



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 SEPTEMBER 2014 – 31 JANUARY 2015)

1. Foreword

- 1.1 This update is submitted in accordance with the Executive Council decision (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), and describes the progress of the abandoned chemical weapons destruction projects (ACW projects) in China from 1 September, 2014 to 31 January, 2015.
- 1.2 Japan is committed to fulfilling its 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 the 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 an enormous amount of personnel and financial resources into the projects and continues to make its utmost effort to tackle various challenges and uncertainties in order to achieve tangible progress.
- 1.3 During the reporting period the projects achieved significant progress, including the commencement of the destruction operation in Wuhan (Hubei Province) and the test destruction operation in Haerbaling (Jilin Province), as well as the progress of the destruction operation in Shijiazhuang (Hebei Province). Japan, in close consultation with China, has been making its utmost effort to achieve further progress on the projects and will continue to do so.

2. Characteristics of the ACW projects

- 2.1 The ACW projects entail various challenges. The projects begin with the difficult tasks of excavation, recovery and identification of ACWs, which are often found with other kinds of recovered munitions. Excavation and recovery operations are conducted in various locations, including mountainous areas, riverbeds and urban districts. Most ACWs are highly corroded or deformed as a result of remaining underground or underwater for a long time. Extra caution and care are required throughout entire process of the destruction. In addition, it is difficult to carry out



ground operations during winter period in northern China due to harsh weather conditions.

- 2.2 Safety of personnel is the highest priority, and protection of the environment is the most important requirement to ensure that these unprecedented projects, which sometimes include dangerous tasks, are carried out in a steady and safe manner.
- 2.3 In addition, Japan has to implement these projects in a manner consistent with Chinese laws and regulations, and relies on the cooperation of China for various tasks such as preparation work (e.g. design and construction of the sites) and logistics (e.g. procurement of explosives, transport of ACWs, security). Japan and China need to hold consultations on every aspect of the ground work as their roles are intertwined with each other. Such consultations are necessary to ensure that appropriate preparation work is done to safely and steadily carry out the destruction operation. The timing of the operations is therefore subject to the conclusion of consultations, which can be lengthy to resolve certain issues. Japan and China tackled together a number of challenges related to the implementation of these 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) 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.
- (b) The MDF was transported to Wuhan. The installation of the MDF at the Wuhan site was completed in January 2014, and the preparation of the ground and the foundation work for the destruction site was completed in March 2014. The renovation of the administration building and construction of other infrastructure were completed in December 2014.
- (c) During the reporting period, between mid-November and early December 2014, 121 items of ACWs from 3 surrounding temporary storehouses were consolidated to the Wuhan destruction site. Following the inauguration ceremony on 23 December, the destruction operation was conducted from 26 to 29 December with the destruction of the above mentioned items. 139 items of ACWs, that are currently stored in 4 surrounding temporary storehouses, are expected to be destroyed in the next phase of destruction. The consolidation operation is expected to be carried out from March to April 2015.
- (d) In Shijiazhuang, the destruction operation began in December 2012. 1,383 items of ACWs stored in Shijiazhuang were destroyed by 8 July 2013. During the reporting period, the destruction operation in Shijiazhuang was resumed on 15 September, and 309 items of ACWs were destroyed by 11 November 2014. 15 items and 4 drum cans remained in the Shijiazhuang temporary storehouse at the cut-off date for this report.

- (e) On 11 November 2014, China reported the detection of a figure exceeding the Chinese emission standard of Dioxin at a measuring point inside the off-gas treatment process. On the other hand, figures from samples at another measuring point during the process and samples of the ambient air at 6 measuring points outside of the site were below Chinese air standard. Given that protection of the environment is the most important consideration when carrying out the ACW project experts from Japan and China held an investigation through sampling and analysis of filters and dusts to trace the generation of the Dioxins. In addition, the leading expert of Dioxin research in Japan visited the Shijiazhuang MDF site in January 2015 to verify the Dioxin emission mechanism from the perspective of an impartial third-party. Furthermore, Japan is planning to conduct, with the presence of Chinese experts, a verification experiment at its testing facility in Japan and an on-site verification experiment at the Shijiazhuang MDF site in March 2015.
- (f) During the reporting period, bilateral consultations were held on the design and preparation of the ground for the Harbin MDF. The contract for the construction of the access road was concluded in September. Yet, the relevant construction work had not started at the cut-off date for this report.

