

**JAPAN****REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ACW PROJECTS IN CHINA  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISION  
EC-67/DEC.6 (DATED 15 FEBRUARY 2012)****REPORTING PERIOD: 1 FEBRUARY 2019 - 31 MAY 2019****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This update is submitted in accordance with Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) decision EC-67/DEC.6 and describes the progress of the Abandoned Chemical Weapons Destruction Project (“ACW Project”) in China from 1 February 2019 to 31 May 2019.
- 1.2 Japan has been carrying out the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (“ACW”) to fulfil this obligation and has invested significant financial and personnel resources to make all possible efforts. Japan is currently moving forward the project in accordance with “Destruction Plan for the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China Beyond the Year 2016” (EC-84/NAT.6, dated 2 March 2017), which was jointly submitted to the Council in 2017. Japan 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 ACW Project achieved consistent progress, including the initiation of 2019’s destruction operation in Harbin (Heilongjiang Province) and Haerbaling (Jilin Province), as well as in identification, excavation and recovery operations in various locations. Japan, in close consultation with China, has been making its utmost effort to achieve further progress and will continue to do so.

**2. Challenges of the ACW Project**

- 2.1 The ACW Project entails various challenges. Excavation and recovery operations are conducted in various locations, including mountainous areas, riverbeds and urban districts. Most ACW items are highly corroded or deformed as a result of remaining underground or underwater for a long time. Therefore, maximum caution and technical expertise are required from excavation through to destruction. In addition, due to harsh weather conditions, many ground operations in northern China cannot be carried out during the wintertime.



- 2.2 While providing all financial resources, Japan relies on the cooperation of China for various tasks such as the selection, design, and construction of destruction sites, the transportation of ACW, various domestic coordination and administrative procedures, the procurement of explosives, and the security of ACW storehouses and destruction facilities. In addition, since the project is carried out Chinese soil, the project must be implemented in compliance with Chinese laws and regulations.
- 2.3 As the number and location of ACW in China are unknown, Japan has provided China with all available information, including burial locations, material used for chemical weapons production, the deployment of Japanese troops, the location of their arsenals and depots at the end of Second World War, and records of testimonies by former Japanese military personnel.
- 2.4 Japan places the highest priority on the safety of the local community and personnel, as well as the protection of the environment in moving this unprecedented project forward, which involves dangerous tasks.

### **3. Progress of the ACW Project during the reporting period**

#### **3.1 Destruction of ACW with the Mobile Destruction Facilities (MDFs)**

##### **The Harbin site**

- (a) The destruction operation started on 7 May 2019. The total number of ACW destroyed at the site reached 468 as at the cut-off date.

##### **The Taiyuan site**

- (b) 313 fused and 3 non-fused ACW items are currently stored in Taiyuan and expected to be destroyed in Taiyuan by the end of 2022 in accordance with the Destruction Plan. The location of the site of the MDF has already been finalized, and progress has been made in the consultations between Japan and China to prepare for the destruction operation at the site.

##### **The Guangzhou site**

- (c) Approximately 360 ACW items stored in the storehouses in Guangzhou and Nanning (Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region) are expected to be destroyed at a Guangzhou MDF site by the end of 2022 in accordance with the Destruction Plan I. The location of the site of the MDF has already been finalised, and progress has been made in the consultations between Japan and China to prepare for the destruction operation at the site.

#### **3.2 ACW Project in Haerbaling**

- (a) Excavation and recovery
  - (i) In Haerbaling, excavation and recovery operations began in December 2012.

- (ii) During the reporting period, the first phase of 2019's excavation and recovery operation started in burial pit No.1 from 14 May and approximately 1,200 ACW items have been recovered.
  - (b) Destruction
    - (i) The destruction operation in Haerbaling commenced in December 2014. The total number of ACW destroyed at the Haerbaling destruction site reached 14,566 as at the cut-off date of the report.
    - (ii) During the reporting period, 456 additional items were destroyed, of which 144 items were destroyed by the Controlled Detonation Chamber (CDC) and 312 items by the Static Detonation Chamber (SDC).
    - (iii) To accelerate destruction of the ACW, a new destruction facility will be installed in addition to the existing two facilities (CDC and SDC).
- 3.3 Investigation, excavation, and recovery operations and transportation operations in various areas.

During the reporting period, the following operations were conducted:

- (a) During the reporting period, bilateral investigations were conducted in Jiujiang (Jiangxi Province) from 27 February to 6 April and in Dangyang (Hubei Province) from 4 to 14 May. As a result, 3,008 items in Jiujiang, and 21 items in Dangyang were confirmed as ACW.
- (b) A bilateral investigation of those items suspected to be ACW was conducted in Harbin (Heilongjiang Province) from 25 to 27 May, while identification operations of ACW were being conducted in the same location, during which 10 ACW items were confirmed.
- (c) From 19 April to 27 May, an identification operation of ACW was conducted in Harbin (Heilongjiang Province). During the operation, 342 items were confirmed as ACW.

#### **4. Measures to ensure transparency and smooth implementation**

- 4.1 Japan attaches great importance to consultations with China. Given the nature of the project, consultations are essential in order for both States Parties to move the project forward effectively. During the reporting period, a number of bilateral consultations were conducted.
- 4.2 The thirtieth trilateral meeting between the Technical Secretariat, China, and Japan in Tokyo is scheduled for 24 and 25 July. The three parties will confirm the schedule of remaining inspections in 2019 and progress of the project, and discuss relevant issues concerning ACW destruction. In the trilateral meeting, the three parties will coordinate the detailed schedule of the Council visit to Haerbaling in the first week of

September 2019. In addition to the trilateral consultation, a number of bilateral consultations were held on different issues during the reporting period.

## **5. Conclusion**

Due to the inherent uniqueness of the ACW Project, there are many difficulties in its implementation. However, Japan is committed to making its fullest possible efforts toward the destruction of ACW and toward further cooperation with China as well as the OPCW.

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