



Younes El Shalwi / ICRC

# NEWSLETTER

Issue No.14

## ICRC NEWSLETTER

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1 However, not many people know of the Red Cross' diplomatic initiatives aimed at enhancing humanitarian values and action in times of natural disasters and armed conflict. The 31st International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, which will take place in Geneva from 28th November to 1st December 2011, is the largest platform for such humanitarian dialogue to take place. Drawing together the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies throughout the world, State representatives and the ICRC, the Conference convenes every four years to discuss the most pressing humanitarian issues of concern. This year, protection of medical missions, the threat of nuclear disaster or legal protection for victims of armed conflict are all timely topics which will be discussed in view of recent events.

important donors to the ICRC, where they will discuss concepts and policies related to humanitarian work. In order to broaden the ICRC's funding basis, the meeting will also seek to mobilize new potential donors to contribute to the ICRC. This is not only important for the stable funding of ICRC operations but any increased support will also serve to confirm acceptance of the universal values as enshrined in humanitarian law. Japan continues to play an important role in this regard.

Another humanitarian context of interest to the Japanese public will be South Sudan, not least because of the impending dispatch of PKO members to this newly-born country. The ICRC has been operating in South Sudan since 1986 and its more than 100 staff (recently joined by one Japanese delegate) continue to assist those who suffer from the aftermath of conflict. The ICRC will thus seek to draw attention to the humanitarian needs of the country and region.

To meet the unexpected, work on two fronts are needed: assistance and protection activities under most precarious conditions as well as diplomatic talk in elegant suits. Both activities go hand in hand, neither being able to sustain without the other. Thus, those in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement need to be able to do both and to be prepared at all times.

Sirte, Lybia.  
An ICRC team visited the city to assess the situation.

By Yoshinobu Nagamine  
Head of Office

Dear readers,

Never say never. Who would have expected that this year would have been such a turbulent one? The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was challenged by the enormous task of dealing with the human consequences of the Great East Japan Earthquake on 11 March 2011 as well as the array of riots and armed conflicts which erupted in various Arab countries known as the "Arab Spring". More than ever, the Red Cross has proven to be a relevant humanitarian actor as symbolized by the Ishinomaki Red Cross hospital which became the city's lifeline after the tsunami, or the aid delivered to the ravaged city of Misrata, Libya as shown in the picture above.

Further with regard to diplomatic efforts, the ICRC's office in Tokyo recently had the privilege to organize, together with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a roundtable in Kyoto participated by 14 East and Southeast Asian countries to discuss aspects relative to the interpretation and application of the Geneva Conventions' Additional Protocols of 1977. The Protocols are a set of rules mostly designed for the protection of civilians in international and non-international conflicts. The leadership role of Japan in encouraging other Asian countries to become parties to the Additional Protocols was relevant in light of its own accession to these legal instruments in 2004.

Next year's major event is the ICRC's Donor Support Group meeting in May 2012 which will be held in Japan and for the first time in Asia. The meeting will be attended by the most



ICRC



Jonglei State, South Sudan. Herders round up their cattle for vaccination of bacterial infections before the beginning of rainy season.

L. Edelstein / ICRC

## World Field News

Field activities conducted out of 80 operations worldwide

### The Republic of South Sudan The Humanitarian Challenges of a New State

In July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan became a country in its own right – the youngest in the world. Daniel Duvillard, head of ICRC operations in the 'Horn of Africa', speaks of the challenges this momentous event has created.

