*



Born in Scotland, Ewan Watson is currently in charge of public and media relations for East Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific at ICRC headquarters, where he also manages the ICRC's communications around weapons issues. Prior to that, he has worked for the ICRC in Colombia, Central African Republic and South Sudan. He holds a degree in modern languages from Saint Andrews University in Scotland. Before joining the ICRC, he worked with the UNHCR in Khartoum and for a refugee law firm in London.