



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 JUNE – 31 AUGUST 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 June, 2014 to 31 August, 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 consistent 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, and the preparation of the ground and the foundation work for the destruction site was completed in March 2014.
- (ii) During the reporting period, in Wuhan, the renovation of the administration building and construction of other infrastructure were commenced in June 2014.
- (iii) ACWs which will be destroyed in the operation in Wuhan are currently stored in 9 surrounding temporary storehouses located in 5 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) During the reporting period, ACWs, which will be destroyed in Shijiazhuang were transported from 6 surrounding temporary storehouses located in two provinces and two municipalities (Tianjin, Tangshan (Hebei Province), Beijing, Datong (Shanxi Province), Shouyang (Shanxi Province) and Handan (Hebei Province)). The amendment of the declaration to reflect the result of the transportations will be submitted to the Technical Secretariat in due course. The ACWs recovered in Tianjin (see 3.3(b) and (f) of EC-76/NAT.3, dated 13 June 2014) and newly recovered in Taiyuan (Shanxi Province) (see 3.3(c) of EC-76/NAT.3) were decided to be transported in and after 2015.
- (iii) During the reporting period, regarding the preparation for the Harbin destruction site, the second destruction site in the Northern MDF sequence, bilateral consultations were continuously 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 a 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 a result of the survey carried out in 2013, 63 500-lb conventional bombs were confirmed to be located. 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 continuously held on the construction of incidental facilities. Improvement of X-ray identification system, munitions data management system has been continued.

(b) Destruction

- (i) Preparations have been ongoing for the launch of the 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 these arrived in China in the mid-March 2013 and they were stored in the warehouse in Tianjin. Construction of the buildings to house the destruction units started in September 2013.

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

- (ii) During the reporting period, the construction of the above mentioned buildings continues as at the cut-off date for this report.
- (iii) During the reporting period, the installation of the above mentioned two destruction units started on 4 July and the process continues as at the cut-off date for this report.

3.3 Investigation, excavation and recovery operations in various areas

- (a) From 1 to 7 August 2014, on site investigation was conducted in Shangzhi (Heilongjiang Province). 12 items were confirmed as ACWs as the result of the operation.
- (b) From 21 to 31 August 2014, X-ray identification and X-ray examination for drum cans containing yellow agent were conducted in Shijiazhuang (Hebei Province). 1 previously declared item in Shijiazhuang was confirmed as a non-ACW.
- (c) From 26 June 2014, excavation and recovery operation has been conducted in Dunhua (Jilin Province). A number of suspected items were reported as the result of the operation, and will be further identified.
- (d) The total number of declared ACWs at the cut-off date for this report is 50248. The amendment of the declaration to reflect the result of the operations described in (a) and (b), and 3.3(a) to (f) of EC-76/NAT.3, 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.
- 4.2 On 24 June 2014, a biannual high-level consultation was held in China between ACW offices of both States. Both sides acknowledged that the start of the test destruction in Haerbaling is the highest priority in 2014, and both sides exchanged views regarding the implementation plan for each of the MDFs, excavation and recovery operations as well as a wide range of other practical issues.
- 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.