**The Potential of the New State and its Challenges**  
9 July, the day when independence was

declared, was overwhelming – you could really sense that history was in the making. I found it moving to see an entire population reach out for peace in their country. Sadly, we have not seen any sign of that peace yet: the country, especially the border area, is still plagued with internal conflict. These, coupled with tribal warfare in the eastern area, have forced thousands to flee their homes. Also, there are tens of thousands of South Sudanese who, recently returned from the north, now need help starting a new life. In addition, public services are lacking, leaving

the whole population with limited access to health care, education and even drinking water. Humanitarian organizations have an important role to play at this time, as the new government is not yet at a point where it can completely fulfil its responsibilities in this regard. There are many such organizations operating in South Sudan – over 130 working in health care alone, and more or less the same number again working in the water sector. The population is familiar with them, but I think people have higher expectations of the government. The government, meanwhile, has limited capacities

### The ICRC and South Sudan

The Activities and the History of ICRC in South Sudan

#### History

The ICRC started working in today's South Sudan in 1984. In 2010, it increased its presence in the country by reinforcing offices in Wau (to the north-west) and Malakal (to the north-east) in order to be able to operate more effectively. To some extent, these facts make it easier for us to carry out our work in the country.

Most of the members of the current government are very familiar with the ICRC, having come across us repeatedly during the last war. They are, on the whole, positive about

our work and are very grateful for all we did at that time, particularly in terms of health care. They remember our hospitals, such as the one in Lokichokio, north-east Kenya, where we treated the injuries of various Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) members. As a result, we have no need to lay new foundations, but the nature of our relationship with the government will nonetheless have to change somewhat. Since its members were the leaders of what once was the armed opposition, we will perhaps need to remind it of its increased obligations towards the South Sudanese population.

#### Current activities

The ICRC continues to promote the protection of civilians, preserving livelihoods by supplying

household items, tools and seed; ensuring access to clean water, caring for the sick and wounded, and providing rehabilitation services for disabled people. The organization also reunites family members separated by violence and promotes respect for international humanitarian law, including training for the SPLA. Furthermore, the ICRC is helping to build up the capabilities of the newly established South Sudan Red Cross and will continue to provide support, to develop a partnership for addressing humanitarian needs.

The ICRC in South Sudan currently has around 220 staff working in the country, including delegation in Juba, and two offices in Wau and Malakal.

and probably expects more support from humanitarian organizations. I believe the government must create a framework within which these organizations can operate. The organizations, in turn, must make sure their activities are helping to build the capacities of the new State.

### Both Emergency and Long-term Aid Are Needed

The ICRC will continue to work mainly within the scope of its mandate, which is to respond as quickly and as effectively as possible to pressing needs brought on by armed conflict and other situations of violence. We now have a permanent presence at Malakal hospital and in addition, we have put together a surgical team that can work as a mobile unit, taking its

services wherever needed. The team recently joined forces with Médecins Sans Frontières to treat dozens of people who had been injured in a string of particularly bloody attacks in Jonglei state, the eastern part of South Sudan.

Obviously, we have to think of the long term too. We are already running a number of small programmes to support food production, such as distributions of seed and farming tools, and cattle vaccinations.

As a country in its own right, South Sudan can now join international treaties. The ICRC, as an organization relating to international humanitarian law, will help the new government to sign up.

## Iraq

### The ICRC Delivering More Aid Where It Is Needed Most

While the security situation in Iraq has slowly but steadily improved, there are many humanitarian needs that still have to be met. The ICRC has been improving its ability to do so, and Iraq is its second largest operation. Magne Barth, the outgoing head of the ICRC delegation in Iraq, explains the situation.

"The level of violence linked to the conflict is slowly decreasing, but its cost remains high in terms of civilian casualties. Meanwhile, the political process is still facing a lot of obstacles. The ICRC is expanding its humanitarian activities cautiously but deliberately. Our priority at the ICRC is to remain focussed on the areas and people most affected by the conflict and other violence. Furthermore, our work in behalf of detainees will continue to focus on conditions of detention and issues of treatment."

The issue of missing persons also continues to

be one of priorities. More than 20 years after the end of the Gulf War, hundreds of families are still waiting for news of their loved ones. The Tripartite Commission decided to further strengthen the process of gathering information on the possible location of burial sites. They agreed on the need to establish a concrete plan of action concerning future excavations in both Iraq and Kuwait.

