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**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 1 September 2014 to 31 January 2015, 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 During the reporting period, the third phase of destruction operations took place in the mobile Japanese ACW destruction facility in Shijiazhuang; the first phase of trial destruction operations took place in the Japanese ACW destruction facility in Harbaling; and the first phase of destruction operations was carried out in the mobile Japanese ACW destruction facility in Wuhan.
- 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 so far stands at approximately 50,000, of which 37,559 items had been destroyed as at 31 January 2015.
- 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 the lack of relevant information, it is difficult to make an accurate assessment of Japanese ACWs in terms of their specific numbers and burial locations. And many of 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 the mobile Japanese ACW destruction facility in Nanjing was concluded on 11 June 2012, with the destruction of a total of 35,681 Japanese ACW items.
- (b) 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. The destruction facility of the Japanese side was transported to Wuhan at the end of 2013.
- (c) At the request of Japan, the waste generated by the destruction operations continues to be stored at the particular site in Nanjing. To date, China and Japan have not yet reached agreement on issues relating to the removal and closure after the conclusion of the operations in Nanjing, including an environmental monitoring plan for the removal and closure phase.

2.2 The mobile destruction facility in Shijiazhuang

- (a) From 12 to 14 December 2012, the first phase of destruction operations took place in the mobile Japanese ACW destruction facility in Shijiazhuang, with the destruction of 250 Japanese ACW items; and from 6 May to 9 July 2013, the second phase of destruction operations was carried out there, having destroyed 1,142 Japanese ACW items.
- (b) On 15 September 2014, the third phase of destruction operations began in the mobile Japanese ACW destruction facility in Shijiazhuang. On 10 November, a report which had been prepared by two environmental monitoring agencies jointly engaged by China and Japan revealed that the dioxin emission from the destruction facility of the Japanese side was above the set standard. In accordance with Chinese law, China notified Japan of the suspension, as of 11 November, of operations and asked Japan to conduct a technical rectification of the problem as soon as possible. 309 Japanese ACW items in total were destroyed during the third phase of destruction operations in the mobile Japanese ACW destruction facility in Shijiazhuang.
- (c) According to the 2015 work plan preliminarily agreed on by China and Japan, the fourth phase of destruction operations is scheduled to commence in the mobile Japanese ACW destruction facility in Shijiazhuang in July, depending on the progress of the technical rectification by the Japanese side.
- (d) In accordance with the destruction plan jointly submitted to the Council by China and Japan, the destruction operations in Shijiazhuang should be launched and completed in 2012, after which the destruction equipment will be redeployed in Harbin for the destruction of the Japanese ACWs stored there and in its vicinity. Viewed against the schedule in the destruction plan, the destruction in Shijiazhuang has obviously fallen behind schedule.

2.3 The destruction facility in Harbaling

- (a) From 1 to 4 December 2014, the trial destruction operations were initiated in the Japanese ACW destruction facility in Harbaling, with the destruction of 56 Japanese ACW items. After that, the facility switched to the mode of winter management.
- (b) According to the work plan agreed upon by China and Japan, trial destruction operations will be carried out in the Japanese ACW destruction facility in Harbaling from April to July 2015.
- (c) As Harbaling is the largest burial site of Japanese ACWs discovered so far, the commencement of the destruction operations there will be of vital importance for the advancement of the overall process of Japanese ACW destruction. In accordance with the destruction plan jointly submitted to the Council by China and Japan, the destruction operations in Harbaling should have been launched in 2012. Viewed against the schedule in the destruction plan, the destruction in Harbaling has obviously fallen behind schedule.

2.4 The mobile destruction facility in Wuhan

- (a) From 26 to 30 December 2014, the first phase of destruction operations took place in the mobile Japanese ACW destruction facility in Wuhan, with the destruction of the 121 Japanese ACW items which had been transported to Wuhan from Luoning, Zhoukou and Xinyang.
- (b) As planned by China and Japan, before early April 2015, the Japanese ACW items kept in the 4 temporary trust storehouses in Changsha, Yueyang, Yichang and Wuhan (Jiangxia District) will be transported to this destruction facility. The second phase of destruction operations will be started between April and May, and the destruction operations in Wuhan will be all completed in the first half of this year. At present, China and Japan are in the process of consultations concerning the kickoff date of the transportation.
- (c) According to the destruction plan jointly submitted to the Council by China and Japan, the destruction operations in Wuhan should be initiated and completed in 2012, after which the destruction equipment will be redeployed in Guangzhou for the destruction of the Japanese ACWs stored there and in its vicinity. Viewed against the schedule in the destruction plan, the destruction in Wuhan is already lagging far behind. Due to financial constraints on the part of the Japanese side, the site selection process of the destruction facility in Guangzhou has so far failed to come to a close.
- (d) In October 2014, Japan proposed that given the delay in the progress regarding the destruction facility in Guangzhou and other reasons, and with a view to having an equitable distribution of the mobile destruction facility resources between the north and the south, the destruction facility in Wuhan should be dismantled starting from April 2015, and be shipped back to Japan for modification before being transferred to Harbin for continuing destruction

