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1 disaster is about to unfold in Somalia where around 20 per cent of the people in the country, already affected by conflict, now face famine due to a severe drought.

2 The ICRC responded to these crises, as it always strives to do, swiftly and appropriately. In Libya the ICRC built an office up from scratch to become one of its largest operations in the world. As for Somalia, the ICRC has launched a budget extension appeal of CHF 67million, the bulk of which will go towards food assistance in the Al-Shabab controlled area.

3 Mobilization of resources and immediate humanitarian response are obviously heavily dependent on political support for initiatives aimed at building an environment of respect for neutral and impartial action. Cognisant of this fact, States parties to the Geneva Conventions and the entire Red Cross Red Crescent Movement will come together at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to be held this November in Geneva. This event takes place every four years and is the most comprehensive and largest international Conference on humanitarian issues.

4 A leading initiative on the agenda reflects the ICRC's concern for the safety of medical missions in times of conflict, based on an analysis of violent events in 16 operational contexts from 2008 to 2010. Against this backdrop, on the 12th of August (the anniversary of the Geneva Conventions), the ICRC working together with Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched the four-year "Health Care in Danger" campaign to raise awareness on the need to

protect medical missions and ensure access to health care even in times of conflict. To mark this campaign in Japan, the ICRC will seek collaboration with partners sharing the same concern.

5 Together with the "Health Care in Danger", another long-term project that will be discussed at the Conference is the strengthening of legal protection for victims of armed conflict. Through a consultation process with a number of States, ICRC has concluded that the current legal framework of IHL is perceived to be weak in two specific areas, namely (a) the protection for persons deprived of freedom and (b) implementation of international humanitarian law and reparations for victims of violations.

6 The importance of diplomatic support from all States for these, and other humanitarian initiatives, cannot be understated. Thus, the ICRC hopes that it will continue to be able to count on Japan's support not only financially but also politically in fostering humanitarian norms and values.

Ras Lanuf, Libya.
Doctors evacuate a casualty from the fighting

By Yoshinobu Nagamine
Head of Office

Dear readers,

The first half of 2011 was marked by dramatic crises throughout the world, both manmade and natural, which have had significant and continuing humanitarian consequences.

Here at home, the Great Eastern Japan Disaster on the 11th of March left approximately 19,700 persons dead or missing, and left many questions open on the effects of nuclear radiation leaks on human beings as well as the environment. Elsewhere, Africa and the Middle East faced unprecedented social upheavals, beginning with the first sparks of protest in Tunisia. Meanwhile, another humanitarian



ICRC



Yerow Mohammed / ICRC

Mogadishu. Internally displaced persons arriving from the drought affected areas of Bay and Bakool.

World Field News

Field activities conducted out of 80 operations worldwide

Somalia

ICRC undertaking its largest ever relief operation

Since October 2010, the ICRC has distributed emergency supplies to half a million people throughout Somalia and has delivered water to almost one million. Also on 4th August, the organization decided to scale up its emergency operation in central and southern Somalia to assist an additional 1.1 million drought- and conflict-affected people.

The ICRC is asking donors for CHF 67 million in additional funding, bringing its total 2011 budget for Somalia to over 120 million francs.

"The move comes in response to a situation that is becoming ever more desperate," said Jakob Kellenberger, the president of the ICRC. "Hundreds of thousands of Somalis face life-threatening food and water shortages."

Malnutrition brings children to the brink of death

Levels of malnutrition have reached a new peak and are currently the highest in the world, said the ICRC at the beginning of July. In some parts of Somalia, the number of children with severe acute malnutrition has almost doubled since March.

"A dramatic increase in cases of malnutrition can be observed even in the Bay and Lower Shabelle regions, usually described as the country's breadbaskets, where nearly 11 per cent of children under five suffer from severe acute malnutrition," said Andrea Heath, the

The ICRC in Somalia

Its activities and history

The ICRC has been working in Somalia since 1977 when it responded to the crisis that arose from the war between Ethiopia and Somalia. Since 1982 it has maintained a presence in Somalia, basing its delegation in Nairobi since 1994.

Somalia – one of the ICRC's largest operations – remains in the grip of a full-blown humanitarian crisis. Fighting between government forces backed by African Union troops (AMISOM) and opposition groups, and among the groups themselves, is dragging on, raising concerns

about the population's security to new levels. Hundreds of thousands of Somalis have been displaced and millions continue to depend on humanitarian assistance.

