



JRCS

# NEWSLETTER

Issue No.12

## ICRC NEWSLETTER

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1 work tirelessly in evacuation centres amidst continued support from the wider public in the form of donations, which have already reached an unprecedented amount.

2 In the first few days of the chaos, hundreds of thousands sought to re-establish contact with their family members in Japan as well as overseas. Responding to this need, the ICRC, together with the JRCS, launched a Family Links website in several languages to help them to find their loved ones as well as to serve as a platform for their families and friends in other countries to ascertain their wellbeing.

3 If the urge to help is a basic instinct, the same can be said for avoiding unknown risks. The leakage from the nuclear plant in Fukushima raised many question marks about the level of radiation as well as the accompanying health risks. To many, radiation is an invisible threat reminiscent of the nuclear accident in Chernobyl. Drivers, aid workers and volunteers preferred to bypass Fukushima although the evacuees in that areas were in the most dire need as they had to move several times to different evacuation centres.

4 The Red Cross was also stuck in this dilemma. How much risk was the staff and volunteers prepared to take to help others? Within a short space of time, ICRC's Nuclear, Radiation, Biological and Chemical (NRBC) expert came to Japan and worked together with the JRCS on an effective radiation protection regime. Permissible radiation levels were set and radiation focal points who could provide proper briefings to the staff prior to any deployment were identified. The ICRC also provided dosimeters to those in the Red Cross

Movement which allowed for an assessment of the cumulated dose of ionising radiation during each mission.

5 Further, the ICRC team visited Fukushima city to discuss with the relevant authorities and Red Cross staff the measures being taken to monitor radiation levels, screen people for exposure and if necessary, refer them for decontamination. The NRBC expert found that the measures were appropriate, the radiation risk could be quantified, and staff and residents felt reassured enough to continue with their daily business.

6 It is understandable that the attention of the public remains focused on the effects of the nuclear accident but at the same time one should not lose sight of the human suffering of the tsunami and earthquake. Fear of the unknown needs to be encountered by clear information about risks and preventive measures.

7 Last but not least, I would like to express my respect to all those who have endured hardship as a result of the disaster but who nevertheless were prepared to help others. Indeed, humanity is not a monopoly of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement but the most commonly shared value amongst all.

8 Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture:Volunteers of the Japanese Red Cross help evacuees to register their names and contact details on the Familylinks website (9 April, 2011)

By Yoshinobu Nagamine  
Head of Office

Dear Readers,

In the face of disasters, we are all equal. This feeling was shared by many in the aftermath of the unprecedented disaster caused by the earthquake and tsunami which struck Northeast Japan on 11 March 2011. Who could remain indifferent, faced with some 28,000 people killed or missing and 46,000 houses destroyed? Who could resist the urge to help to relieve the plight of the evacuees?

Assistance was organised in a professional and swift manner. The Japanese Red Cross dispatched relief items drawn from the warehouses of all chapters of the Society, and a total of more than 450 medical teams assisted people in need. Until today, volunteers



ICRC



Faya-Largeau, central Chad. Chadian nationals fleeing Libya, arrive by truck. The ICRC and the Chadian Red Cross are helping them to re-establish contact with their families.

# World Field News

Field activities conducted out of 80 operations worldwide

## Libya

Increased humanitarian response

The ICRC has now consolidated its presence in the west of Libya, where it plans to visit detainees and help medical staff to cope with war-wounded patients.

On 11 April, the ICRC received authorization to establish a permanent presence in Tripoli, and a team of four staff specializing in health matters, detention-related activities and logistics arrived

in the Libyan capital soon after . An ICRC presence will be maintained in Misrata and Zawiyah, but it was considered important to expand the scope of operations based on an assessment of needs.