As he leaves Iraq after two years, he concludes ICRC's work in Iraq as follows. "As the country develops its great economic potential, the ICRC has scaled back and focused its assistance services. Nevertheless, we will continue to reach out to vulnerable groups and areas, and to provide the authorities with technical advice on how essential services can be improved. Dialogue with the various authorities is good and continues to develop. Being present on the ground is necessary to be able to help efficiently. The context is complex and sometimes dangerous owing to the armed conflict and other violence. Nonetheless, it is still possible to carry out humanitarian activities there."



Kirkuk, Iraq. A woman feeds a cow that was donated to her by the ICRC as a micro-economic initiatives programme. During a picnic near the Iranian border in 2001, she stepped on a landmine and lost a leg.

## Thailand

Thailand has experienced its worst floods in decades, with more than two-thirds of the country affected. The ICRC has assisted 30,000 prisoners, providing them with much-needed supplies and is also working with the prison authorities to help evacuated detainees let their relatives know where they are.



Thailand. Delivering dry foods, torches and anti-mosquito sprays with Thai Red Cross Society.

## Israel

On 18 October, an Israeli soldier who was been detained in Gaza and 477 Palestinians who have been captured in Israeli places of detention were all released. The ICRC welcomes the event and at the same time, it regrets that repeated requests made over the past five years for access to Israeli soldier were uniformly rejected and that hundreds of families of Palestinians from Gaza held in Israeli places of detention were prevented from visiting their detained relatives.

## Libya

On 22 November, the ICRC and the Libyan Red Crescent Society have launched a three-week radio campaign to raise awareness of the risks of explosive remnants of war among the population. With the situation seriously contaminated by such devices, dozens of civilians have been killed or maimed in October.

## Central African Republic

The ICRC has brought aid to around a thousand families who were seriously affected by the clashes between two armed groups in the city of Bria in September. In partnership with the Central African Red Cross Society, the ICRC is distributing essential items, chlorinating some 50 wells, and is now repairing seven water pumps as of 10 November.

## Colombia

In the afternoon of 17 October, a 10-year-old girl was handed over to the ICRC in a rural part of Arauca department, after 18 days in captivity. The ICRC was requested by both the girl's family and the armed abductors to take part in the release operation.

# "Reporting on Violence and Emergencies", October 2011, Manila



F. Escudero / ICRC

50 journalists from major media of 9 countries in the Asia and Pacific region gathered in Manila

The media, which has the power to influence key stakeholders, also has a role to play in addressing humanitarian concerns in society. Between 13th to 14th October 2011, the ICRC held a conference in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, inviting 50 senior media professionals from nine countries in the Asia and Pacific Region. The participants discussed reports covering conflict or disaster areas and the role of the media during humanitarian crises.

The conference consisted of three sessions, each featuring the following panel presentations on

experiences during dangerous assignments or on specific issues, followed by discussions by all participants.

Panel 1 featured animated discussions on responsible and ethical reporting by the media. Some participants raised how important it was for the media to recognize the impact it has on society: "Sensational reports from the media can sometimes worsen the situation." "To avoid such problems, it is necessary to work as a team which will organize, validate and research the information that the reporter had obtained from the field," said participants,

putting forward the importance of having such a support system in the organization. Regarding social media such as Twitter or Facebook, many of the participants said "It takes much time to confirm and report the information; meanwhile people can easily and rapidly upload it through the internet." Recognizing the threat of the 'new media', the journalists present highlighted the difficulties of maintaining influence, as well as struggling between reliability and promptness of news.

Panel 2 focused on coverage of children and victims of conflicts and 'the facts which are not reported.' Some participants pointed out the problem of today's journalism: "In terms of value of the news, we should look into the problems hidden behind it in addition to figures and situations." Others appealed for the necessity of forming standards/guidelines on reporting about children, since journalists have a mandate as a mouthpiece of the 'voiceless' and therefore have an opportunity to appeal for the rights of children.