Against this background the ICRC has stepped up its relief operations, concentrating its operational presence where armed clashes are recurrent and essential services are non-existent. Key roles are helping internally displaced people to set up makeshift homes, delivering relief goods and food rations to the most needy, providing health care and carrying out small-scale water, agricultural and cash-for-work projects designed to restore or improve livelihoods and improve economic security in communities weakened by crises.

The ICRC works closely with and provides substantial support to the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), the ICRC's main operational partner. Together the two organizations distribute relief goods and help to reunite families separated by conflict or natural disaster by using the Red Cross Message system, its familylinks website and radio broadcasts.

To ensure those wounded by weapons receive appropriate medical care, the ICRC supports two surgical referral hospitals in Mogadishu, as well as other medical facilities within and outside the capital. The organization also supports 36 SRCS primary health care and mother-and-child clinics serving over 500,000 people countrywide.

ICRC's economic-security coordinator for Somalia.

Launch of new health care programme

The ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent have started to expand services in existing outpatient therapeutic feeding centres and health care facilities. In central and southern Somalia, the ICRC has provided over 250,000 people with household essentials and made clean water available for 400,000 people since April.

The budget extension will enable the ICRC to further expand its therapeutic feeding programmes and its food distributions to help people get by during the extremely difficult

period until the next harvest in December. Some 49,000 malnourished children and 24,000 pregnant and lactating women will benefit from the supplementary and the therapeutic feeding programmes.

"In the central and southern parts of the country especially, where only a small number of humanitarian organizations are present on the ground, the need for aid cannot be overstated," said Kellenberger. "Despite the difficulty of operating in one of the most conflict-riven countries in the world, we cannot let people down. We are confident that we can deliver assistance successfully, in close cooperation with our partners from the Somali Red Crescent."

Central and Western Georgia /South Ossetia

Three years after the conflict : shift from emergency assistance to self-sufficiency support program

Three years after the end of hostilities in August 2008, people are still feeling the effects of the conflict, particularly those living along the administrative boundary lines (ABL). The ICRC remains the only international humanitarian organization operating on both sides of the ABL.

Although the majority of the people who fled the August 2008 hostilities have returned home or have settled in new accommodation, thousands are still displaced and are living in collective centres or government settlements. Some of the centres housing displaced people urgently need refurbishing, but are not covered by government schemes or other organizations' programmes. People who have returned also face difficult living conditions because of the

worsening economic situation.

The almost total closure of the ABL makes everyday life difficult, restricting access to relatives on the other side, to health services, to social benefits and to markets – a major source of income for many. Life is particularly hard for elderly people, who have little income and no relatives nearby.

To deal with this situation, during the period between 2008 and 2011, the ICRC has provided agricultural supplies and other assistance, funded micro-economic initiatives and implemented water and sanitation projects. Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC has also facilitated medical evacuations, family reunions and family visits to places of detention.

Following the emergency phase, in the aftermath of the August 2008 conflict, the ICRC gradually moved to activities aimed at helping vulnerable people recover economic self-sufficiency and supporting the authorities in maintaining essential infrastructure and services.



Koda, Shida Kartli, Georgia. Murtaz and his neighbours are able to feed their families thanks to the timber workshop they set up under the ICRC's micro-economic initiative programme.

Afghanistan

Pierre Krähenbühl, the director of operations of the ICRC, was in Afghanistan for a five-day visit in early July during which he has met with national and international leaders and officials and with members of the armed opposition to share the ICRC's concerns for the civilian population at a time when the armed conflict is entering a new phase.

South Sudan

South Sudan became the 193rd state in the world in July, bringing to a close a decades-long saga of conflict and painstaking negotiations. One implication of this historic event is the creation of a new national society, the South Sudan Red Cross Society (SSRCS), derived from what were once the southern branches of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS).



North Darfur, Sudan. A general from the Sudanese armed forces signs the handover certificate confirming that he has received detainees transported by the ICRC.

Iraq

An estimated one million women in Iraq must shoulder the burden of caring for their families alone because their husbands have been killed, arrested or disabled by war injuries, or have gone missing. Around 70 per cent of them spend more than they earn. The ICRC has supported these women since 2009. This year it will give financial support around 6,000 women and next to tide them over until they start to receive benefits from the social welfare system.

Libya

On August 24th, the ICRC helped 33 journalists and two other foreign nationals leave the Rixos Hotel in Tripoli and led them to safety. The ICRC, which operates a hotline for journalists on dangerous assignments, had been contacted by several news organizations concerned about the safety and well-being of their staff.