operations. Taking a cooperative and constructive attitude, China agreed to Japan's proposal for having the facility transferred to Harbin.

3. Status of destruction facilities under construction

3.1 The mobile destruction facility in Harbin

- (a) The design of access roads and the construction bidding process for the Harbin mobile destruction facility have been completed, with the construction of access roads expected to take place from April to May 2015. The facility's site levelling design and the basic design of the equipment inside the site have been largely completed, and China and Japan have come to agreement on those aspects.
- (b) In October 2014, Japan proposed to have the destruction facility in Wuhan transferred to Harbin. As a result, the original designs of this facility had to go through major modifications. Currently, China and Japan are holding consultations on relevant additional design tasks.

3.2 The mobile destruction facility in Guangzhou

- (a) In 2012, China handed over to Japan a site selection plan for the mobile destruction facility in Guangzhou. But as Japan raised an objection to the site rental estimates, the plan was forced to be aborted.
- (b) At the moment, China is intensifying its work on the site reselection. However, due to financial constraints, on the part of the Japanese side, the work in this respect is facing great challenges.

4. Bilateral excavation and recovery operations

- 4.1 From 29 August to 25 September 2014, China assisted Japan in conducting the second phase of Japanese ACWs excavation and recovery operations at Chunhua Road in Dunhua City, Jilin Province, with 96 items of Japanese ACWs recovered.
- 4.2 From 18 to 21 September 2014, China assisted Japan in carrying out an investigation operation concerning Japanese ACWs in Xuzhou City, Jiangsu Province, with 11 items confirmed as Japanese ACWs.
- 4.3 From 22 to 24 September 2014, China assisted Japan in undertaking an external identification operation concerning the Japanese ACWs recovered by China in Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province, with 5 items confirmed as Japanese ACWs.
- 4.4 From 10 October to 1 December 2014, China assisted Japan in conducting the third phase of Japanese ACW excavation and recovery operations at Chunhua Road in Dunhua City, Jilin Province, with 1,235 items of Japanese ACWs recovered.
- 4.5 From 18 December 2014 to 10 February 2015, China assisted Japan in conducting the first phase of Japanese ACW excavation and recovery operations in Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province, with 247 items of Japanese ACWs recovered.

5. Trilateral consultations and OPCW inspection

- 5.1 From 20 to 21 November 2014, China, Japan and the OPCW Technical Secretariat held in Beijing the twenty-first round of trilateral consultations on the subject of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China. The topics on which the three parties exchanged views included the disposal of Japanese ACWs and its progress, a visit by the delegation of the OPCW Executive Council to the Japanese ACW destruction facilities as well as tentative ideas for the next phase of work, and arrangements for the verification in late 2014 and in 2015.
- 5.2 During the reporting period, the OPCW conducted an initial visit to the trial destruction facility for Japanese ACWs in Harbaling, a further inspection of the mobile Japanese ACW destruction facility in Shijiazhuang and an initial visit to the mobile Japanese ACW destruction facility in Wuhan, and conducted an inspection of the Japanese ACW excavation and recovery site in Taiyuan.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is now nearly 70 years since Japan's war of aggression against China and already 18 years since the entry into force of the Convention, but the large quantities of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China are still posing a grave threat and harm to the lives and properties of the people and the ecological and environmental safety in the affected areas in China. The destruction of Japanese ACWs is directly related to the realization 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 the Japanese ACWs. 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 confirmed and declared to the OPCW as at 29 April 2012 by the end of 2016, and to complete the destruction of the Japanese ACWs at Harbaling by the end of 2022. For the Japanese ACWs to be confirmed possibly through joint investigations in the future, Japan will dutifully fulfil its obligations as the abandoning State Party in accordance with the requirements of the Convention.
- 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 relevant Council decision and the provisions 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 time frame 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.