The city of Misrata continues to be badly affected. Early in the conflict, ICRC staff, together with Libyan Red Crescent personnel, toured the streets in Misrata to assess the need for humanitarian aid. More than 6,500 stranded foreign nationals were living in difficult conditions in the vicinity of the Port in tents and

under tarpaulins, waiting for boats to take them out of the city. "We don't want you to bring us food, we don't want water, we don't want any assistance, we just want to leave this place," said one of them. ICRC staff also collected more than 180 "safe and well" messages from foreign nationals in Misrata and contacted their families abroad, with the help of Libyan Red Crescent volunteers, to give them news of their loved ones.

As at the end of April, more than 2000 foreign nationals had been evacuated by sea from the

## Interview

As unrest and violence continue to spread across the Middle East and North Africa, ICRC Deputy Director of Operations outlines the challenges.

### WHAT ARE THE GREATEST MEDICAL CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES IN THE WAKE OF THE LATEST OUTBREAK OF UNREST?

In general, violence has resulted in many deaths and vast numbers of injuries. The armed conflict in Libya has been raging for weeks now and casualty figures there continue to mount, while humanitarian access to some parts of the country remains restricted.

In other places, civil unrest has flared up against the backdrop of an existing armed conflict, as in Yemen, where a protracted – although largely

unreported – armed conflict is under way in the north of the country. In Iraq, too, recent demonstrations have resulted in casualties, while hundreds of people continue to be killed or injured every month by violence linked to the ongoing armed conflict. When you add civil unrest to an already precarious humanitarian situation in a country weakened by years of armed conflict, the result can be disastrous in terms of the cost in human lives.

### WHAT IS THE ICRC DOING TO ADDRESS THESE

### CHALLENGES?

In the wake of the recent civil unrest and violence in North Africa and the Middle East, we've been doing all we can to support first-aid providers. This means working hand-in-hand not only with the national Red Crescent or Red Cross societies in the affected countries, but also with health ministries, other government authorities, and local organisations.

The ICRC maintains a good network of contacts with all concerned, which enables us to assess needs and respond effectively. Humanitarian organisations must have safe access to those in need.

All those taking part in the violence must safeguard medical personnel, medical facilities and any vehicles used as an ambulance.

port of Misrata by the ICRC, with support from the Libyan Red Crescent. The operation was coordinated with the International Organization for Migration, which organised the transfer of the evacuees to their respective countries. Most of those evacuated were Sudanese, Chadian, Egyptian and Moroccan nationals.

### VISITING DETAINEES

In March, the ICRC visited more than 150 detainees in four places of detention in Benghazi. ICRC staff contacted families in different parts of the country to inform them about the whereabouts of their detained relatives and conveyed "safe and well" messages. Clothes and hygiene kits were also

## Côte d'Ivoire

**ICRC aircraft arrives with 12 tonnes of aid supplies**

The humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire is worsening as fighting and looting continue. An ICRC-chartered aircraft landed on 4 April in the northern town of Man with nearly 12 tonnes of supplies to meet the most urgent needs of people affected by the conflict.

"Starting today, the medicines and other medical items will be distributed, mainly in hospitals and health-care centres in the west of the country," said Dominique Liengme, who heads the ICRC delegation in Côte d'Ivoire. "Injured people are being taken to hospital by volunteers of the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, or by whatever means they can organize, but the hospitals are more and more overwhelmed. Medical supplies are lacking, and hospital staff sometimes have to perform their duties without running water or electricity."

Tens of thousands of men, women and children who continue to flee the fighting have taken refuge in makeshift reception centres in public

distributed to around 90 detainees.

### ON THE EGYPTIAN BORDER

The ICRC continues to work with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, which is in charge of distributing the bulk of the food and water provided for those stranded along the border.

Since the onset of the crisis, the ICRC has enabled 1,600 people on the Egyptian border to call their families. In addition, the ICRC has been helping thousands of people who are neither Egyptian nor Libyan, and without valid travel documents to obtain the papers needed to be repatriated.

buildings. They lack food and drinking water, and the sick need to be cared for. Also on board the ICRC aircraft were nearly one and a half tonnes of pipes, pumps, and other items needed to upgrade water supply systems.