Philippines

Safe drinking water is now only a few steps away for over 1,200 residents of Mabini, a remote community in Northern Samar province, after the completion of a spring catchment built with support from the ICRC.

Feature The International Day of the Disappeared

Documentary: "It's the silence that kills!"

To mark the international day of the disappeared on 30 August, the ICRC has produced and published materials such as TV news feature, feature articles, and films, to highlight the plight of families of the Missing in connection with armed conflicts or other violences.

Here we focused on Colombia, where approximately 58,000 people have been registered missing over the last ten years, and where the armed conflict is still ongoing. Actually, most of them were registered in these three years, which many previously unknown clandestine graves have also been revealed, leading to an ever increasing list of unclaimed, unknown and unidentified dead.

The challenge for the authorities to recover, identify and hand over the remains to enquiring families is enormous. Colombia is one of very few countries which is attempting to investigate cases of missing persons while the conflict is still ongoing.

Wish to Know the Fate of the Loved Ones

In a suburb of Bogotá, Sandra lives with her 9 year old son Bryan. The walls of Sandra's small flat are lined with proudly framed diplomas and photographs of her husband Francisco in his army uniform. She hasn't seen her husband since October 2008. It was five months later that she finally got the news that he is missing.

Since then, Sandra has had no firm information about what happened to her husband. There have been plenty of rumours – he was last seen in a running battle between the Colombian Army and a guerrilla group but no one can tell her for sure if he was killed or taken prisoner. A year ago, a body was found that fitted his description, but the DNA test turned out to be negative.



Skeletal remains are examined and documented - a vital part of the identification process at the National Forensic Institute in Bogotá



Elias and Julia, looking at the picture of their missing son

Sandra hangs on to the hope that her husband might still be alive somewhere. While the months go by, she tries to keep up pressure on the authorities to continue the investigation. But time passes slowly, and it is hard to hang on to hope with no news. "It's the silence that kills," she says through her tears.

In a rural village in the northern province of Urabá, another woman, Julia, describes her last memories of her 19 year old son Luis. Julia and her husband Elias show the only photo they have of their son, a small passport size picture of a smiling young man. They last saw him in December 2010 on a day when, as usual, he went off to work on the farm. They suspect he joined an armed group active near their home. "The young people today listen to their friends, not their parents," say the couple.

It was nine months after Luis went missing that Julia and her husband heard that their son had been killed in a clash with the army. They have had no proof of his death and they desperately want to find out what happened to him. "If he is really dead, I want to bury his body and take flowers to his grave," Julia weeps.

Needs to Provide Regular Information in Understandable Terms

For many families, the search will end at Colombia's National Forensic Institute in Bogotá, where the remains of unidentified bodies are brought for identification. There is no question that the will to respond to the thousands of requests for identification is here, but the sheer

scale of the task seems overwhelming. "More and more people are reporting losses of family members, and more and more bodies are being recovered. We could work 24 hours a day," says the Institute's Director, Dr. Carlos Eduardo Valdes Moreno. The identification process is long and complex and it's like a maze for the families. The language is bureaucratic and hard to understand and months can go by with no information.

The ICRC works with individual families, helping them to negotiate this complex process. It also works closely with state institutions such as the Forensic Institute, to strengthen their capacity to respond. The families searching for information about missing loved ones need regular information in terms they can understand. They need to be told why it takes time, what the difficulties are, and what to expect. They must be respected by the authorities and they also need support to get through this ordeal.



DNA testing at Colombia's National Forensic Institute



North Darfur, Sudan. Lists of children without their parents and the missings, explaining ICRC's Restoring Family Links Activity

Rights to Know the Whereabouts of the Missing Family

Every year, countless families are split up and struggling to find out information of the missing people. Under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, people have the right to know the fate of a missing relative. People suffer terribly when they lose contact with their family or not knowing the fate of their loved ones. "To keep on waiting without such information is a torture" the family of the missing says.

Continuing Humanitarian Supports Even After the Conflict

Providing support for the families of missing

people is a priority for the ICRC, which strives to make sure that their needs are met. When the families request it to do so, the ICRC undertakes to collect information, often through a complex and lengthy process. In several countries, this involves the participation of National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies.

