



## YOSUKE OKITA, PhD, TQC™ JAPAN



Dr Okita has significant experience working in international disaster and emergency management, including some international emergency missions as a member of the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) team, which is deployed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team.

As a JDR team member, he was deployed to the Algeria Earthquake (2003; rescue team), the Indonesia Tsunami (2004; medical team), the Pakistan Earthquake (2005; medical team), and the Christchurch Earthquake (2011; rescue team). As a UNDAC member, he participated in the missions for the Great East Japan Earthquake (2011), Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (2013) and the Nepal Earthquake (2015). In the Nepal response, he was one of the first-arriving international assistance team members, and he served as the RDC (Reception Departure Centre) Manager, which was established at the Kathmandu airport.

While working with the JICA's Secretariat of JDR in 2003-2006 and 2009-2010, he was in charge of organising the first International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Global Meeting held in Kobe, Japan, and the JDR Rescue team's first INSARAG External Classification (IEC). He also contributed as a member of the INSARAG Training Working Group and as an IEC Classifier. After leaving the Secretariat of JDR, he worked in the JICA offices in Indonesia and St. Lucia as a Project Formulation Advisor, where he was in charge of JICA's technical cooperation projects in disaster management in Indonesia and the Caribbean region.

From 2014 to 2017, he joined the Field Coordination Support Section within the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva as the Asian regional focal point for INSARAG and UNDAC. From 2017, he worked for the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund Management Team within the ASEAN Secretariat as a Programme Coordinator, and then moved to JICA's Indonesia Office as a Project Formulation Advisor for ASEAN Partnership. Currently, he is working in Hanoi, Viet Nam, as JICA's Expert in charge of Biodiversity and Project Coordination in the Sustainable Natural Resource Management Project Phase 2.

He received LL.B. from Kyoto University, M.A. in International Relations/Master of Diplomacy from The Australian National University, and PhD in Media and Governance from Keio University in Japan. His PhD thesis is titled "Effects of the classification system in international search and rescue". He published many academic articles on international urban search and rescue, disaster prevention and recovery, and disaster diplomacy in English and Japanese.

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