

The Participation of Overseas Rescue Teams in Tokyo's Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill

2009 Report

Rescue squads from Singapore and Taipei, member cities of the Asian Network of Major Cities (ANMC 21), participated in the Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill hosted jointly by Tokyo



Metropolitan Government, Setagaya Ward, and Chofu City on August 30, 2009. The training encompassed drills involving rescue from collapsed buildings in cooperation with the Tokyo Fire Department's Fire Rescue Task Force (alias: hyper rescue). In addition, cooperative training and visits to the Tokyo Fire Department facilities were carried out ahead of the

comprehensive disaster preparation training.

This year's joint training marks the fourth year that such training has been held by ANMC 21 member cities, following the participation of Seoul in 2006, Taipei in 2007, and Seoul/Taipei in 2008.

1st Day (August 27)

Following a general overview and a courtesy visit by the Fire Chief of the Tokyo Fire Department in the morning, participants visited the Tachikawa Fire Station, the Eighth District Headquarters training facilities, and the Tokyo Fire Department Aviation Unit.

2nd Day (August 28) Joint Training with the Tokyo Fire Department Fire Rescue Task Force

Eighth District Headquarters

- 9:00 Subway accident rescue training
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Exchange of Opinions with Fire Rescue Task Force
- 14:00 Rescue training set in confined spaces
- 15:30 Visit to Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill site
- 17:00 End

Amidst clear skies and broiling heat which exceeded 30 °C, the Fire Rescue Task Force and overseas rescue squads carried out joint training. Training involved rescue from subways accident and confined spaces, and the Tokyo Fire Department first demonstrated the steps, which was then drilled by the other

rescue squads. Detailed guidance was provided to rescue squads amidst a tension filled training

environment over the importance of voice loudness, basic ideas such as establishing the safety of partners and self first, how to use ropes as well as how to transfer injured individuals.

Discussions were held between rescue personnel as a means to exchange opinions, after an explanation was given summarizing the Tokyo Fire Department's on-site safety management system which had been requested since the previous year. A wide range of subjects were covered with a detailed question and answer session over topics ranging from response to suicide cases, content of mandates, the reason the Fire Rescue Task Force was selected, existence of benefits, the safety management system, and the contents which comprise normal training. Following the morning program, Taipei reported that they held subway rescue training once every six months in their subways at night while the trains were stopped.



3d Day (August 29)

Third District Headquarters (NBC Response)	
9:30	Explanation of schedule and training (Fire Training School Second Schoolhouse)
9:50	Third District Headquarters Fire Fighting Task Force Introduction Video (English)
10:10	NBC Response Training
10:40	Explanation of Major NBC Disaster Response Tools
11:00	Question and Answer Session
11:30	End

First, a class was held which covered an overview of the appropriate response towards NBC (refers to radioactive or biochemical materials which are Nuclear, Biological or Chemical in nature), together with a lecture concerning unit organization, initial structure, as well as training and drilling systems.

Next, training moved on-site, whereby Tokyo Fire Department members carried out a training demonstration in a scenario involving a shopping center during the holidays attacked with sarin gas, resulting in three individuals needing rescue with innumerable wounded. Here, the entire process was unfolded: from arrival on-site, establishing on-site headquarters, identification of the causative agent, decontamination of rescued individuals, site preservation, to wrap-up. Opinions were then exchanged, and explanations were presented by the various cities concerning NBC response. Taipei noted that in their case, NBC response partly included the Environmental Protection Agency (actual rescue work being conducted

by the fire department), while Singapore noted that response teams were adjusted based on the danger level.



4th Day (August 30)

This year's training scenario for the Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill involved a strong earthquake originating in the eastern part of Tama, with rescue teams from Singapore and Taipei arriving at the disaster site to provide support for Tokyo.

Upon arrival at the building collapse site at Chofu city training site, and under the watchful eye of the Governor of Tokyo, both teams reported their arrival to command headquarters, received orders, of their activities and proceeded to carry out rescue activities from the collapsed building. Amidst a barrage of instructions being shouted in English and Chinese, the teams built upon their results from the previous day's training and coordinated with the Tokyo Fire Department Hyper Rescue Task Forces, culminating in the successful rescue of all victims (dolls). At one point, members from the Singapore, Taipei, and Tokyo Fire Department teams could be seen carrying a single stretcher, further reinforcing the joint nature of the training.



Joint Training Comes To An End

This year's training was again extremely fruitful in terms of the content for those who participated. There were many who voiced that they were strongly impressed with the Tokyo Fire Department's awareness towards Crisis Management and its rules, which in turn left the secretariat feeling a tangible sense of accomplishment. The participants also submitted many different proposals for joint training to be conducted from next year onwards.

The Singapore team requested that an additional program be added to allow them to inspect the Tokyo area. Considering the fact that such teams would come to Tokyo in the event of a disaster, we

believe that it would be a good idea to implement a simple observation program to allow them to grasp Tokyo's geography, cultural nuances, and transportation infrastructure.

The team from Taipei expressed extreme interest in the Tokyo Fire Department's equipment and machines which were not equipped in the Taipei Fire Department's command vehicle. Based on this, we believe that the contents of the observation and monitoring program should be considered more closely, such as introducing those measures and material equipment not found in the fire departments of other cities.

Besides this, we received proposals to enhance the training curriculum for the future, which included improving opportunities for exchanging opinions between team members and differentiating the training content based on the ranks of the members (leaders vs. general fire fighters).

It is the goal of ANMC21's "Network for Crisis Management" to improve Asia's overall crisis management capabilities, using multiple factors including the participation of various cities across Asia in this year's Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill hosted in Tokyo, together with the Asian Crisis Management Conference, as well as the execution of rescue technique training courses by the Tokyo Fire Department.