"There is rarely a quick resolution to these cases, but a strong political will and a high degree of accountability towards the families of missing persons can help speed up the process" said Oliveir Dubois, deputy head of the Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division of the ICRC. "States have an obligation under international humanitarian law to take all feasible measures to account for people who went missing, and to give families all the information they obtain. The ICRC is calling on

States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify and implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance."

Once a conflict finishes, the issue of the missing is treated as that of personal, and therefore often not considered. In 2003, with the aim of focusing this overlooked tragedy and raising the consciousness of this issue throughout the international society, the ICRC organised an international conference to discuss about the problem. Living without knowing what has happened to their loved ones is an agony. In a view, a proof of death is important for the family to move on to the next stage and live properly. As long as those who struggle with the painful everyday life exist, the ICRC will continue to support them, even if the war ends.

The ICRC is currently working to account for those who went missing in the following countries and regions:

Africa : Eritrea, Ethiopia and Senegal

The Americas : Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru

Europe : Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Russian Federation and Serbia (Kosovo)

Asia and the Pacific : East Timor, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Sri Lanka

Middle East and North Africa : Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and disappearances relating to the Western Sahara conflict



Peru. Brother and sister reunited, supported by the ICRC

Historical Relationship between Japan and the ICRC

A new historical series about Japan-ICRC relationship

The ICRC during the First World War

During the First World War (1914-1918), the Red Cross carried out the largest relief operations in its history. In each country which took part in the war, the ICRC regularly visited internment camps, consistently requesting that improvements be made regarding hygiene and that Prisoners of War (POWs) be treated according to international law. The ICRC also traced missing soldiers and restored contact between those who were captured or missing and their families or friends.

In cooperation with Red Cross Societies including the Japanese Red Cross Society, the ICRC worked to ensure that POWs and detained civilians were equally treated; that no retaliation took place against prisoners; that they were permitted to walk around; that they were repatriated to their home countries, and so on.

The ICRC's Central Agency for POWs in Japan

Japan, which took part in the First World War as a member of the Allied Forces, together with Britain, attacked and surrounded Shandong province in China, which was then under the control of Germany. Germany surrendered on 7th November 1918 and some 4,697 POWs were eventually sent to Japan for internment.

On 15th August 1914, the ICRC informed all Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies throughout the world of the opening of the "The Central Agency for POWs", which began operations on 21st August. Activities included monitoring of the condition of camps, providing families of POWs and detained civilians with information and transfer of money and relief items from the families to those detained. The Agency also played the role of a mediator by making POW lists available, recorded the details of each individual on cards and dispatched staff to

monitor the welfare of POWs. By 31st December 1919, when the Agency ended its operations, the number of cards had totalled 4,895,000 and the number of parcels which the Agency had sent to prisoners was 1,884,914. The cards are still stored at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.



The typing department of the ICRC Central Agency for POWs employs about 100 persons to carry out its tracing and restoring family links service.

Visits to POWs in Japan

The first visit to POW camps in Japan by the ICRC took place during the First World War. The Japanese Red Cross Society established a committee for the relief of POWs, which managed the communication between the Japanese imperial information office of POW and the Central Agency of the ICRC. Collaboration amongst these three organisations was successful in restoring communication between POWs and their families.

In May 1918, the ICRC assigned Dr. Fritz Paravicini, who was a Swiss doctor living in Yokohama, Japan, to visit POWs in Japan. Dr. Paravicini became so deeply involved in Japanese contexts that he was appointed the ICRC's Head of Delegation in Japan during the Second World War.

He visited all 8 camps in Japan in the early summer of 1918, as well as the Hiroshima military hospital and the Japanese Red Cross

Osaka hospital. "A Report of Relief Activities During the First World War, Volume 1-20 by F. Paravicini" was later submitted to the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Department of Japanese Army and the ICRC. Several recommendations were made in this report, including the proposal that sick and wounded soldiers should be permitted to carry out something meaningful. Thus Paravicini focused on cultural activities in the camps, such as music, art and craftwork.

POW's Contribution to Cultural Exchange

POWs were encouraged to inform the Japanese government what kinds of skills they possessed and which could be of use to the country. This resulted in transfer of technology and exchange of cultural influences. For example, there was a German commissioned who was familiar with rubber processing. In collaboration with a Japanese factory which had manufactured rubber sole socks, they tried to make tires; this eventually was the origin of the Bridgestone Tire.