3.2 ACW projects in Haerbaling

- (a) Excavation and recovery
 - (i) In Haerbaling, excavation and recovery operations began in December 2012. As a result of the excavation operation in 2012, several 500-lb conventional bombs (non-ACWs) were discovered. Additional conventional bombs that could affect the progress of the operations were believed to be buried at the excavation site. As a result of the survey carried out in 2013, 63 500-lb conventional bombs were confirmed to be buried at the site. Japan continues to wait for the relevant Chinese authorities to determine how to remove these conventional bombs.
 - (ii) During the reporting period, bilateral consultations were held on the construction of incidental facilities. Improvement of the X-ray identification system, as well as the munitions data management system has been continued.
- (b) Destruction
 - (i) The manufacture of the two destruction units (a detonation chamber and a static kiln detonation furnace) was completed in 2012. Major parts of these units arrived in China in mid-March 2013, and they were stored in the warehouse in Tianjin. Construction of the buildings to house the destruction units began in September 2013.
 - (ii) The construction of the above mentioned buildings and installation of the two destruction units were completed during the reporting period, in October 2014. Following the inauguration ceremony on

30 November, the test destruction operation was conducted from 1 to 4 December 2014 with the destruction of 56 items.

- (iii) The winter suspension period began after the completion of the first phase of the test destruction operation mentioned above. During the suspension period, maintenance activities were carried out at the site and bilateral consultations were held in order to prepare the next phase of the destruction operation in Haerbaling. The process was ongoing at the cut-off date for this report.

3.3 Investigation, excavation and recovery operations in various areas

- (a) From 18 to 20 September 2014, an on-site investigation was conducted at Xuzhou (Jiangsu Province). 11 items were confirmed as ACWs as a result of the operation.
- (b) On 23 September 2014, an on-site investigation was conducted at Hangzhou (Zhejiang Province). 4 items were confirmed as ACWs as a result of the operation.
- (c) From 26 June to 1 December 2014, excavation and recovery operations were conducted in Dunhua (Jilin Province). As a result of these operations, 31,073 items were excavated, of which 1,496 items were confirmed as ACWs.
- (d) Since 20 December 2014, excavation and recovery operations are being conducted in Taiyuan (Shanxi Province). The process was ongoing at the cut-off date for this report.
- (e) The total number of declared ACWs at the cut-off date for this report was 52,322. The amendment of the declaration to reflect the result of the operations described in (d) will be submitted to the Technical Secretariat in due course.

4. Measures to ensure transparency and smoother implementation of the projects

- 4.1 Japan attaches great importance to bilateral consultations with China. Given the nature of the project, described above, such consultations are essential in order for both States to move these projects forward.
- 4.2 The Secretariat, Japan and China have held trilateral meetings biannually. These meetings are important occasions to ensure transparency and implementation of the projects which appropriate verification measures. During the reporting period, the 21st trilateral meeting was held in Beijing on 20 and 21 November 2014.
- 4.3 Executive Council decision EC-67/DEC.6 states 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 attaches importance to these visits in order to ensure better understanding of the status of the projects and further transparency. During the Forty-Eighth Meeting of the Executive Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), Japan and China jointly invited the Chairperson of the

Council, the Director-General and a delegation representing the Council to the Haerbaling ACW site in June 2015.

- 4.4 A number of bilateral consultations were held on various issues during the reporting period. Some of these consultations are described in previous sections of this report.

5. Conclusion

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

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