



JAPAN

REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ACW PROJECTS IN CHINA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISION (EC-67/DEC.6) (REPORTING PERIOD: 1 APRIL – 31 MAY 2013)

1. Foreword

- 1.1 This is the update, submitted in accordance with the Executive Council decision (EC-67/DEC.6), describing the progress in the abandoned chemical weapons destruction projects (ACW projects) in China from 1 April to 31 May 2013.
- 1.2 Japan is committed to fulfilling obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) and continuing destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (ACWs) based on “the Destruction Plan for the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China Beyond 29 April 2012” (attachment of EC-67/DEC.6, hereinafter referred to as “the Destruction Plan”) with the cooperation of China. Japan has invested enormous personnel and financial resources into the projects and made the best possible continuous efforts to tackle various challenges and uncertainties in order to achieve tangible progress.
- 1.3 The projects in 2012 achieved significant progress including the completion of the destruction operation in Nanjing (Jiangsu Province), the commencement of the destruction operation in Shijiazhuang (Hebei Province) and the launch of excavation and recovery operations in Haerbaling (Jilin Province). Japan, closely consulting with China, also has been making its best possible efforts to make further progress in the projects and will continue to do so.

2. Characteristics of the ACW projects

- 2.1 The ACW projects entail various challenges. The projects start with the difficult tasks of excavation, recovery and identification of the ACWs mixed with other kinds of recovered munitions. Excavation and recovery operations are conducted in a variety of locations such as mountainous areas, riverbeds and urban districts. Most ACWs are highly corroded or deformed since they have remained under soil or water for a long time. Extra caution and care are required throughout the entire process of the destruction. In addition, it is difficult to carry out the ground operations during the winter period in northern China due to harsh weather conditions.



- 2.2 Attaching the highest priority to safety of personnel and protection of the environment is the most important requirement for carrying out the unprecedented projects, which sometimes include dangerous tasks, in a steady and safe manner.
- 2.3 Besides, Japan has to implement the projects in a manner consistent with Chinese laws and regulations, and Japan depends on the cooperation of China for various tasks such as preparation work (e.g. designing and construction of the sites) and logistics (e.g. procurement of explosives, transport of ACWs, security), among others. Japan and China need to hold consultations on every aspect of the ground works as roles of both sides are intertwined with each other. To resolve certain issues, both sides need to persevere with consultations. As safe and steady operations are carried out based on appropriate preparation work, the timing of the commencement of each destruction operation makes way for the conclusion of consultations on such work. Japan and China have jointly tackled a number of challenges in implementing the projects and resolved them through such consultations.

3. Progress of the ACW projects during the reporting period

3.1 Destruction of ACWs with the Mobile Destruction Facility (MDF)

(a) Southern China

- (i) Following the completion of the destruction operation in Nanjing with the achievement of destruction of 35,681 ACWs in June 2012, Japan, on the basis of bilateral consultations with China, has been undertaking the disposal of contaminated waste, which is not subject to mandatory destruction under the Convention. Additional systems were installed for this purpose and some of them have been connected to the Mobile Destruction Facility (MDF) in Nanjing. After the completion of all necessary work in Nanjing and the completion of remaining preparation work in Wuhan (Hubei Province), the MDF will be redeployed to Wuhan.
- (ii) During the reporting period, in Nanjing, the disposal of contaminated waste was resumed in mid-April after the technical difficulties were resolved. The disposal of contaminated waste has been ongoing.
- (iii) Bilateral consultations were held in April and May on topics such as disposal of contaminated waste, decontamination and disassembling of the MDF in Nanjing and the schedule of the redeployment of the MDF.
- (iv) During the reporting period, preparation work has been carried out in Wuhan. Construction work for the access road and temporary storehouse was completed in March.
- (v) Bilateral consultations were held in April and May on the rest of the site design and other related issues on preparation work in Wuhan.

(b) Northern China

- (i) In Shijiazhuang, the destruction operation was commenced in December 2012, and 250 ACWs were destroyed before the winter season suspension of operations (from mid-December to the end of March).
- (ii) During the reporting period, preparation for resumption of the destruction operation such as on-site training and system check was started in Shijiazhuang in April.
- (iii) The destruction operation was resumed in Shijiazhuang on 22 May and 762 ACWs were destroyed by the end of this reporting period. Total number of destroyed ACWs (1,012) constitutes approximately 60% of approximately 1,700 ACWs planned to be destroyed in Shijiazhuang.
- (iv) Bilateral consultations have been held on a daily basis since Japan and China reopened the command posts at the Shijiazhuang destruction site in early May.

3.2 ACW projects in Haerbaling

(a) Excavation and recovery

- (i) Excavation and recovery operations started in December 2012. 92 items were recovered before the winter season suspension of operations (from mid-December to the end of March), among which 87 items were confirmed as ACWs.
- (ii) During the reporting period, the work to improve the facilities such as the communication system has been carried out. Adjustments of the X-ray identification system and munitions data management system have been also carried out.
- (iii) Bilateral consultations were held in April and May on topics such as improvement of infrastructure and operation systems.

(b) Destruction

- (i) Preparations are ongoing for the launch of the destruction operation. The manufacture of the two destruction units (a detonation chamber and a static kiln detonation furnace) was completed in 2012 and major parts of them arrived in China in the middle of March 2013 and they are currently stored in the warehouse in Tianjin.
- (ii) During the reporting period, preparations for and bilateral consultations on the construction contract for the buildings to house the destruction units continued. Details of the design of the building, work schedule and cost estimate are main issues to be resolved bilaterally before signing the contract between both countries.

3.3 Investigation, excavation and recovery operations in various areas

- (a) From 19 to 27 April, X-ray identification operations were conducted in Handan (Hebei Province), Jincheng (Shanxi Province) and Yichang (Hubei Province). 12 items and 8 items were confirmed as ACWs during the operations in Handan and Yichang respectively (no ACW was confirmed during the operation in Jincheng).
- (b) The amendment of the declaration was submitted on 27 May 2013. 169 items, including items confirmed as ACWs as the result of the operations described in subparagraph (a), were added. On the other hand, 16 items which had been previously declared as ACWs were confirmed as non-ACWs and deleted. This made the total number of declared ACWs 49,682 (including already destroyed items).

4. Measures for ensuring transparency and smoother implementation of the projects

4.1 Bilateral consultations

- (a) Japan attaches great importance to bilateral consultations with China as they are indispensable in order for both States to move the projects forward considering the characteristics of the projects described above.
- (b) During the reporting period, a number of bilateral consultations were held on various issues. Some of them are described above.

4.2 Visit of the Executive Council representatives to destruction facilities

The Executive Council decision EC-67/DEC.6 describes that Japan and China “welcome visits of the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General and a delegation representing the Council to destruction facilities”. Japan regards it important to realise such visits for better understanding of the status of the projects and further ensuring transparency. During the last session of the Executive Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), Japan and China announced that Japan and China jointly invite the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General and a delegation representing the Council to Haerbaling ACW site in September.

5. Conclusion

As described above, Japan, committed to fulfilling obligations under the Convention, has been making and will continue to make its fullest possible efforts to move the projects forward with the appropriate cooperation of China.