

DPRK allows transparent distribution of essential drugs

ISR's Reconciliation Ambassadors with Medicines Help Heal

The Washington-based Institute for Strategic Reconciliation (ISR) has announced today that its 3-member medical delegation to DPR Korea has confirmed the very transparent distribution of the ISR essential drugs in a 20-foot container to hospitals and clinics in North and South Pyongan Province, North Hwanghae Province, South Hamkyung Province, and part of Pyongyang city. The ISR has shipped a 20-foot container of essential drugs on November 23, 1999, confirmed its arrival at Port Nampo on December 29, 1999, and arranged distribution around late January of this year.

The Reconciliation Ambassadors with Medicines (RAMs), the 2nd delegation of the ISR in 6 months, has worked in DPRK Feb. 22 to Feb. 29 to survey the progress of "Project Reconciliation Child" focusing on caring for the medicine needs of emaciated children and pregnant/nursing women of DPR Korea.

DPR Korea Ministry of Public Health and medical doctors have expressed their heart-felt gratitude to the ISR delegation led by President Asaph Young Chun, who replied in turn, "The medical aid is a small gift from ordinary Americans including both Koreans and non-Koreans." Chun has extended the hope of compassionate Americans toward reconciliation between DPRK and USA. "The ISR's RAMs is a servant passing such a reconciliation hope with a medical aid."

Drs. Sam H. Yoon and In G. Kim, Korean American medical doctors in RAMs, have been allowed to make on-the-spot observation of several medical facilities, and learned further critical needs of medicines and medical equipments by engaging in face-to-face talk with competent medical doctors and public health specialists of DPRK. "Korean medical professionals in DPRK and USA have become friends in the field," Chun observed. It appeared that culturally sensitive Korean American professionals help warm a cold relation between governments of Korea and America.

Among others, the ISR aid has included Antibiotics (22,000 capsules of Amoxicillin/500 mg, 6,000 capsules of Ampicilin/500 mg, 600 vials of Ceftriaxone Sodium 500 mg, and Erythromycin Ethylsuccinate 400 mg to treat 14,400 patients), Analgesic/antipyretic medicines (Acetaminophen 80 mg to treat about 30,000 children, Ibuprofen 200g to treat over 100,000 patients, and Acetaminophen 500 mg to treat 70,000 patients), Cardiovascular (100,000 capsules of Nifedipine 200mg, 72,000 tablets of Verapamil Hydrochloride 120 mg), Ulcer medicines/Antacid to treat about 35,000 patients, and Oral Rehydration Salts to treat over 6,000 children suffering from diarrhoea. All these medicines are estimated to treat over 600,000 patients for a week, according to the WHO standards. The medicines all with effective due dates had been prepared on the basis of the list of drugs which DPRK had asked during the ISR's visit in last September.

The Washington-based ISR is an independent think tank seeking to restore reconciliation where conflict exists by engaging in scientific, cultural, educational, humanitarian, and religious research. The ISR addresses policy challenges promoting international and national reconciliation, and facilitates conflict resolution policy research and studies in civilian and government programs. The ISR is incorporated in the state of Virginia. The

ISR is a founding member of the InterAction DPR Korea Working Group, a consortium of over 30 international NGOs working in DPR Korea.

The 3rd RAMs of the ISR are scheduled to work in DPRK in August. For more information or participation, contact ISR at 301.570.3948, 301.570.0911 (fax), or ISR@Ureach.com. You may help send critical medicines to children and pregnant/nursing women of DPRK by sending your generous donation (payable to ISR) to:

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