

Regional Conference in Jakarta

The Second Asia and Pacific Red Cross and Red Crescent Regional Conference, organized by the Indonesian Red Cross and the League, was held from 4 to 11 February in Jakarta. Seventy-six delegates from 27 countries took part in the conference, which was also attended by an ICRC delegation headed by the Vice-President Mr R. Pestalozzi. A score of observers from European and American National Societies and Jakarta-based representatives of specialized United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations had also been invited.

The Conference focused on several topics relating to the activities and development of National Societies in that part of the world. It was preceded by two seminars: the first dealt with protection, on which the ICRC delegation delivered lectures. Participants adopted a resolution on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and another on the ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. The second seminar, organized by the League and dealing with assistance, discussed a number of aspects of development aid to National Societies and the role played by the Red Cross in assisting refugees.

Besides providing an opportunity for an in-depth study of Red Cross principles and action, the Jakarta Regional Conference enabled participants to establish useful contacts and to get better acquainted with other National Societies which, although belonging to the same universal movement, have their own individual characters.