The theme of the last panel was the protection and safety of journalists, and reporting under threat of radioactive contamination and biohazards. A panelist from Japan, Hidetoshi Fujisawa, the Senior Chief Correspondent of NHK Japan Broadcasting Corporation, presented a summary of journalism concerning the tragic earthquake which hit Japan. "The media was criticized for reporting the facts received from the Tokyo Electric Power Company and the government just as it was. It was true that we had no other independent reliable source of information. In addition, there was no one who could explain what was going on in the atomic reactor of the nuclear power station at that time." He continued, "With this in mind, it is essential to train journalists with the expertise to translate technical terms spoken by experts into understandable terms for the population."

**The Manila Declaration**

[www.jrc.or.jp/ICRC](http://www.jrc.or.jp/ICRC) → **Events and Seminars** → **The Manila Declaration**

**THE MANILA DECLARATION**

**Introduction**  
We are a group of journalists from the Asia-Pacific region brought together in Manila on the 14th of October 2011 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

We come from a wide range of backgrounds within the media community in 9 countries but we share common concerns about Reporting on Violence and Emergencies.

**Reporting on violence and emergencies**  
We agree to continue our discussion on the challenges and opportunities presented by contemporary conflicts and the complex and fast-changing information environment such as what constitute responsible journalism, neutrality vs. transparency, accuracy vs. time constraints, and being a responsive and responsible journalist.

We agree to do this by setting up an online forum to share information among the signatories below, as The Manila Club.

The Manila Club aims to promote the principles of international humanitarian law in reporting violence and emergencies.

The Manila Club aims to encourage the growth of a community of media practitioners who share our concerns.

**The role of media in protecting vulnerable people**  
We encourage collaboration between media and humanitarian and other organizations for better access and understanding of conflict and violence, complex emergencies, and disaster situations to give voice to the most vulnerable through excellent journalism and the responsible use of social media.

**The safety of journalists reporting in conflicts and emergencies**  
To that end,

- Journalists should recognize the importance of ethical reporting, independence and transparency in ensuring their own safety.
- They should work towards a media industry-supported safety code similar to that suggested by the International News Safety Institute (INSI).
- That the ICRC be supported in distributing a small laminated card summarizing the rights of journalists under international law.
- That journalist organizations initiate education programs on training and sharing knowledge and experience on operating in traumatic and dangerous situations and set up formal peer support programs.

SHARED ON 14 OCTOBER 2011 IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Speaking about the safety of journalists, he showed the dilemma for the media to keep the balance of ensuring the safety of reporters and responding to the expectations of the public in wanting for more information. He suggested to share information on reporting during dangerous assignments no matter which media they belong to, and to establish some sort of training for journalists, including those working freelance. He requested the ICRC to facilitate this kind of information sharing among all media organizations.

The Regional Media Conference for Southeast and East Asia ended with the 'Manila Declaration' signed by all the participants (see the original text on the left).

# Voices from the Japanese participants

**Hidetoshi FUJISAWA,**  
Senior Chief Correspondent,  
NHK Japan Broadcasting Corporation

The most important thing in reporting on natural disasters is to save peoples' lives and to minimize its impact as much as possible through news, especially by breaking news. In order to achieve that, I would like to reinforce the importance of everyday training in reporting on disasters, assuming various scenarios possible. Another point I wanted to emphasize is that we should put priority on the safety of the reporter, since we can not accomplish the mission of reporting without ensuring his/her safety. Confirming the importance of awareness and training for journalists in case of a mission in dangerous areas and noting the same recognition among the media and humanitarian organizations, made the Manila Conference fruitful.

The words from Mr. Phillipe Stoll of the ICRC impressed me a lot; "During disasters, relief workers and journalists share the same ship.

However, their objectives are not the same. Relief workers must support people in need. Journalists must report the situation of conflicts and disasters." It reminded me that each group has its own role and both of them can help the victims either directly or indirectly by achieving their objectives. In that regard, it would be easy for relief organizations such as the Red Cross and the media to establish partnerships and therefore it indeed can be said that 'They are on the same ship.'

Another address which stood out in my memory was from a journalist from Al Jazeera English. She said that we should not take the new media as our competitor, but something which helps to develop our own observation skills. I am in agreement with her positive stance towards the coexistence of the new media and us. The keywords are 'competition' and 'cooperation.'

