



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 FEBRUARY 2014 - 31 MAY 2014)

1. Foreword

- 1.1 This is the update, submitted in accordance with the Executive Council decision (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), describing the progress in the abandoned chemical weapons destruction projects (ACW projects) in China from 1 February, 2014 to 31 May, 2014.
- 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) 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 up to the present 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). Preparation work for destruction operations has been in progress in Wuhan (Hubei Province) and Haerbaling. 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, undertook the disposal of contaminated waste, which is not subject to mandatory destruction under the Convention. The disposal of contaminated waste was completed at the end of August 2013. The MDF was transported to Wuhan, the second deployment site in the Southern MDF sequence. The installation of the MDF in the Wuhan site was completed in January 2014.
- (ii) During the reporting period, in Wuhan, the preparation of the ground and the foundation work for the destruction site was completed in March 2014. At the beginning of May, the coordination process on the design of, and estimated cost for, the renovation of the administration building and construction of other infrastructure was finally concluded. The contract for renovation of the administration building and construction of other infrastructure was put out to tender at the end of May.
- (iii) ACWs which will be destroyed in the operation in Wuhan are currently stored in nine surrounding temporary storehouses located in five provinces. Japan and China have been holding bilateral consultations in order to make a plan for the transport of ACWs (some of which are fused and require extra caution) from the surrounding storehouses to the Wuhan site.

(b) Northern China

- (i) In Shijiazhuang, the destruction operation was commenced in December 2012. The destruction of ACWs stored in the Shijiazhuang temporary storehouse (except 6 unknown ACWs¹) was completed by 8 July 2013, with the destruction of 1,383 items.
- (ii) ACWs need to be transported from 6 surrounding temporary storehouses located in two provinces and two municipalities before the destruction operation resumes in Shijiazhuang. During the reporting period, Japan and China decided on the basic plan for the first phase of the transport of ACWs from the storehouses in Tianjin, Tangshan (Hebei Province), Beijing, Datong (Shanxi Province), Shouyang (Shanxi Province) and Handan (Hebei Province). The ACWs newly recovered in Tianjin (see 3.3(b) and (f)) were decided to be transported in the following phase.
- (iii) During the winter season suspension period, which covers the first half of the reporting period, maintenance activities were carried out at the site and bilateral consultations were held in order to prepare for the next phase of destruction operation in Shijiazhuang.
- (iv) During the reporting period, regarding the preparation for the Harbin destruction site, the second destruction site in the Northern MDF sequence, bilateral consultations were held on the designing of the road and preparation of the ground.

3.2 ACW projects in Haerbaling

(a) Excavation and recovery

- (i) In Haerbaling, excavation and recovery operations started in December 2012. As the result of the excavation operation in 2012, several 500-lb conventional bombs (non-ACWs) were discovered. Additional conventional bombs were presumed to be buried at the excavation site and those bombs could affect the progress of the operations. As the result of the survey carried out in 2013, 63 500-lb convention bombs were confirmed to be buried. Japan has been waiting for the relevant Chinese authorities to determine how to remove these conventional bombs.
- (ii) During the reporting period, bilateral consultations were held on the improvement of the X-ray identification system, munitions data management system and the incidental facilities, and preparations for the improvements have continued.

¹ 6 unknown ACWs will be destroyed during the following phase of destruction operation in Shijiazhuang.

- (b) Destruction
 - (i) Preparations are ongoing for the launch of destruction operation. The manufacture of the two destruction units (a detonation chamber and a static kiln detonation furnace) was completed in 2012, major parts of them arrived in China in mid-March 2013 and they are currently stored in the warehouse in Tianjin. Construction of the buildings to house the destruction units started in September 2013, and it was suspended due to the severe winter season in early December.
 - (ii) During the reporting period, the construction of the above mentioned buildings was resumed in mid-March 2014, and it continues as at the cut-off date for this report.
 - (iii) During the reporting period, bilateral consultations were also held on the security, communication system, augmentation of electric power supply of the Haerbaling site and other issues.

3.3 Investigation, excavation and recovery operations in various areas

- (a) On 25 and 26 February 2014, the emergent on-site investigation was conducted in Xuzhou (Jiangsu Province). 1 item was preliminarily confirmed as ACW as the result of the operation, while other 9 suspected items were reported and will be further identified.
- (b) From 18 February to 15 March 2014, the emergent excavation and recovery operations were conducted in Tianjin. 50 items were confirmed as ACWs as the result of the operation, while identification of other 384 suspected items were left to the following identification operation described in 3.3(f) of this report.
- (c) On 17 and 18 March 2014, the emergent on-site investigation was conducted in Taiyuan (Shanxi Province). 8 items were preliminarily confirmed as ACWs as the result of the operation, while 2 other suspected items were reported and will be further identified.
- (d) On 10 May 2014, the on-site investigation was conducted in Handan (Hebei Province). 2 items were confirmed as ACWs as the result of the operation.
- (e) On 13 May 2014, the on-site investigation was conducted in Anqing (Anhui Province). 4 items were confirmed as ACWs as the result of the operation.
- (f) From 22 April to 26 May 2014, the identification operation was conducted for 536 items (534² items which had been previously recovered in Tianjin and

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Not all discovered items undergo the identification operation as some items are easily identified as ACWs on the spot of excavation. And some items which have already been confirmed as ACWs on the spot of excavation undergo X-ray identification in order to specify the type of the munition. Among 534 items, 141 items are from the result of an on-site investigation on 4 December 2013 (see 3.3(e) of previous report (EC-75/NAT.4)), 8 items are included in 57 items confirmed as ACWs as the result of

stored in Tianjin temporary storehouse and 2 items which were additionally recovered by Chinese side during this operation), 496³ of which were confirmed as ACWs as the result of the operation.

- (g) Japan submitted the amendment of the declaration to the Technical Secretariat on 18 February 2014. In the amendment, 557 items (120 items in Shangzhi (Heilongjiang Province), 314 items in Hunchun (Jilin Province), 10 items in Yueyang (Hunan Province), 2 items in Changsha (Hunan Province), 2 items in Dunhua (Jilin Province), 64 items in Tianjin and 45 items in Haerbaling) were added, while 10 previously declared items in Haerbaling were deleted as these items were confirmed as non-ACWs. The total number of declared ACWs (including those already destroyed) became 50,248. The amendment of the declaration to reflect the result of the operations described in (a) to (f) will be submitted to the Technical Secretariat in due course.

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

- 4.1 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. On 19 February 2014 the 16th Japan-China Joint Working Group Meeting was held in Beijing. At the meeting, both sides reviewed the projects in 2013 and highly appreciated the steady progress of the projects. Both sides also discussed future projects and decided to continue to cooperate and have close consultations.
- 4.2 Mr Yoshitami Kameoka, Parliamentary Secretary of Cabinet Office, visited China from 30 April to 4 May 2014. He met his counterpart from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in Beijing, and observed the Haerbaling site and X-ray identification operation in Tianjin.
- 4.3 A number of bilateral consultations were held on various issues during the reporting period. Some of them are described in previous part of this report.

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.

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excavation and recovery operations in January 2014 (see 3.3(f) of EC-75/NAT.4), and 385 items are from the result of the operation described in 3.3(b) of this report.

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15 already declared items (7 items from on-site investigation on 4 December 2013, 8 items from excavation and recovery operations in January 2014. These 15 items are included in 64 items described in 3.3(g) of this report.) are included in the 496 items.