

# REGIONAL DELEGATION KUALA LUMPUR



Having worked with Malaysia since 1972, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) established the Kuala Lumpur regional delegation in 2001 to oversee activities in Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore.

The regional delegation promotes humanitarian values and relevant international norms and standards with government agencies, detaining authorities, armed and security forces and civil society groups. We also engage with national and regional bodies, including ASEAN,

to understand common issues of concern, and to share technical expertise, experience, analysis and other support. Much of our work is conducted jointly with the Malaysian Red Crescent, Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent and the Singapore Red Cross.

## ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Malaysia, the ICRC supports the Prisons Department, the Immigration Department and the Federal Special Task Force in Sabah to address the needs of detainees. Regular visits are carried out to meet the detainees in collaboration with the authorities, supporting their efforts to ensure that the conditions and treatment of people held in immigration detention centres, temporary detention centres and prisons in east and west Malaysia meet national and international standards.

Working with the Malaysian Red Crescent and other National Societies in the worldwide Family Links Network, the ICRC makes it possible for detainees to re-establish contact with their families.



Preparation of insecticide during a hygiene campaign in prison.

# PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMANITARIAN DEBATES



Students face a “tough soldier” in an international humanitarian law (IHL) role-play competition.

The ICRC works closely with the government bodies and the Attorney-General’s Chambers on the integration of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and other related norms into

domestic legislation. The ICRC is also engaged in constructive cooperation with multilateral organizations such as the ASEAN, notably through Chair Nations and its working committees.

To reach the future decision makers and opinion leaders, the ICRC supports the teaching and learning of humanitarian law and principles in universities, secondary schools and among the youth in the National Societies. In all three countries, students and academics participate in various local and regional events.

We closely monitor regional trends and have an active voice in regional humanitarian debates, especially on migration, on implementation of IHL domestically, civil-military relations and new means and methods of warfare (including cyber warfare).

## WORKING WITH ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES

The ICRC provides regular support in disseminating IHL to military officers in Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore through Military Staff Colleges, training units and military exercises. In Malaysia, we work with the Joint Warfare Centre (PESAMA) for doctrinal review and at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre in Port Dickson for pre-deployment training of Malaysian and Brunei military officers and UN observers.

We also organize seminars and workshops for all

levels of the Malaysian Armed Forces to enhance understanding and application of humanitarian law in their operations. The ICRC provides inputs in exercise planning and execution and plays its mandated roles during the execution of the military exercises.

A Centre for Military and International Humanitarian Law has been established in partnership with the National Defence University of Malaysia. The centre raises awareness about

Senior police officers discuss a case study during a workshop on International Policing Standards.



military law and IHL among the Malaysian Armed Forces and the region's military and legal communities, building indigenous capacity within the region.

Working closely with the Royal Malaysia Police, the Marine Police and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, the ICRC disseminates and

shares expertise on best international policing standards, including public order management. Military officers from ESSCOM or those patrolling the border areas also attend these events. In addition, we maintain a close dialogue with the ASEANAPOL Secretariat to promote knowledge, understanding and acceptance of our mandate amongst member countries.

## HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY

The ICRC participates in key multilateral forums, including the World Economic Forum, ASEAN, Shangri-La Dialogue and the Asia Pacific Roundtable. We also maintain regular dialogue with ASEAN desk officials in Malaysia, Singapore

and Brunei and other ASEAN entities such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the ASEAN Foundation and the ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children.



Regular dialogues are held with think tanks on humanitarian issues.

Close engagements with key think tanks, such as the Institute of Strategic and International Studies in Malaysia and with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies and the Asia Research Institute in Singapore are also significant for our work in the region.

The ICRC engages with humanitarian organizations, including religious NGOs and academics, to exchange experiences and best practices on humanitarian action and principles. We also work closely with the media to highlight the humanitarian stories.



A group discussion on humanitarian law at the Regional Youth Camp organized by the Malaysian Red Crescent.

## WORKING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

The ICRC maintains a dialogue with the private sector and business network in Malaysia and Singapore, fostering an increasing interest in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent

Movement. We also work with the Singapore Red Cross on joint private sector fundraising strategy.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH MOVEMENT PARTNERS

The ICRC cooperates with the Malaysian Red Crescent, the Singapore Red Cross and the Brunei Red Crescent in areas such as the promotion of IHL, Restoring Family Links and public communication.

Together with the IFRC, we help in establishing mechanisms and platforms that facilitate the Movement's humanitarian response across the region.

Working closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the ICRC helps all three National Societies to strengthen their capacities and promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

Working with the Malaysian Red Crescent, the delegation maintains a presence in Sabah, working to strengthen understanding of the needs of communities and to develop possible responses.