As a journalist who has been involved in foreign affairs reporting for a long time, I consider two points essential when reporting on humanitarian

issues in conflict areas around the world, and which are relevant to Japan. One is 'sympathy' as a human being. We should not be selfish; we should have sympathy and think of others as if it were our own problem. The other point I would like to express is the awareness that all things and all people are inter-related in the global world. A humanitarian crisis in any country is not only their internal problem. To raise awareness that such a crisis can economically, politically, and socially affect surrounding countries, or even the whole world, is a significant role for the media.



Mr. Fujisawa introducing reports on the Great East Japan Earthquake

**Yoshinori FUKUSHIMA,**  
Deputy Foreign News Editor,  
Mainichi Shimbun

Journalism in Asia, specifically in terms of wars and conflicts, can present us with a point of view different from that of the West, which tends to be self-righteous. On the other hand, the willingness to monitor or investigate the authorities is fairly low in Asia, compared to the Western or Israeli media. This may be because of the Asian cultural tradition of respecting harmony.

How can we achieve a balance between the responsibility of the media to report on situations of conflicts and natural disasters, and the avoidance of unexpected risks and dangers? This was my major concern to discuss with colleagues from various countries in Asia. Mainichi-Shimbun, which I work for, prepares a handbook for reporters assigned to cover areas of wars, conflicts, nuclear power plant accidents and earthquakes. I also wanted to know what is

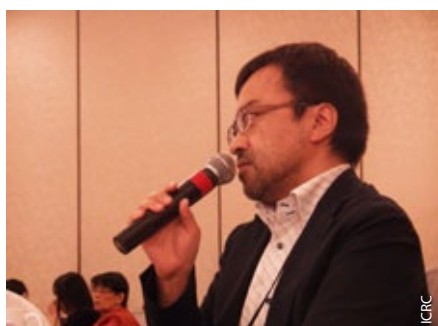
being done in other Asian countries.

I was in sympathy with an Indonesian reporter, who related instances where reporters have been attacked in conflict areas because of their religion. I also had such experiences in Iraq and Palestine. This is because the risk in the field can depend on the nationality or the ethnicity of reporters. Though I understand it is challenging, the issue of how respective countries view foreign politics carries risks for journalists in the field of conflicts, and thus should be watched continuously. At the group discussion, I asked, rather provocatively, if there are any wars which are worth reporting on at the risk of journalists' lives. The answer I got from an Australian journalist who has rich experience in reporting on wars impressed me: "The journalist must stay safe in any situation. He can never accomplish his mission to report if he dies."

In the Manila Declaration, the need for media to maintain its neutrality and transparency in reporting on wars, conflicts and natural

disasters was reinforced. It was good that we could discuss the importance of focusing on the victims and those who are most vulnerable. I learned a lot in terms of the guidelines prepared by the respective countries in case of missions to conflict or disaster-affected areas, and that they differ depending on the country. I was deeply impressed by the fact that in Australia, they have a national guideline based on frameworks put forward by various media companies. Since in any country there is a potential risk that competition amongst national media organizations might result in lower priority given to the safety of journalists, I hope that we in Japan can learn from this.

- Mr. Fukushima went to the Democratic Republic of Congo after the Manila Conference, and reported on humanitarian crisis and activities of the ICRC in the country. The interview related to the mission in DRC is on page 8.



Mr. Fukushima talking on the coexistence of traditional with social media and lessons learned from the earthquake

## Hotline for Journalists

The ICRC operates a hotline enabling journalists, their families and the media organizations they work for.

Tel : +41 79 217 32 85 (24 hours/day) / E-mail : [press@icrc.org](mailto:press@icrc.org)

### What the ICRC can do

**Disappearance :** seek to obtain information from the parties to the conflict and any other source.

**Captivity or detention :** request permission for an ICRC delegate to visit the journalist, accompanied by a doctor if necessary. Once the detaining authorities have confirmed the journalist's capture, arrest or death, pass the information on to his/her family. The ICRC can also pass on the information to the authorities of origin and press association(s) concerned, but only if the family agrees.

