

Activities of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

In this issue, which is devoted mainly to efforts to disseminate the knowledge of international humanitarian law, the Review has pleasure in presenting, by way of illustration, the activities of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross in connection with dissemination to various sectors of society through its Humanitarian Law Institute.

THE HUMANITARIAN LAW INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA NATIONAL RED CROSS

The Humanitarian Law Institute of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross (ROKNRC) was founded on January 8, 1976, the 73rd anniversary of the accession by the Imperial Korean Government to the first Geneva Convention of 1864.*

Its objective is to act as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL) as well as of Red Cross Principles to different target groups throughout the country. Its basic activities are to make Red Cross ideals better known to the public, to disseminate the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law, to guide and control the use of the Red Cross emblem, to undertake research in and collect the materials on Red Cross ideals and IHL, to operate other programs relating to IHL research and dissemination, to maintain a Red Cross library and to conduct studies assigned to the Institute on a mandatory or contract basis.

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross puts emphasis on disseminating international humanitarian law among members of the armed forces before any other target groups. To this end, the Red Cross Humanitarian Law Institute initiated a series of courses at national level in 1976: by the end of 1986 seven series of standard courses had been organized for instructor-officers of the Armed Forces and 16 series of courses for commanding officers from different units. The number of participants since 1976 amounted to nearly 2,000.

* The accession of the Republic of Korea to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 took place on 16 August 1966. The Government, having signed the Protocols additional to the four Geneva Conventions on December 7, 1978, ratified the same instruments on January 15, 1982.