

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross has issued a handsomely illustrated publication on its activities in 1975 and the first six months of 1976. In an introduction, its President, Mr. Lee Ho, mentions the main events marking this period, during which the National Society was particularly active. *International Review* had already reported in a previous issue the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Society's foundation in October 1975 and of the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal on that same occasion to three nurses.

The principal tasks assumed by the Republic of Korea National Red Cross are described in the booklet under different headings: *disaster relief, social welfare*, in which some 5,000 women volunteers, youth and adult members and medical service volunteers were actively engaged; *tracing service*, which continued its efforts to trace dispersed families with the help of radio broadcasts; *medical service*, whose members gave treatment to a total of 622,000 persons last year; *blood programme*, whose campaign with the aid of the mass media enlisted 61,000 blood donors in 1975; *safety and nursing service*, including a water safety-training course given by 125 instructors to over 21,000 persons, and courses on first aid given by 501 instructors to 58,710 persons; and *environmental protection*, whose service conducted an intense campaign in which 25,000 members, volunteers and Red Cross Youth took part to ensure the preservation of the country's natural resources in the face of rapid industrial development.

The publication also contains a section on the Humanitarian Law Institute, set up within the Red Cross Education and Training Center. The main purpose of the Institute, directed by Mr. Choe Eun-Bum, is the study of the principles of the Red Cross and of their application, the organization of seminars for the analysis and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and the provision of assistance to students for the pursuit of research in this field. As indicated in the Republic of Korea National Red Cross booklet,

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

“The education and training program of the Society can be divided into three kinds;

- 1) The training and education not only of the Red Cross staff and volunteers but also of the Board and Committee Members.
- 2) The training and education of social welfare service workers.
- 3) The program of education in social affairs aimed at helping the general public.

“In the past the Society’s training and education activities have been fractionalized, being carried out in piecemeal fashion. But now, with the establishment of a Red Cross Training and Education Center under the direction of the Red Cross Society’s National Headquarters, in September 1975, these training programs are able to be carried out systematically and professionally.

“In addition to these training programs the Education and Training Center has set up a library, and also publishes and distributes study and other pertinent materials relating to its programs.

“On 8 January 1976 the Humanitarian Law Institute was set up within the Education and Training Center. The Institute conducts research into International Humanitarian Laws, including the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, and disseminates the results of the research to other Red Cross Societies and interested parties.”