IDRL PROGRAMME UPDATES

Case studies examining the various legal issues arising during the international tsunami response operations have continued to be conducted by the Asia-Pacific IDRL Project, bringing the current total number up to 3 (Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and now also Thailand). The study in Thailand has commenced, with the assistance of the Disaster Tracking Recovery Assistance Centre (D-TRAC).

Research. Dig into the ASIL Insights archives to find IDRL’s article on Legal Lessons in Disaster Relief from the Tsunami, the Pakistan Earthquake and Hurricane Katrina: http://www.asil.org/insights/2006/03/insights060315.html

IDRL Surveys specifically designed for RC/RC, Governments, International Organisations, NGOs and private sector are available online in English, French and Spanish at http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/idrl/surveys-b.asp

IDRL National legislation. The IDRL Programme seeks the assistance of RC/RC National Societies and Governments in gathering comprehensive national legislation, dealing specifically with the facilitation, coordination or regulation of international assistance, or general national legislative instruments pertaining to disaster response by international actors.

Conference presentations on IDRL:
• Webster Annual Humanitarian Action Conference, Geneva, March 2006
• Symposium on International Legal Aspects for Disaster Management, jakarta, April 2006.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

WEBINAR ON GOVERNING THE MAELSTROM: THE LAW OF DISASTER RELIEF (April 25th) Today, the American Society of International Law is hosting a virtual seminar on IDRL co-sponsored by the IDRL Programme and the ABA. For info, go to: http://www.asil.org/webinar060425/

EUROPEAN FORUM ON IDRL (May 25-26, Antalya)
The IDRL Programme is organising the first regional Forum, hosted and co-sponsored by the Turkish Red Crescent Society. The Forum will reunite high-level representatives from Government, RC/RC National Societies, UN, NGOs and academic scholars. For more information, see: http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/idrl/euro-forum.asp

RECENT IDRL DEVELOPMENTS
• 35 State Parties to the Tampere Convention, since Lebanon and Spain ratified it in 2006.
• Revised ITU Recommendation on Use of Amateur Radio in Disasters has entered into force. For a description, www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/02/03/101/?nc=4

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RC/RC NATIONAL SOCIETIES’ INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Austrian Red Cross: is currently conducting a legal study on the IDRL Framework within the European Union and presenting its draft to the European Commission for feedback.

Norwegian Red Cross: organised in January a visit to Oslo for the IDRL team during which the Programme was presented to 20 collaborators of the International Department. The NRC and IDRL gave presentations on the IDRL Programme to the Norwegian Government (Ministry of Justice, Defence, Foreign Affairs and Labour).

French Red Cross: organised a briefing visit to Paris in February. The French Red Cross has taken the IDRL Programme to the attention of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is actively promoting the IDRL survey with French NGOs and private sector firms.

Turkish Red Crescent: organised a workshop for the IDRL Programme in February, attended by 40 staff members. TRC is currently conducting a case study on lessons learned and legislative changes from the 1999 earthquake response and given large publicity to the IDRL survey. TRC is hosting the European Forum on IDRL.

RECENT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

2005: Austrian, British and Norwegian Red Cross
2006: Australian Red Cross, Finnish Government and Red Cross, Norwegian Government and Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent
For the 2005 Programme Update, see: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA09102.pdf

About the IFRC IDRL Programme
The IDRL Programme seeks to reduce the vulnerability and suffering of people affected by non-conflict disasters by raising awareness, promoting the implementation, and strengthening the laws, rules and principles that ensure a timely, adequate and efficient international response to disasters, where international involvement is requested.

For more information, please contact Katrien Beeckman, IDRL Advocacy & Resource Mobilisation Senior Officer at katrien.beeckman@ifrc.org or call +41 22 7304256

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