In another example, there was a European confectionery shop manager who was captured in Tsingtao, China and sent to Japan. He became the founder of Juchheim Co., Ltd, which now has many branches in Japan. Karl Juchheim thus helped to make German confectionery such as Baumkuchen a familiar cake to Japanese.

It was also at the Bando camp where Beethoven's 9th Symphony and Destiny were first played in Japan. More episodes in camps will be introduced next time.



A list of POWs published by the Japanese Imperial Information Office in June 1917.

Reference : Compiled and Translated by Shiro Okawa "Oubeijin Horyo to Sekijujji Katsudo - Paravicini Hakase no Fukken" Ronso-sha, 2005 Tadamasu Fukiura "Horyo no Bunmeishi" Shincho-sensho, 1990 Kyoichi Tateishi and Haruhiko Shuku "Kenkyu-note Seifu oyobi Gun to ICRC tou tono Kankei" from "Bouei Kenkyu-jo Kiyou" Vol.11 No.1 p69-p125 Bouei-sho Bouei Kenkyu-jo, November, 2008 Andre Durand "History of the International Committee of the Red Cross, from SARAJEVO to HIROSHIMA", Henry Durant Institute Geneva, 1984. "The International PRISONER-OF-WAR Agency-The ICRC in World War One-" ICRC, 2007.

1863	Establishment of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded	1877	the battles of the Southwestern Rebellion Establishment of Philanthropic Society	1939	World War 2
1864	Signing on the First Geneva Convention	1886	Signing of the Second Geneva Convention	1941	the Pacific War
1867	The first Red Cross International Conference Paris World Expo	1887	Renamed JRCs Joined in ICRC	1942	Establishment of representative office of ICRC in Japan
1871	Iwakura Mission	1894	Japanese-Sino War	1945	Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki War's end
1873	Vienna World Expo Meeting of Iwakura Mission and Moynier, the Chairman of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded.	1904	Japanese-Russo War	1949	Establishment of Four Geneva Conventions
1876	Renamed the International Committee of Red Cross	1914	World War 1	1953	Accedence of Japan to four Geneva Conventions
		1919	Establishment of IFRC	1977	Establishment of two Protocols
		1920	Three JRCs nurses receive prized Nightingale Medal	2004	Accedence of Japan to two Protocols
		1931	Manchurian Incident	2009	Establishment of Japan Office of ICRC
		1937	Sino-Japanese War		

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

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

International Humanitarian Law Workshop in Malaysia

An opportunity to reaffirm the significance of humanitarian law



Atsuko Tamai
Japanese Red Cross Society

I had the opportunity to participate in SEATS, the South East and East Asian Teaching Session on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), organised by the ICRC, as a representative of the Japanese Red Cross Society. This annual event, which gathered together 30 people from 10 countries, was held in Kuala Lumpur from 25th to 30th July.

SEATS was designed to provide people from various backgrounds ranging from lawyers, scholars, government officials to military personnel with an opportunity to cultivate a better understanding of IHL as well as to acquire the necessary skills to view humanitarian challenges through its lens.

The only topic which I was already familiar with was the proper use of the Red Cross emblem. Since the Red Cross emblem symbolises "Don't Attack", the Japanese Red Cross Society consistently calls on external parties not to use it as a logo or place it on signboards in public space. Regrettably, however, the significance of the emblem and humanitarian law are not widely known in Japan; therefore the public does not realise its essential purpose. We must,

for this reason, familiarise the emblem by not only speaking about the proper use of the Red Cross emblem, but also letting people know that the emblem itself indirectly, but surely, protects human life; thus misuse of the emblem minimises its value.

As for the correct legal definitions of "civilian" or "non-combatant," I learnt a lot through discussions and a series of case studies. IHL itself functions on the premise of differentiating between civilians (non-combatants) and combatants; the former are always subject to protection, whereas the latter are not in warfare situations. We discussed the matter of whether or not carriers of a bomb should be interpreted as "taking direct participation in hostilities", also whether a weapons dealer is a combatant or not and the like. During the discussions, there was a wide variety of interpretations of these questions and many participants had a hard time giving clear-cut answers of 'yes' or 'no'.

These discussions within small groups highly motivated me to share ideas with other participants of how they planned to utilise the facts learnt in this workshop in their home countries. They also allowed for the building of relationships between participants, which became a stepping stone to our ultimate goal – to globally spread the knowledge of IHL, I believe.

