

**Rescue Teams from Overseas Participate in  
Tokyo's Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill  
2010 Report**

In order to share and accumulate knowledge and experience regarding crisis management while providing education on the subject, the Asian Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC21) have formed the Network for Crisis Management joint project, inviting Asian rescue teams to the Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill each year.

This year marked the fifth Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill with Asian rescue teams, and a team of 10 members from the city and county of Taipei participated in a drill on August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> held in unison with the Tokyo Fire Department Fire Rescue Task Force. The 2010 Tokyo Bunkyo Ward Unified Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill was carried out on the 29<sup>th</sup> based on the premise that rescue teams from overseas had arrived to provide aid to Tokyo in the event of an urban earthquake disaster.

The following is a description of the training, with a focus on the cooperative trainings held at the Tokyo Fire Department District 6 Headquarters.



Display and explanation of fast-flowing river rescue equipment

On the afternoon of August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Tokyo Fire Department District 6 Headquarters, the cooperative drill with the Fire Rescue Task Force was held. After hearing an explanation from General Commander Tomioka and observing the facilities for the drill, a display and explanation of fast-flowing river rescue tools at the request of the Taipei city, who responded with eager questions. Next was a rescue technique demonstration by the Taipei team, providing a good opportunity to grasp the differences in

equipment and techniques between the teams.

Force Commander Furukawa, who took part at the District 6 Fire Department Headquarters, was a member of the international emergency rescue team dispatched to Taiwan after the earthquake on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1999. It was discovered that Force Commander Furukawa had been working nearby Sub-division Chief Lin of the Taipei team. Sub-division Chief Lin remarked, "At the time of

the earthquake we were somewhat lacking in rescue knowledge, and had grown disorganized. We were impressed by the swift arrival and action of the Japanese rescue teams. As a result of the earthquake, Taiwan became more aware of the importance of international rescue teams.”



Enclosed rescue drill carried out

August 27<sup>th</sup> was a day filled with cooperative drills. In blisteringly hot weather, the first drill was a “blind drill” held by the Fire Department Rescue Task Force once a month. In this drill, rescue activities are carried out without advance notifications of the nature of the drill, producing a tension-filled exercise. After the drill, General Commander Tomioka’s response reinforced the importance of not over-relying on equipment at the early stages of search-and-rescue, using one’s five senses to maintain eye and vocal contact, and ensuring the safety of team members. One Taipei team member said that Taipei’s on-site safety management is still being refined, and that the Tokyo Fire Department’s safety management provided a valuable example, while another remarked that the Tokyo Fire Department team is impressive not just for its equipment, but for its spirit. After the drill, the Taipei team heard in-depth descriptions from Platoon Commander Yuki about the Tokyo Fire Department’s safety management policies regarding the organization, unit formation, and equipment, allowing a lively exchange of discussion with the Taipei team. Numerous drills continued in the hot weather with an enclosed rescue drill (for rescuing those trapped inside manholes, etc.), preparation for the following day’s

Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill, a fire disaster search-and-rescue drill carried out at the request of the Taipei city, and other drills. After eating lunch, activities to strengthen the relations between the Fire Rescue Task Force and Taipei team were carried out such as group running, mixed sprint and rope tying competitions between two groups, and other challenging activities suitable to the rescue teams, bringing out fun, camaraderie, and lots of sweat.



Group running



Contact between each branch during rescue drill

During the Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill on the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Taipei team worked well in unison with the Tokyo Fire Department, displaying the results of their three days of training together. Efficient movement of the teams impressed all those involved, showing the success

of the fifth Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill with Asian rescue teams. With reactions from the Taipei team such as, “We’d very much like to continue taking part in this exchange of techniques,” despite its brief duration, the drill served as an excellent opportunity to strengthen the teamwork between the cities of Taipei and Tokyo.

Taking into account instances such as the Taiwan Earthquake, it seems certain that overseas rescue teams will have the opportunity to work together again in different locations. The day may come when the bonds strengthened in this training prove useful at a new location.

ANMC21 utilizes joint efforts such as the Network for Crisis Management to seek cooperation among Asian major cities and to further development in Asia.



At District Six Fire Department Headquarters