**When the journalist is released :** repatriate him/her if no other intermediary is available.

# Historical Relationship between Japan and the ICRC

A new historical series about Japan-ICRC relationship

## Treatment of POWs in Japan during World War I

As written in the last newsletter, in the time of World War I, there were approximately 5,000 prisoners of war (POWs), which were mainly composed of German soldiers. They were placed in detention centers throughout Japan. According to the report of the time, the condition of detention facilities in Japan was relatively well and prisoners were given a wide range of freedom.

The Japanese government allowed Dr. Fritz Paravicini, who was the Head of the ICRC delegation in Japan, to visit detention facilities. Preparing for the visit of Paravicini, the Japanese Army and the Japanese Red Cross Society developed a reception manual, which showed a highly cooperative attitude of the Japanese side. In those days, the top diplomatic priority for the Japanese government was to request major western powers to abolish unequal treaties with the country. Japan was therefore keen to be seen as a "civilized country", a country equal to the Western major powers. For that reason, Japan's effort in treating POWs in a humanitarian way in accordance with the Hague Conventions can be regarded as a way of showing the Western great powers that Japan had become a civilized country, meeting international standards.

### Treating POWs as human being

Surprisingly, the German POWs received their wages from the Japanese government. This was based on an international treaty requiring that the country which captured POWs is required to provide the soldiers with wages equivalent to what is usually paid in that country based on their ranks. For example, a German captain would receive the same wage as a Japanese captain did. However, for the lower ranking soldiers who were paid much less, it was difficult

to buy even the essential goods for life. They thus heavily depended on money and valuables from their relatives and friends back home, for which the ICRC played a vital role in transfer. The goods collected by the ICRC's Central Agency for POWs in Geneva were then sent to The Committee for POWs established by the Japanese Red Cross Society, and to the POWs through the cooperation with the Japanese Imperial Information Office of POWs. With this financial support from their families and friends abroad, soldiers could buy alcohol and cigarettes and enjoy them with other prisoners.



POWs in Bando detention playing the symphony

### The first Symphony No.9 performance took place in a detention facility

With permission by each head of detention, POWs conducted a variety of cultural activities. Among many episodes of cultural exchange between POWs and local people in Japan, one of the most popular one is the first performance of Beethoven's Symphony No.9 and Symphony No.5 in Japan, which took place in the Bando detention facility in Tokushima. This event was later made into the movie "Baruto no Rakuen", telling how POWs lived their life in the detention.

Music activities were also popular in the Kurume detention facility in Fukuoka. The "Symphony Orchester", which consisted of 40 members held a regular concert every month, totaling in 41 performances. Other than music

activities, a variety of activities were carried out such as making whisky, brandy, and soaps, printing, constructing bridges, farming western vegetables and dying clothes.

### The first international friendly soccer game in Japan

In some detention facilities, the POWs were allowed to play sports such as track and field, swimming and, most noteworthy, soccer. Although soccer was not a popular sport at the time, the first international friendly match was held rather unexpectedly between German POWs and a Japanese team. In January 1919, the German prisoners' soccer team in Ninoshima detention facility in Hiroshima prefecture held the first international friendship match against the Japanese team, which was composed of students from several high schools and junior high schools. The result was "the complete victory of the German prisoners" team that did not allow the Japanese students' team to make even a goal.

In the Ninoshima detention facility, soccer grew so popular that even a second team was founded. As written in the preceding issue, Karl Juchheim, the founder of Juchheim Co., Ltd which now has many branches in Japan, was also a keeper of a soccer team in the detention facility where he was detained.