### Aid for injured and displaced people in Abidjan

The civilian population in Abidjan has been hard hit by the effects of the fighting that has taken place during the last few hours. People living in several neighbourhoods have been forced to cope with shortages of water and electricity, as well as with exhausted food stocks. Those who are wounded have to remain in their homes, as there is no way to evacuate them. Furthermore, the lack of security makes it very difficult for humanitarian workers and emergency personnel to carry out their work.

"We again call on all weapon bearers to respect and protect civilians, and to facilitate humanitarian work," said Ms Liengme. In recent days, Ivorian Red Cross volunteers have looked after and evacuated injured people in the Cocody neighbourhood in very difficult circumstances.



A water hole being repaired at Duékoué

## Afghanistan

The ICRC strongly condemns the use of an ambulance – intended for transporting wounded and sick persons – in a suicide attack that took place in the beginning of April at an Afghan National Police regional training centre on the outskirts of Kandahar city, southern Afghanistan.

## Georgia

The ICRC distributes humanitarian assistance to people living high in the mountains of Georgia, in the picturesque but isolated Kodori Valley, which most of the population fled during the conflict of 2008. Under the auspices of the ICRC, the mortal remains of a person who went missing in connection with the August 2008 hostilities were exhumed on 12 April in Tskhinvali/Tskhinval.

## Syria

Acting in its role of neutral intermediary, the ICRC transports apples grown by Syrian farmers in the occupied Golan into Syria proper via the Kuneitra crossing. Some 12,000 tonnes of apples are being shipped regularly, en route to local, regional and international markets. The apple operation allows families in the Golan to maintain links with their friends and relatives elsewhere in Syria, as well as increase the farmers' revenue.



The ICRC coordinates with UNDOF to facilitate the movement of people, documents and apples across the demarcation line.

## Somalia

Eleven shells that hit Medina Hospital in Mogadishu without exploding for three days from 12 April have been retrieved and stored, waiting for a bomb disposal unit to neutralize them.

## Colombia

Over 180,000 people affected by armed conflict and other forms of violence in Colombia received direct assistance from the ICRC in 2010. Thousands of people in rural and urban areas of Colombia faced displacement, threats, murder, uncertainty about the fate of missing relatives, and lack of access to basic services.

# Feature : The Red Cross response to the Great East Japan Earthquake

## The quiet strength of the Japanese Red Cross

After the great earthquake of March 11, the Japanese Red Cross immediately sent a rescue team to the stricken areas. Tadateru Konoe, President of both the Japanese Red Cross Society and the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), also went to the disaster area as soon as he could. Having mobilised the forces and resources available via the network of Red Cross chapters throughout Japan, the number of rescue teams sent by the Japanese Red Cross from the day of the disaster to the 22nd of March amounted to 629. Of them, 23 are currently considered active, in the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. These rescue teams are normally composed of six people: one doctor, three nurses, one clerical worker and one driver.



JRC President Konoe visiting a dERU in Miyagi. (13 March, 2011)

Staff members trained in psychosocial support are sometimes included in these teams, making it possible to deal with both the physical and the psychological needs of the victims. A centre for psychosocial care was also opened in the Red Cross hospital in Ishinomaki city, Miyagi prefecture, as well as in Iwate chapter. The centre's aim is not only to alleviate the victims' psychological trauma and the stress caused

by being displaced but also to cope with the mental and emotional needs of the Red Cross staff and rescue teams themselves.

Relief supplies are also being sent in great quantities to the stricken areas. When the disaster occurred, blankets were considered to be the most dire necessity. As of April 13, 132,510 blankets have been distributed to the six affected prefectures. In addition, 29,482 emergency sets containing a portable radio, a flashlight and bandages, as well as 12,500 sleeping sets containing a camping mat, a pillow, earplugs and an eye-mask, were also distributed. The delivery of domestic appliances to temporary houses, such as washing machines, refrigerators, televisions, rice cookers and microwaves, has also started. Donations to a further 70,000 households are expected in the near future.

