



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Sixth Session
8 – 11 July 2014

EC-76/NAT.6
2 July 2014
ENGLISH
Original: CHINESE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**REPORT ON THE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE COMPLETION OF DESTRUCTION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS ABANDONED BY JAPAN IN CHINA**

In accordance with paragraph 28 of Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and pursuant to the relevant decision (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012) of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the progress achieved, during the period from 30 January 2014 to 30 May 2014, towards the complete destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (hereinafter “Japanese ACWs”) is hereby reported as follows:

1. Destruction and Disposal of Japanese ACWs

- 1.1 No activities relating to the destruction of Japanese ACWs were carried out during the reporting period.
- 1.2 To date, Japanese ACWs have been discovered on the territory of China at over 90 locations in 17 provinces (municipalities, autonomous regions). The number of Japanese ACW items already recovered stands at approximately 50,000, of which 37,073 items had been destroyed as at 30 May.
- 1.3 The largest burial site of Japanese ACWs ever discovered is located at Harbaling, Jilin Province. It is estimated that over 330,000 items of Japanese ACWs are buried there.
- 1.4 It must be pointed out that, owing to a lack of relevant information, it is difficult to make an accurate assessment of Japanese ACWs in terms of specific numbers and burial locations. Many of those Japanese ACWs are corroded and leaky, causing incidents of human injury from time to time.

2. Status of the operational destruction facilities

- 2.1 The mobile destruction facility in Nanjing
 - (a) The destruction operations in Nanjing have been fully concluded. According to the destruction plan jointly submitted to the Council by China and Japan, the destruction equipment will be redeployed, first in Wuhan and then in



Guangzhou, for the destruction of the Japanese ACWs stored in those places and in their vicinities.

2.2 The mobile destruction facility in Shijiazhuang

- (a) It is planned that in 2014, the 322 items of Japanese ACWs kept at the six locations of Tianjin, Tangshan, Shouyang, Datong, Yanqing and Handan will all be transported to this facility for destruction. In August, an X-ray identification will be conducted of a blue and white shell stored in this facility. As regards the Japanese ACWs which will be consolidated to the facility, an X-ray identification operation will also be conducted on a random basis to confirm their status prior to destruction. It is planned that the third phase of the destruction operations will be launched in September, and that destruction will be completed within three months. In 2015, as planned, the nearly 600 items of Japanese ACWs already excavated and recovered in Tianjin, as well as those that may be excavated and recovered later, will be transferred to this facility for destruction.
- (b) According to the destruction plan jointly submitted to the Council by China and Japan, after the conclusion of the destruction operations in Shijiazhuang, the destruction equipment will be redeployed in Harbin, for the destruction of the Japanese ACWs stored there and in its vicinity.

3. Status of destruction facilities under construction

3.1 The Harbaling destruction facilities

- (a) The construction of the Harbaling destruction facilities started in September 2013, and is scheduled to be completed in September 2014. It is expected that the system function testing will be carried out in October and the destruction operations will begin within this year.
- (b) As Harbaling is the largest burial site of Japanese ACWs discovered so far, an early start of the destruction operations there will be decisive for the acceleration of the overall process of Japanese ACWs' destruction. Viewed against the schedule in the destruction plan formulated by China and Japan at the beginning of 2012, the pace of the construction work for the Harbaling destruction project has obviously fallen behind schedule.

3.2 The mobile destruction facility in Wuhan

- (a) As regards the mobile destruction facility in Wuhan, the installation of the destruction equipment was completed in January 2014, and the destruction operations are expected to begin in December. The constructions of access roads and storage buildings have been concluded now, and the refitting of the administrative building is expected to be completed in September. Before the destruction operations commence, the Japanese ACWs stored in the nine temporary trust storehouses in the vicinity of Wuhan will need to all be transported to this facility for destruction. China and Japan are yet to confirm further the specific starting date for the consolidated transportation.

- (b) Viewed against the schedule in the destruction plan formulated by China and Japan at the beginning of 2012, the destruction operations in Wuhan will begin one full year behind schedule.

3.3 Other destruction sites

The mobile destruction facility in Harbin is being designed now and the construction of its external access roads is expected to begin in August 2014. The destruction operations with a mobile facility in Guangzhou will be planned depending on the progress of those in Wuhan.

4. Bilateral excavation and recovery operations

- 4.1 From 10 to 24 January 2014 and from 18 February to 15 March 2014, China assisted Japan in conducting two excavation and recovery operations concerning Japanese ACWs in Tianjin Binhai New District, with 537 items of Japanese ACWs excavated and recovered therefrom.
- 4.2 From 24 to 27 February 2014, China assisted Japan in carrying out an emergency on-site investigation concerning Japanese ACWs in Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province.
- 4.3 From 8 to 16 May 2014, China assisted Japan in conducting operations of external identification and X-ray identification for the shells recovered by China in Handan, Hebei Province and Anqing, Anhui Province, with two and four items respectively identified as Japanese ACWs.
- 4.4 From 16 to 19 March 2014 and from 12 May to 3 June 2014, China assisted Japan in conducting two operations of on-site investigations and pre-excavation-and-recovery investigations concerning the Japanese ACWs newly discovered in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province.
- 4.5 From 21 April to 26 May 2014, China assisted Japan in conducting an operation of external identification and X-ray identification for the 541 items of suspected Japanese ACWs kept at the Tianjin Binhai Temporary Trust Storehouse for Japanese ACWs, with 501 items identified as Japanese ACWs.

5. Trilateral consultations and OPCW inspections

- 5.1 On 19 and 20 June 2014, China, Japan and the OPCW Secretariat held the twentieth round of the trilateral consultations in Tokyo on the subject of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China. The major topics on which the three parties exchanged views included the disposal of Japanese ACWs and its progress, visits by the delegation of the OPCW Executive Council to the Japanese ACW destruction facilities and the tentative work plan for their next phase, and the arrangements for subsequent verification in 2014.
- 5.2 During the reporting period, the OPCW conducted inspections of the Harbaling Trust Storehouse for Japanese ACWs and the Qiqihar Trust Storehouse for Japanese ACWs.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is now nearly 70 years since Japan's war of aggression against China and already 17 years since the entry into force of the Convention, but the large quantities of Japanese ACWs are still posing a grave threat and harm to the lives and properties of the people in China and to the ecological and environmental safety of the affected areas in China. The destruction of Japanese ACWs is directly related to the realisation of the core objectives of the Convention. China expresses its regret over Japan's failure to complete the destruction of Japanese ACWs by the deadline prescribed by the Convention and the relevant Council decision (EC-46/DEC.4, dated 5 July 2006).
- 6.2 At the same time, with a pragmatic, cooperative and constructive approach, China has reached agreement with Japan on multilateral and bilateral arrangements for the future destruction of Japanese ACWs. As a result, the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session adopted a decision on the future destruction of Japanese ACWs (EC-67/DEC.6) and the destruction plan jointly submitted by China and Japan. Japan has undertaken to make every effort to complete the destruction of the Japanese ACWs already identified and declared to the OPCW by the end of 2016, and to complete the destruction of all Japanese ACWs, including those at Harbaling, by the end of 2022.
- 6.3 Regrettably, the pace of the relevant work has fallen behind the schedule in the destruction plan mentioned above. China urges Japan to implement in good faith the provisions of the relevant Council decision and of the relevant Memorandum of Understanding between the Chinese and Japanese governments, and increase its inputs, with a view to completing the destruction at an early date according to the timeframe established by the destruction plan. Meanwhile, China calls upon the policy-making organs and the Secretariat of the OPCW to continue supervising and facilitating the destruction process.

--- 0 ---