

**Address by the Swiss Ambassador on the occasion of the  
150th anniversary of the International Committee of the Red Cross  
New Delhi, 14 March 2013**

Cher Monsieur Daccord, Director General of the ICRC,

Excellencies,

Dear friends,

A warm welcome to the residence of the Swiss Embassy on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICRC. In arriving at our Embassy, you came across the very big and emblematic flag of the ICRC. For many people entrapped in natural disasters and men-made crises, this flag has become a sign of hope. For more than 150 years, the ICRC has been a bulwark of humanity in a world of wars, violence and natural disasters.

As we all know, the ICRC has been founded in rough times in Europe. Over the years, it has been able to develop its protection and assistance activities for the victims of armed conflicts all over the world: the wounded and sick in the field, prisoners of war, civilians in occupied territories and all those affected by hostilities.

In fulfilling its humanitarian obligations, the ICRC is often faced with political, technical and financial obstacles. In 150 years of its existence it has proven to resist to and to overcome these obstacles and to keep its

independence. A small testimony of this is given in the photo exhibition behind you. For this achievement let me congratulate the ICRC and wish you well for the years to come!

The Embassy of Switzerland in India is honoured to be associated with the ICRC's anniversary celebrations, in a very concrete but modest way. Indeed, the links between Switzerland and the ICRC are manifold and strong.

- Switzerland is depositary of the Geneva Conventions
- Switzerland hosts the ICRC in Geneva
- Switzerland is also one of the major financial contributors of the ICRC
- Switzerland is a staunch promoter of the international humanitarian law

To conclude, I wish you all a rewarding interaction under the sign of the International Humanitarian Law and am happy to leave the floor to the Director General of the ICRC. M. Yves Daccord, puis-je vous inviter à prendre la parole?