Many temporary toilets were not equipped with proper places to wash hands, raising concerns of the possible spread of illnesses and diarrhea. On April 14, water supply equipment was installed in nine different areas in the disaster-affected zone; with the installation of this water supply equipment, hygiene has drastically improved in the evacuation areas.

In times of disaster, the energy of volunteers is indispensable. Red Cross volunteers, registered in each chapter, represent a work force of more than 38,000 people as of April 18, active in the distribution of emergency food, support to onsite rescue teams, and fund-raising. More than 10,000 Red Cross Youth members, from elementary school to high school, are included among the volunteers.

## Contributions to the Japanese Red Cross

As of April 20, contributions amounting to JPY



Kozuchi shrine, used as an evacuation centre. In spite of tsunami having their fire fighting. (25 March, 2011)

143,517,221,315, had been received by the Japanese Red Cross. The Grant Disbursement Committee established on April 8, agreed that the money would be allocated to each of the affected prefectures according to the amount of money they have requested. Local Grant Disbursement Committees in each prefecture will then distribute the money to the local households.

## Crisis assessment and communication

Starting with an earthquake and a tsunami, and developing into a nuclear incident soon after, this was an unprecedented crisis. Immediately after the earthquake, inquiries to the Japanese Red Cross from domestic as well as international media were constantly received. JRC president Konoe was accompanied by the IFRC communication delegate on an assessment visit to the affected areas. The IFRC worked from the premises of the Japanese Red Cross for a long period in order to transmit to the world the reality of the disaster.

Television reporters from all over the world also came in large numbers to Japan. Just after the earthquake, as traffic on highways leading to Tohoku was permitted only to emergency vehicles and because of a lack of gasoline, there were many requests from reporters to accompany the Japanese Red Cross

By late March, the communication staff from the Japanese Red Cross, the IFRC and the ICRC arrived at the affected areas and sometimes together with a European media team, visited evacuation areas and hospitals. These visits began in Iwate prefecture, and from the city of



The Otsuchi station board found in the city centre where is far from the station. (25 March, 2011)



come up to the 4th step of the stairs, and the fire come from a mountain in the back, the evacuees were miraculously safe thanks to

registrations from Japanese nationals.

For 10 days from April 6th, a Japanese Red Cross staff member and two Red Cross volunteers, after having been trained by the ICRC in March, traveled to the affected areas in order to conduct research on missing persons. The team decided to visit evacuation centres in Ishinomaki and Higashi-Matsushima, Miyagi prefecture. With the help of two local volunteers, the five-member team focused on encouraging people living in the evacuation centres to register on the Family Links website, and researching information concerning missing people using the internet. The actual need for research reported was rather low, and the whereabouts of close relatives were usually known already thanks to the restoration of phone lines, cell phone service, or through simple word of mouth.

Meanwhile, activities related to the field of NRBC continued, with the ICRC monitoring the situation at the Fukushima First Power Plant and acting as a form of support for the Japanese Red Cross. In order for Red Cross staff to accomplish their task safely in the affected areas, the ICRC gave preliminary explanations on the use of dosimeters and about permissible exposure to radiation. In relation to the communication team's mission mentioned above, as the initial idea was to travel into Fukushima, dosimeters were distributed to all the staff members who would have been involved, with the requirement that they should report to the NRBC delegate every day. However in mid-April, the NRBC delegate went to Fukushima himself and had discussions with the prefectural disaster policy headquarters, the local authorities and Japanese Red Cross prefectural office. Briefings were done on how to conduct radiation monitoring, exposure screening, and nuclear decontamination. Fully grasping the risks of exposure, the NRBC delegate made sure that proper measures were taken in order to ensure the safety of the inhabitants, as well as local Red Cross staff.