End



A monument placed at the site of Bando detention shows the presence of the Red Cross

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**1863** Establishment of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded  
**1864** Signing on the First Geneva Convention  
**1867** The first Red Cross International Conference Paris World Expo  
**1871** Iwakura Mission  
**1873** Vienna World Expo Meeting of Iwakura Mission and Moynier, the Chairman of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded.  
**1876** Renamed the International Committee of Red Cross

**1877** the battles of the Southwestern Rebellion  
 Establishment of Philanthropic Society  
**1886** Signing of the Second Geneva Convention  
**1887** Renamed JRCs Joined in ICRC  
**1894** Japanese-Sino War  
**1904** Japanese-Russo War  
**1914** World War I  
**1919** Establishment of IFRC  
**1920** Three JRCs nurses receive prized Nightingale Medal  
**1931** Manchurian Incident  
**1937** Sino-Japanese War

**1939** World War 2  
**1941** the Pacific War  
**1942** Establishment of representative office of ICRC in Japan  
**1945** Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki War's end  
**1949** Establishment of Four Geneva Conventions  
**1953** Accedence of Japan to four Geneva Conventions  
**1977** Establishment of two Protocols  
**2004** Accedence of Japan to two Protocols  
**2009** Establishment of Japan Office of ICRC

# The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Activities of/with the Japanese Red Cross Society & the International Federation of RC/RC



"It is important that the people themselves take charge to make a change in the community," a JRC staff says.

## Tuko Pamoja – 'We are Together'

In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake which occurred in March 2011, some ten billion yen from countries around the world was sent to the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) for its relief fund. Reconstruction activities in the affected areas have now begun.

However, there are many people worldwide who remain affected by conflicts or continue to live with little hope because of disasters, poverty and the like. 'The Overseas Helping Hand campaign', which was launched in 1983 by NHK and the JRCS, believes that it is now our

turn to portray our heartfelt support by taking action. In 2011, the campaign started on 1st December, ending on the 25th the same month.

NHK was in Kenya, which is one of the receiving countries, in order to report how the funds raised by the campaign were used.

### Greening of the Desert

In eastern Africa, it has hardly rained since the end of 2010 and the region is suffering its worst drought in 60 years. In the Garissa district, some six hours away by car from the capital Nairobi,

the situation was no less serious even though the Tana river flows through it. The water was hardly used due to the lack of agricultural experience amongst the local population, most of whom are nomads. In addition, the river is home to crocodiles. To address this problem, Kenya Red Cross Society has implemented a mid-long term project where the river is used for irrigation in addition to agricultural training provided for the residents. The result has been greening of the desert, i.e. repeated harvests of bananas, papayas, tomatoes and green peppers.

### Healthcare Roots in the Region

In Garba Tulla District, 500km north-east of Nairobi, the whole land is so dry that it is almost desert-like. Coupled with inadequate healthcare services, the mortality of children under five years old is 30 times as high as that of Japan. A JRCS project called 'Integrated Health Outreach Project (IHOP)' was launched to redress this situation by improving the healthcare system and standards of hygiene in the region. At the same time, training for healthcare workers was initiated in line with the focus to build local capacity. 87 healthcare workers and Red Cross volunteers have already undergone this training. In fact, through IHOP, JRCS has been sending staff to this area since August 2008.

Despite the fact that people take droughts and floods nothing unusual, the understanding of healthcare and hygiene are surely rooted in the region thanks to IHOP. The fund from Japan is thus used for these disaster affected people and healthcare assistance, as well as for the people affected by the armed conflicts.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent Representatives Visit Northeast Japan

"We are glad if our support has helped you."- Around 25 representatives of international Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Societies visited Japan at the end of October. The objective was to assess the reconstruction activities of the JRCS in devastated areas, a large part of which had benefited from the relief aid donated by foreign countries through the RCRC Movement. Visits were made to several devastated areas in Iwate Prefecture, Northeast Japan, after a briefing on the overall activities of the JRCS.

### How is Your Work?

The RCRC representatives also had an opportunity to participate in a 'Nordic Walking' event held on 1st November near the

temporary housing area in Miyako city, Iwate prefecture. Organised by JRCS volunteers, this event provided an opportunity for the residents to get to know each other as well as enhance their health. "Nordic Walking gets people to stretch and also relaxes them. With happy smiles on their face, people can gain the power to make a step forward", explained Mr. Fujita, who took on the role of an instructor.

