



Seventy-Third Session
16 – 19 July 2013

EC-73/NAT.4
3 July 2013
ENGLISH
Original: CHINESE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE COMPLETION OF DESTRUCTION OF 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) of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the progress achieved, during the period from 11 April to 11 July 2013, towards the complete destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (hereinafter “Japanese ACWs”) is hereby reported as follows:

1. Destruction of Japanese ACWs

- 1.1 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 approximately at 50,000, of which 36,966 items were destroyed as at 26 June. By 8 July, the expected date of conclusion of the second stage of operations in Shijiazhuang, 37,539 items of Japanese ACWs will have been destroyed.
- 1.2 The largest burial site of Japanese ACWs ever discovered is located at Haerbaling, Jilin Province. It is estimated that about over 330,000 items of Japanese ACWs are buried there.
- 1.3 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 have become 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) On 12 June 2012, the mobile destruction facility in Nanjing completed its destruction operations, with a total of 35,681 items of Japanese ACWs destroyed. In October 2012, the facility started the process for the treatment of the wastes resulting from the destruction operations. The second stage of waste treatment operations at the facility started on 18 April 2013 and is expected to conclude on 14 August.



- (b) According to the destruction plan jointly submitted to the Council by China and Japan, after the conclusion of the destruction operations in Nanjing, the destruction equipment will be redeployed, first in Wuhan and then in Guangzhou, for the destruction of Japanese ACWs stored in those places and in their vicinity.

2.2 The mobile destruction facility in Shijiazhuang

- (a) From 12 to 14 December 2012, the mobile destruction facility in Shijiazhuang officially started operations and destroyed 250 items of Japanese ACWs. The facility then entered a period of winter maintenance. The Shijiazhuang facility started its second stage of operations on 6 May 2013 and destroyed 1,035 items of Japanese ACWs as at 26 June. It is planned that by the end of July all the Japanese ACWs kept in the Shijiazhuang Japanese ACW trust warehouse will be destroyed, and that in 2014, Japanese ACWs stored in the city's vicinity will be transferred to Shijiazhuang 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 Japanese ACWs stored there and in its vicinity.

3. Status of destruction facilities under construction

3.1 The Haerbaling destruction facilities

- (a) The manufacture of the equipment for the destruction of Japanese ACWs at Haerbaling has already been completed in Japan. Personnel from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defence, Customs Administration, and the competent authorities for quality inspection, etc., have visited Japan to inspect the equipment and to be briefed by the manufacturers. Preparations are now being made for the construction of the destruction facilities.
- (b) As Haerbaling is the largest burial site of Japanese ACWs discovered so far, an early start to the destruction operations there will have a decisive significance for the acceleration of the overall process of Japanese ACW destruction. Viewed against the destruction plan drawn up by China and Japan at the beginning of 2012, the pace of construction work for the Haerbaling destruction project has already fallen obviously behind schedule.

3.2 Other destruction sites

As regards the Japanese ACW destruction operations with a mobile facility in Wuhan, China and Japan are making relevant preparations for the planned start of destruction operations in December. As for the destruction operations with a mobile facility in Harbin, China and Japan have completed the preliminary preparations such as a local conditions survey and a topographic study, and plan to finalise the blueprints and other related work by the end of March 2014. And operations in Guangzhou will be planned depending on the progress of operations in Wuhan.

4. Bilateral excavation and recovery operations

- 4.1 From 19 to 26 April 2013, China and Japan conducted identification operations, through external feature and X-ray examination, with respect to suspected Japanese ACWs in Yichang City, Hubei Province, Jincheng City, Shanxi Province, and Handan City, Hebei Province, involving 21 suspected Japanese ACWs, 2 unknown munitions, and 2 conventional munitions.
- 4.2 From 21 to 26 May 2013, China and Japan conducted a probe with regard to the suspected Japanese ACWs in Tianma Co., Dunhua, Jilin Province. From 21 to 26 June, China and Japan conducted identification operations, through external feature and X-ray examination, with respect to suspected Japanese ACWs in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, and Tangshan City, Hebei Province, confirming 14 Japanese ACWs.

5. Trilateral consultations, OPCW inspections and visit by Council representatives

- 5.1 On 19 and 20 June, China, Japan and the OPCW Secretariat held the eighteenth round of trilateral consultations in Tokyo on the subject of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China. Major topics of this round include the overall progress of Japanese ACW disposal, the waste treatment in Nanjing, the destruction progress in Shijiazhuang, ongoing preparations in Wuhan, Harbin and Haerbaling, verification arrangements in 2013 and 2014, and the transparency visit by a Council delegation to the Haerbaling destruction facilities. The three sides largely reached agreement on the verification arrangement for 2013.
- 5.2 During the reporting period, the OPCW conducted inspections of the trust warehouses for Japanese ACWs in Shenyang City, Liaoning Province and in Ning'an City, Heilongjiang Province, and an on-site inspection at the mobile destruction facility in Shijiazhuang.
- 5.3 For enhanced transparency in the Japanese ACW destruction projects, China and Japan jointly extended an invitation at the Seventy-Second Session of the Council for an OPCW Council delegation to visit Japanese ACW destruction facilities to obtain first-hand knowledge of the progress being made. On 20 June, China and Japan addressed a joint letter of invitation to the Chairperson of the Council to invite a Council delegation to visit the Haerbaling ACW site from 9 to 13 September.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Nearly 70 years after Japan's war of aggression against China and 16 years since the entry into force of the Convention, the large quantities of Japanese ACWs which Japan had abandoned in China are still, from time to time, causing human casualties and environmental damage. The destruction of Japanese ACWs relates directly to the realisation of the core objective 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).
- 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 its fullest efforts with a view to completing the destruction of Japanese ACWs already identified and declared to the OPCW within the year 2016 and to completing the destruction of all such weapons, including those at Haerbaling, within the year 2022.

- 6.3 Regrettably, the pace of work has again fallen behind schedule in meeting the timelines of the destruction plan mentioned above. China urges Japan to implement the relevant Council decision in good faith and increase its input with a view to completing the destruction at the earliest within 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.

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