With relatively large aftershocks still occurring even one month after the earthquake, the Red Cross is continuing its humanitarian response initiatives. Upon arrival in the affected areas, many people have said that they feel reassured upon seeing the Red Cross emblem. Some express words of gratitude or appreciation, others openly speak out about their anxiety or distress to the staff. The Red Cross will continue to listen to the needs of beneficiaries, and stay beside them for as long as is necessary.

The role played by the Japanese Red Cross, the IFRC and the ICRC in the response to the Great East Japan Earthquake only confirms the value of the Red Cross Movement in keeping relief efforts alive for people in need, and its standing as the oldest and most trusted humanitarian aid network in the world.

Miyako, they headed South along the coast and visited Yamada, Otsuchi, Kamaishi, and Ofuna, before arriving in Ishinomaki, Miyagi prefecture, where the communication team visited a Red Cross hospital. In all of these places, the team witnessed scenes so ghastly that the Japanese officers could hardly believe it really happened to Japan. However, everyone in the team encountered had remained strong and humble, saying that they were not the only ones to suffer. The consensus of the team was that "we were the ones who felt strengthened when we saw these people being so supportive to one another".

### "A strong sense of human dignity"

Foreign reporters and the IFRC communication delegate said that they were deeply moved by the stoicism of the Japanese, their courtesy, and their thoughtfulness. A foreign journalist reporting on the affected areas said, "I felt a strong sense of dignity in the Japanese." The respect of "dignity" is central to the activities of the Red Cross.

A boy shyly proclaims that his dream is to succeed his father, who works in a local Shinto shrine. A middle-aged man, while taking care of the evacuees, leaves early in the morning for road repair works, and upon finishing work in the evening, looks for lost relatives along the coast and in places where the bodies of the victims are laid out. A doctor working at the Ishinomaki hospital deals with emergency patients and responds with a smile to requests for an interview from the media. While at the same time thinking about what they will have to do in the future, it seems like everyone in

the disaster-affected areas were driven by the wish to do something for others. "Japan will overcome this crisis for sure": this is what most foreign reporters said before leaving Japan, having finished their report on the affected areas.

### What kind of contribution can the ICRC make in times of such crisis?

The ICRC mainly provides humanitarian assistance in armed conflict and other situations of violence. In case of natural disaster, in a country where the ICRC is present, we support the Red Cross or the Red Crescent Society of that country. Thus, just after the earthquake, the ICRC office in Tokyo quickly tried to grasp what the needs were and how to support its partner, taking into view the experience and professionalism of the Society in dealing with natural disasters.

Following consultation with both the Japanese government and the Japanese Red Cross, it was agreed that the ICRC would give support in Restoring Family Links (RFL) and NRBC. On the day following the earthquake, an international Familylinks website ([www.icrc.org/familylinks](http://www.icrc.org/familylinks)) was set up by the ICRC to offer a free platform for people to inform others in the country and abroad of their safety, as well as to inquire on the whereabouts of missing friends or relatives in Japan. The website is not limited to Japanese and English, but is also in Korean, Chinese, Portuguese and Spanish for the use of foreigners living in Japan. CNN International broadcast spot announcements for the website all over the world. As of April 21, there were 5,955 registrations, which included 1,791

# Historical Relationship between Japan and the ICRC

A new historical series about Japan-ICRC relationship

## Katharina Sturzenegger: Henry Dunant's special envoy

Henry Dunant is well known as the founder of the ICRC, but did you know he was also closely linked to Japan thanks to a journalist?

When the Russo-Japanese war broke out in 1904, Dunant was living in a retirement home in Heiden, Switzerland, and was looking for someone to spread Red Cross principles to Japan in his stead. By chance, Dunant's journalist friend Katharina Sturzenegger visited him during this period, and decided to go to Japan keeping in mind Dunant's ideal of "going to all the corners of the world to carry out the Red Cross' activities." She had two main goals: to find out how Red Cross' principles had spread to a faraway country like Japan, and to report her findings in detail to Dunant. She also felt very inspired by Florence Nightingale, and wanted to help the wounded on the frontlines.

