



**National Society Consultation Meeting on Nuclear Disaster Preparedness**  
**14-16 May 2012**  
**Tokyo, Japan**

**Meeting summary**

(Prepared by Red Cross Nuclear Disaster Resource Center)

Hosted by:	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS)
Participants:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Societies</li></ul> <p>National Societies (NSs) in the countries which either have or are building nuclear energy facilities as well as interested and concerned National Societies from the countries, which strongly supported preparation and adoption of the 2011 IFRC General Assembly (GA) resolution. The following National Societies attended the meeting:</p> <p>American RC Austrian RC Belarus RC RCS of China, including its Hong Kong branch Finnish RC French RC German RC RCS of the Islamic Republic of Iran Japanese RC The Republic of Korea National RC Magen David Adom in Israel Mexican RC Netherlands RC Russian RC Ukraine RC Taiwan RCO also attended the meeting. (Note: RC = Red Cross/Red Crescent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federation Secretariat</li><li>• International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)</li><li>• Invited external parties from expert organizations which included:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dr. Youichi, Funabashi, Chairman, the Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation</li><li>- Mr. Toshimitsu Honma, Director, Nuclear Safety Research Centre, Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)</li><li>- Mr Kenzo Oshima, former Special Advisor to the President of Japan International Coordination Agency (JICA)</li><li>- Mr. Yuko Endo, Mayor, Kawauchi Village, Fukushima Prefecture</li><li>- Mr. Florian Baciu, Response System Coordinator, Incident and Emergency Centre, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (by VTR message)</li></ul></li></ul>
Background:	At the November 2011 GA of the Federation, NSs adopted a resolution on “Red Cross/Red Crescent Preparedness to Respond to the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Accidents”. In order to follow up the resolution towards the next GA in 2013, the JRCS suggested that one of the possible goals down the road could be a guideline for the nuclear



	<p>disaster preparedness whereby the Federation needs to explore a road map to get there. The JRCS also offered to host the RC/RC meeting in Japan by inviting the concerned NSs, aiming to assist the kickoff of such process for the Federation.</p>
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Agree on operationalization of the GA resolution through building competence and programmatic base of the NSs and the Federation as a whole;</li><li>2. Identify the RC/RC niche and scope, range of activities and tool kits to develop them;</li><li>3. Mobilize the RC/RC leadership commitment;</li><li>4. Get better prepared globally.</li></ol>
Discussion summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As Chernobyl and Fukushima disasters demonstrated, accidents are bound to happen. There is also potential for accidents and radiation leaks from sources other than nuclear plants: uranium extraction sites, weapons, fuel and weapons transportation and storage, nuclear testing grounds, at the extraction, enrichment, research and medical facilities (IAEA statistics: some 40 accidents/year).</li><li>• There are significant gaps in preparedness and response systems even in the most advanced and developed countries: between safety and security, between operators and regulators, military, security agencies and emergency responders.</li><li>• One of the very important gaps is lack of awareness of the general public on radiation, nuclear accidents threats and how to respond in the event of a nuclear accident.</li><li>• The lack of the general public's awareness represents an important niche for the RCRC NSs to bring in their expertise in community preparedness work and network/access to the communities.</li><li>• Another gap exposed during Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents is that of public information on the evolution of an accident. There was a considerable mistrust towards the public authorities and nuclear operators.</li><li>• In disaster response, there is also a considerable opportunity for the NSs to play a useful and important role in agreement with the public authorities (e.g. evacuation management, psychological support, long-term health monitoring).</li><li>• There exists a strong link with the overall disaster management work of the IFRC in terms of strong connections to the community health work. There are also clear linkages with other types of technological disasters, notably biological and chemical hazards which have many similarities and potential synergies.</li></ul>
Next steps:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Establish a focal point in the Secretariat for nuclear preparedness and response work. We are exploring this possibility.</li><li>2. In continuing to pay due attention to the nuclear issue, explore the linkages with other technological, biological and chemical disasters in order to continue building a multi- hazard and comprehensive approach to disaster management.</li><li>3. Explore with the interested member National Societies the option of establishing a Reference Centre on Nuclear Preparedness.</li><li>4. Establish, building on the work already done, a National Society reference group to provide advice as the work progresses.</li><li>5. Start working on the operational guidelines to the National Societies in developing such capabilities and knowledge.</li><li>6. Facilitate knowledge sharing on the existing and emerging capacities and competencies, experiences of the members.</li><li>7. Continue discussions with the IAEA and potentially conclude an agreement</li></ol>



	<p>IFRC/IAEA.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>8. Maintain, as already established, a strong coordination with the ICRC.</li><li>9. Explore linkages with the legal work in relation to IDRL, protection of RC/RC staff.</li><li>10. Coordinate with UN OCHA participation in the forthcoming expert review of the International Agencies capabilities in relation to nuclear and radiological disasters.</li></ol>
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