After the event, one of the participants invited the representatives to her temporary house. There they discussed the current living conditions, such as what life is like in temporary housing, and also situations of employment.

The RCRC representatives noted how touched the residents were by the JRCS's activities and interest, and said that they would share their experiences with others in their respective countries who had contributed to the relief fund.



RCRC representatives participating in the 'Nordic Walking'

# Updates From ICRC Tokyo

## 'OUR WORLD AT WAR' EXHIBITION HELD AGAIN!

The ICRC's photo exhibition entitled 'OUR WORLD AT WAR', held in 2009 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Red Cross, will be put on display again hosted by the JRCs Kanagawa Chapter. The exhibition is a collection of 40 photographs taken by five cameramen, focusing on the ICRC's humanitarian activities in areas of armed conflict. Eight countries were featured (Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Lebanon, Liberia, Haiti and the Philippines). These photos are meant as reminders that there are unceasing conflicts still in the world and that, even in such circumstances, there exists untiring efforts to help people in anguish.

### Interview with Mr. Fukushima continued from page 5

**Q:** Right after the Manila Conference, you went to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and covered the humanitarian issues in the country.

**A:** What made a significant impression on me the most was meeting those who had been raped presumably by the armed forces. Such crimes were committed to terrorise the residents and demonstrate power. The victims were traumatized, especially those who became infected with AIDS through the rapes, forcing them to abandon and leave their hometown.

I felt that the ICRC's activities are regarded highly and that the ICRC delegates are accepted by the local community as being trustworthy. The main reason for this seems to me that the ICRC strictly keeps to its neutral stance.

**Q:** What can Japan contribute to the DRC?

**A:** There may be more ways to support women and children, who are the worst victims affected by conflicts. I think Japan should consider increasing its operations through strengthening cooperation with the organizations working in



Ron Haviv / VII

## OUR WORLD AT WAR - People to survive War

**Date :** 20th Dec (Tue) - 26th (Mon)

**Time :** 11:00-19:00 (open 12:00 on the 1st day, close 17:00 on last day)

**Venue :** Minato Mirai Gallery A and C (Queens Square Yokohama, Queen Moll, 2F)

**Admission :** Free

**Organizer and Contact :**

Japanese Red Cross Society Kanagawa Chapter

Tel: 045-681-2123

<http://www.kanagawa.jrc.or.jp/>

the conflict areas such as the ICRC. The activities could be limited to 'support and care' for the residents in anguish and not directly focusing on the main factors of conflicts, although this is a responsibility for all the international community to tackle. On this point, Japan's support could be related to its specialties such as training of local police officers.

It's understandable for Japanese to become inward-looking rather than to consider humanitarian risks abroad when they feel uncertainty in their own lives. In order to attract people's attention in Japan, it is necessary to show the relation between each humanitarian issue and Japan/Japanese. When we consider how important it is for Japan, with its limited natural resources, to build a good relationship with the richly-endowed DRC, especially during times of emergency, it is natural to come up with the idea that we need to solve the problem in the DRC urgently. From the viewpoint of International Humanitarian Law, it is also important that Japanese never allow any human rights violations among the parties to a conflict.

Mr. Fukushima's report on DRC was serialized for 3 days, 29th November to 1st December in the morning edition of Mainichi-Shinbun.

## Message from an intern

Hello, I'm Yamanaka, a communication intern at the Tokyo Office. I would like to provide a little information about the general tasks of interns. At present, six interns are working in the Tokyo Office in fields of communication, research and translation. Each Intern's position varies from college students and business people to retirees. As a communication intern, I was involved in the production of this newsletter. The Tokyo Office often receives visitors from the head office in Geneva and the regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur. I now have valuable experience what it is like to work in an international organization. I hope to continue to contribute towards international cooperation by making use of this experience in the ICRC Tokyo Office.



Preparation for events and sending out newsletters are also part of the interns' tasks.



ICRC

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