When she finally set foot in Japan however, Katharina found out that the Swiss and the Japanese Red Cross had completely different ways of caring for the wounded. In Japan, it was impossible for women to attend to the wounded on the battlefield.

As a result of this, Katharina decided to put all her efforts into collecting information so that she could report what was going on to Dunant. By visiting military hospitals, speaking to the wounded, attending operations, and volunteering in several activities, she learnt more and more about the Japanese Red Cross. Not only her dedicated efforts were featured in a Japanese Red Cross journal, based on her own experience; she also wrote a book called "By the Side of the Wounded in Tokyo-Memories of the Russo-Japanese War", which was awarded a Japanese Red Cross medal. After four years in Japan, Katharina returned to Switzerland in 1908, bringing back with her a huge amount of detail.

Having fulfilled her wish to meet Dunant again, she put her pen to paper, this time writing about the activity of the Serbian Red Cross during the 1912 Balkanic Wars, and about the life of Henry Dunant. She also gave many lectures and had a very fulfilling life. Katharina was buried in Zurich, in the same cemetery as Henry Dunant.

## The Empress Shoken Fund

A Fund for peacetime activities was created in 1912, thanks to an Imperial donation of 100 000 yen (worth about CHF1,455,000 at the present time) granted by the Japanese Empress Shoken on the occasion of the 9th Red Cross International Conference in Washington. Based on the proposal of the then-ICRC President Gustave Ador, it was decided that the Fund would be named after the Empress herself.



Empress Shoken

The Empress had granted an audience to the Japanese Red Cross Vice President Takeo Ozawa during the 8th Red Cross International Conference, and asked what kind of support monarchs throughout Europe gave the Red Cross. When Ozawa replied that Empress Augusta of Germany and Empress Maria Feodorovna of Russia had created a special fund,

Empress Shoken is said to have responded: "That is quite good."

The Empress Shoken Fund for peacetime activities promotes the ideal of 'not only caring for soldiers in wartime, but also contributing to the happiness of humanity in peace time.' Management of the Fund is the responsibility of a joint committee of the ICRC and the IFRC, and its distribution is decided every year on April 11, the anniversary of Empress Shoken's death.

2012 will be the hundredth year anniversary of the creation of the Fund. Since the first distribution in 1921 to the 88th time in 2009, CHF 12,116,926 have been allocated to the Fund, used mainly in the fields of disaster prevention, sanitation, and blood transfusion, as well as support towards activities carried out by Red Cross Youth volunteers.

## The Florence Nightingale medal

The creation of the Florence Nightingale Medal, in order to reward nurses who have made remarkable contributions to humanity throughout the world, was officially decided during the 8th and 9th Red Cross International Conferences, in 1907 and 1912. The names of the awarded nurses are announced every other year on May 12, Nightingale's birthday. The first ceremony was carried out in 1920, in which the Medal was awarded to three Japanese Red Cross nurses: Take Ogihara, Yaho Yamamoto, and Ume Yuasa. Through 2009, 101 nurses in Japan have received the Medal.

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ICRC HP, JRC HP

**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 1  
**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 9th Asia - Pacific IHL Moot Court Competition



The National University of Singapore presents their case in front of the moot court judges.

On 3-5, March 2011, the 9th Asia and the Pacific Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot Court competition took place in Hong Kong. Students from 20 universities in the Asia-Pacific region stood under the spotlight of the courtroom to participate. Kyoto University, as the winner of the Japanese National Round of IHL Moot Court competition in December last year, represented Japan.

Essentially a competition that presents a fictitious problem, it aims to raise awareness of international humanitarian issues among law students through examination and debate of wider social issues through role play.

