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RED CROSS SOCIETY OF CHINA

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Red Cross Society of China(RCSC), or known as the Chinese Red Cross, was founded on May 29, 1904. It was recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross on January 15, 1912 and joined the League of Red Cross Societies on July 8, 1919. The Chinese Red Cross was reorganized in 1950 after the founding of the People's Republic. In June, 1985, it held its fourth National Convention, at which its constitution was revised and a new leading body was elected.

Being a nationwide people's health and relief organization, the Chinese Red Cross takes the practice of humanitarianism as its guiding principle. It helps the government to mobilize and organize the broad masses of the people to do hygiene, rescue and social welfare work and works to serve the cause of world, peace and human progress.

The Chinese Red Cross uses the symbol of a red cross set on a white ground as stipulated in the Geneva Conventions. The red cross is surrounded with olive branches symbolizing peace.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The National Convention is the supreme authoritative body of the RCSC which meets every five years. When the National Convention is adjourned, the Board of Directors it elects is in charge of all work. When the Board of Directors, which meets once every year, is not in session, the Executive Directorate assumes the responsibility of day-to-day work. The Executive Directorate is composed of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary General and Deputy Secretaries General and holds irregular meetings according to needs.

DIVISIONS, BRANCHES AND UNITS

The National Headquarters of the RCSC is in Beijing. At present there are 27 Red Cross Divisions at the provincial level; 217 branches at the county (or district) level; and 33,466 units at the grass roots level.

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Adult members

963,424

Youth members	534,382
Collective members	677,884
Total	2,175,690

The Chinese Red Cross' revenue comes from membership dues, private donations, government subsidies and its own investment.

TRAINING COURSES ON HYGIENE AND FIRST-AID

The popularization of hygiene knowledge and the training of the broad masses of the people in hygiene and first-aid are an important part of the work of the RCSC, and they have been integrated into the daily work of its organizations at all levels. In the last five years a total of 9,180,545 people in the country have received training in different subjects and in different forms organized by the Red Cross. Among them 6,559,100 people have received training in health knowledge; 879,043 in first-aid; 18,044 in water safety; 81,145 in blood transfusion; 69,478 in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); and 1,573,735 in other subjects.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE (BTS)

The Chinese Red Cross helps public health authorities to do propaganda, mobilization and organization work for blood donors' recruitment and is responsible for the international exchange of sciences and technology on BTS. In the last seven years it has sent 40 BTS technicians and administrators in 13 groups abroad to do research and study or to attend international conferences on BTS, and has invited 80 foreign experts in 16 groups to come to China to teach or exchange technological expertise in blood transfusion. In addition, it has worked out regulations for the presentation of awards to the nonremunerated donors, held national conferences on BTS, and through the media of radio, television and newspapers popularized knowledge about blood transfusion and called on people to donate blood voluntarily.

HEALTH PROTECTION

The Chinese Red Cross now has 18,574 Red Cross health stations. At the places where Red Cross health stations are set up, retired medical workers and Red Cross volunteers are organized to do health protection work for every household. They establish household wards, organize mobile medical teams to do services for border and mountain areas where medical conditions are not good, keep medical files for residents, give children periodical physical check-ups and immunizations, and educate the masses in hygiene and elementary medical treatment.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The RCSC actively develops social welfare projects, aiming to serve the broad masses of people, especially the orphaned, the aged, the sick, the disabled and children. Red Cross organizations at different places work according to their own actual conditions to establish welfare stations for the injured and disabled, welfare centres for handicapped children, benefit shops and old people's universities. Some Divisions and Branches have undertaken successful fund drives.

RED CROSS YOUTH

RCSC has 410,000 Red Cross youth members in 4,965 primary and middle schools, and universities as well as schools for the handicapped children. After they have received elementary training in medical treatment and first-aid, they spread sanitary knowledge, treat simple cases like light injuries and minor diseases and do services for aged and disabled people. Summer camps are organized every year for RCY members.

Chinese Red Cross youths also take part widely in international activities. In 1984 they participated in an international children posters competition and won the world and the Asia-Pacific prix, and in 1985, 21 youth delegates from ten countries and Hong Kong in the Asia-Pacific Region as well as the League were invited to come to China to join the youth gala-get-together with their Chinese counterparts. The participants in the 1986 Summer Camp were including the RCY members from Hong Kong and Macao.

PROPAGANDA WORK

Through the media of newspapers, magazines, radio and television, the nature and task of the Red Cross are made widely known, and knowledge about public health, first-aid and blood transfusion is popularized. The monthly journal "Chinese Red Cross" is distributed in China and abroad; its circulation reaches 30,000 copies. In recent years 250,000 copies of various pamphlets and booklets concerning the Red Cross have been published and distributed.

In 1986, the film "Mother, Where Are You," produced by the RCSC, won a grand prix at the Ninth International Red Cross Film Festival in Hungary.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The RCSC has long maintained friendly contacts with other sister Societies, League and the ICRC.

To alleviate the sufferings of the people and refugees in countries hit by natural

disasters, the RCSC has done its best to provide them with humanitarian aid both in cash and in kind, as shown in the following chart:

Year	Countries or Regions	Amount of money(Renminbi)
1981	20	898,055.10
1982	33	1,991,497.74
1983	36	2,639,276.46
1984	28	1,543,358.43
1985	20	3,103,623.26
1986, (till end May)	12	897,644.46

To assist the drought victims in Africa, the RCSC launched a fund raising campaign in 1985 in more than 100 large and medium cities in China and collected 13,857,704.01 Renminbi yuan(about 8,400,000 Swiss Francs).

DISSEMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The RCSC considers it an important task to disseminate the Geneva Conventions and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, and does propaganda work among the public through giving various training courses and publishing and distributing pamphlets.

TRACING SERVICE

The RCSC cooperates with the sister Societies of other countries and the ICRC Central Tracing Agency in carrying out its tracing service. Since 1981 it has received 4731 letters asking for help and has helped 367 people to re-establish contacts with their lost relatives.

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

With initial support of the Swedish and Japanese Red Cross Societies, the RCSC started in 1982 to build its national training centre. In the process of construction, it received aid from the Red Cross Societies of Australia, Finland and the Federal Republic of Germany. The training centre has been completed and an inauguration ceremony will be held on September 15, 1986. The training centre will serve to train staff and technicians for the Red Cross and to develop cooperation and exchange with other countries, and will promote the development of the RCSC and its friendly cooperation with sister Societies.

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