My view of IHL and its importance changed over the course of the workshop. Previously, I did not know much in detail about IHL and how it functions, but now I have realised that it is certainly no exaggeration to suggest that it is essentially important for nations to be familiarized with IHL. My next challenge is to spread knowledge of IHL in Japan – a country in which people no longer expect to experience a war.



Opening ceremony of the workshop

Children's Mental-care Needed in Devastated Areas

The earthquake disaster bruises children. The Japanese Red Cross Society launched a project named the "KIDS CROSS project" in order to support those mentally bruised through the earthquake disaster in both health care and educational facets.

The first project took place at Yamada Kinder garden in Iwate Prefecture on 11th July. Parents attended a workshop aimed to equip them with knowledge of emotional care. "Kids have mentally shocked with the earthquake. In

some cases, even parents or teachers cannot notice their hidden mind." Ms. Mikako Sasaki, director of the kinder garden pointed out the difficulty of how to treat kids. The lecturer, Ms. Sachiko Abe, a nurse from JRC Iwate chapter advised that "Please listen carefully to children, especially when they talk about their disaster experiences. It may heal children from traumatic events and experiences."

After the workshop, one of the attendees Ms. Mayumi Ito said that "My youngest daughter in 4 years old gets nervous even with small sounds. My son still keeps telling me about the day of the earthquake. Through today's workshop, I understood the importance to listen to them more carefully."

The Japanese Red Cross Society continues to give various supports for children in devastated areas – Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefecture.



Children learning about hyperthermia prevention by colouring

Updates From ICRC Tokyo

National Round of the IHL Moot Court Competition

The ICRC, the International Law Student Exchange Committee (ILSEC) and the Japanese Red Cross Academy will jointly organise the National Round of the IHL Moot Court Competition in December. As is the norm, the Moot Court will feature a case study which will be the subject of debate by participants divided into two opposing teams – the prosecutor and the defendant. Through role play, this inter-scholastic competition aims to raise awareness of IHL amongst students beyond not only book learning but also practical law. The winner of the National Round will represent Japan at the 10th Asia and the Pacific Red Cross IHL Moot Court Competition in Hong Kong in March, 2012.



Participants debating at the Hong Kong competition (2010)

Competition details

Date:	Saturday, December 3, 2011
Place:	The Japanese Red Cross Academy (Hiroo campus)
Participants:	Under graduates and graduates (excluding PhD level) of universities in Japan. Each team will consist of 4 students (a team of mixed university representatives is acceptable)
Fee:	Free of charge
Language:	English
Applications:	1st September to 1st October 2011
Organizers:	ICRC, ILSEC, the Japanese Red Cross Academy
Supported by:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan Federation of Bar Association, the Japanese Red Cross Society
Contacts:	ILSEC HP (http://kokusaiho.aquasky.jp/humanitarianlaw/index.htm) Observers are welcome; please submit your request in advance

ICRC Tokyo Office: New Twitter Account



ICRC Tokyo has set up its twitter account (@icrc_tok) providing up-to-date information regarding ICRC activities around the world and events in Japan, as well as daily tweets by each staff on the work they do. Readers are encouraged to follow entries. Retweeting is also highly welcome.



Head of Tokyo Office



Political Officer



Secretary/Administrator



Communication Officer



Communication Assistant

First IHL course to be held in Japan

Many students in Japan are interested in peace building and conflict settlement, and willing to work for international organizations. However, only a limited number of national universities presently offers a course featuring IHL.

Catering to this need, the ICRC, Osaka School of International Public Policy and Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University, are jointly organizing the first IHL course in Japan from 19 to 22 September at Osaka University. Facilitated by IHL experts in Japan, ICRC legal advisors and practitioners, the course is designed for graduate students and young scholars majoring in IHL.

The opening lecture on "IHL and Japan's role" will be delivered by Director General, International Legal Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yasumasa Nagamine. Students can also look forward to listening to experts speak on a range of subjects, including IHL and Multinational Forces, IHL and Human Rights Law, Responsibilities of the Nation/Individuals at War.

Launch of the "Health Care in Danger" campaign

In August, 2011, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement launched its four-year campaign, "Health Care in Danger". This project aims to encourage governments and other stakeholders to play their part in securing effective and impartial health care from unlawful violence during conflict and hostilities.

ICRC Tokyo will post updates on the campaign as well as information on related events co-organized by the Japanese Red Cross Society in its website and newsletters.



Ambulances take huge risks during armed conflicts to reach and transport the wounded and can fall victim to stray bullets. (2011, Yemen)



ICRC

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