Participants are divided into two opposing teams, namely the applicant team and the respondent team. During these competitions, students are expected to demonstrate their understanding of the law in practice, from the combat zone to the courtroom. After the final round, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, was named as the winner, with Hidayatullah National Law University of Raipur, India receiving the unner-up prize.

Delivering an address at the Prize Presentation Ceremony, the Honourable Chief Justice of Hong Kong Geoffrey Ma Tao-li emphasised the importance of a sense of justice, commenting that however extreme the circumstances, it is always worth the effort. He remarked that the theme of this Moot problem is justice itself, and specifically, the concept of a fair trial and what it entails. "However serious the charge, however

atrocious the activity, a fair trial is an absolute necessity for those who are accused."

The IHL Moot Competition was co-organised by the Youth and Volunteers Department of the Hong Kong Red Cross and the ICRC. Participating law students debated about whether certain acts violated the Law of War from a multidimensional standpoint, and communicated with other like-minded students.

## National Round in TOKYO

A National Round took place in Japan for the first time on 11 December, 2010. The event, held in Tokyo, was jointly organised by the ICRC and the International Law Student Exchange

Council. Students from three universities –Chuo University, Doshisha University, and Kyoto University– took part. The National Round in Japan dealt with international armed conflict between two fractious neighbouring countries, Arkadia and Stovia. The outbreak of this conflict caused military intervention in the Arkadian city of Luga near its joint border with Stovia. As the winner, Kyoto University represented Japan at the annual Regional Moot Court Competition in Hong Kong.

This time, only three universities applied for the Competition, but the ICRC hopes that many more universities will participate in the next one. However, it will be necessary for them to improve their communication skills, especially those related to presentation and speaking in English.

"In addition to the Moot Court, the ICRC Tokyo Office will continue to explore how to cooperate with universities and other educational institutions, for example, to organise intensive courses on IHL. As an organiser of the IHL Moot Court, we, ICRC, have to do more efforts to achieve our purpose", said Mr. Daisuke Shibasaki.



National Round Moot Court Competition in Tokyo, December 2010

## After the Competition - The voice of a Kyoto University student

### How did you become interested in IHL and the moot court competition?

I am interested in IHL because I am concerned about the security and peace of Japan, not to mention other countries such as North Korea and China.

different countries - an opportunity which does not come along often. The other students also had an influence on me by telling me about their hopes towards their future careers, which I found were quite different from mine.

### How did you feel while presenting your case during the competition in Hong Kong?

I felt nervous, and quite overwhelmed by the performances of the students from all the different countries. Their English was so smooth, and they displayed much confidence and persuasiveness. Nevertheless I was happy to be able to participate in this event, because it allowed me to talk with students from many

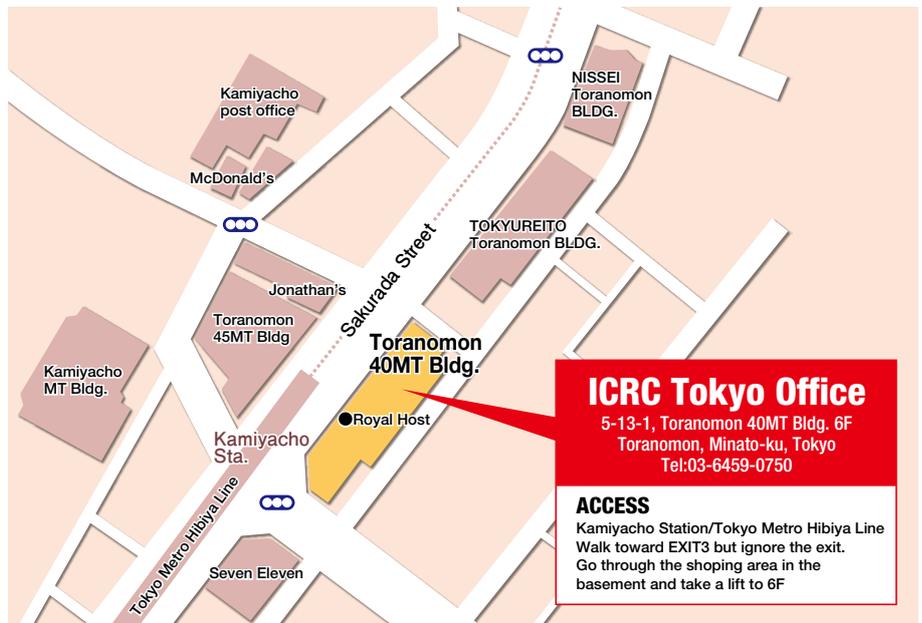
### Do you think how these experiences will help you with your goals and plans in the future?

Using the rest of the world as our barometer. I realised that we Japanese must study harder and improve our abilities to keep up. The judges were very kind to us, giving us advice on how to present and improve our English. I hope that someday in the future, I will be able to partner with leaders from around the world, and work together towards building a better world.

# Updates From ICRC Tokyo

## ICRC Tokyo's New Office

On 11 April, 2011, the ICRC Tokyo Office moved to Kamiyacho area, where the governmental offices are close by. With adding a new staff to our Communication Unit, we expand not only the working space but the function.



### ICRC Tokyo Office

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Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo  
Tel:03-6459-0750

#### ACCESS

Kamiyacho Station/Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line  
Walk toward EXIT3 but ignore the exit.  
Go through the shopping area in the  
basement and take a lift to 6F

## Overview of the ICRC's operations in 2011

It has been two years since the ICRC opened the Tokyo office. Since then, Japan's contribution and support in terms of finance and manpower to the ICRC has been gradually, but significantly increasing.

An initial appeal is CHF 1,046.9 million to cover ICRC field activities in 2011, which is the largest initial budget presented by the ICRC. The objectives and corresponding budget for 2011 are the result of several factors, including:

- \* a consolidated or more in-depth response in certain armed conflicts;
- \* a strong presence and response in the main contexts affected by the interplay of local issues and wider-reaching concerns relating to the fight against "terrorism";
- \* a continued response to the needs of those affected by widespread conflict and violence in contexts where the State may be lacking;
- \* a greater presence and response in other situations of violence, including situations of State repression, inter-communal strife or violence in urban settings;
- \* the explicit inclusion of responses in early recovery phases

Please see Figure 1 for the 10 largest operations.

The ICRC's humanitarian operations can be found in 80 countries, and are primarily funded by contributions from the various state parties to the Geneva Convention. Contributions by governments (including the European Commission) exceed 90% in total, of which Japan is counted as one of the major donors. To date, the ICRC has received approx. CHF 44.5 million from Japan for its operation in 2011. As the biggest donor in Asia, Japan will host the

Figure1 The 10 biggest operations

RANK	DELEGATIONS 2011	INITIAL BUDGET 2011 (in CHF million)
1	Afghanistan	89.4
2	Iraq	85.8
3	Sudan	82.8
4	Pakistan	82.4
5	Israel and the Occupied Territories	64.8
6	the Democratic Republic of the Congo	63.1
7	Somalia	53.0
8	Yemen	48.8
9	Colombia	40.9
10	Niamey regional	29.3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>640.3</b>

Donor Support Group Meeting in 2012, taking place for the first time in Asia.

### More Japanese nationals becoming ICRC delegates

The ICRC delegate is the one who plays a central role by acting as the interface between the different specialists in order to carry out our humanitarian mandate mostly in armed conflict areas. In the summer of 2010, ICRC launched the "Japanese delegate" campaign, dropping the prerequisite for French language skills. As of 22 April, seven Japanese nationals were recruited; four assigned to different delegations in Bangkok, Nablus, Hebron and Harare; and three awaiting training course enrolment. ICRC Tokyo will proactively continue the recruitment of Japanese nationals.



A newly-joined Japanese ICRC delegate participating in the emergency flood operation (Sabayoi district, Thailand, 11 November, 2010)



ICRC

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