

## **YOSUKE OKITA Answers to TQC Certification Questions**

### **1. What brought you into the Emergency / Disaster Management field?**

After graduating from a university, I started my career as a JICA staff, and I was assigned to the Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) team within JICA in May 2003. Only three weeks after joining the Secretariat, I was deployed to the Algeria Earthquake as a coordinator of the JDR rescue team. While I was with the Secretariat of JDR, the world experienced mega-disasters such as the Bam Earthquake in Iran and the Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami. Thus, I also experienced a lot in emergency and disaster management, and I decided to pursue this field of expertise.

### **2. What attracted you to the TIEMS organization and the TIEMS TQC & TQAC certification?**

I have been mainly working in the field of international emergency management and also had some experiences in disaster preparedness and recovery. Through my PhD research, I (strongly) recognised the importance of disaster preparedness. I prefer TIEMS and its certification because they also cover disaster preparedness (e.g., Sendai Framework for Action) as well, compared to the other international certifications in emergency management.

### **3. How do you think the TIEMS TQC certification will benefit your future opportunities and career?**

TQC, as a learning process, contributes to expanding my knowledge, which has been focusing on international USAR.

### **4. How was your experience with navigating through the TIEMS TQC & TQAC certification process?**

The Board members were very supportive during the TQC process. If the TIEMS can provide a kind of textbook (not only the INSARAG Guidelines, Sendai Framework document, etc.) for the preparation for TQC/TQAC, it should be useful for the candidates because TQC covers a wide area from disaster prevention to response, and all the candidates might not have the experience to cover it, considering that TQC/TQAC is a learning process.

### **5. In your opinion, how does the TIEMS TQC certification compare to other Emergency Management certifications?**

I went through similar certifications in Japan: Bousaishi (Disaster Prevention Officer) and Kikikanrishi (Crisis Management Officer). Their programs are good for understanding both topics, but the focus is, of course, on Japan. I was also interested in the international standards of this field.

### **6. In light of Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine, where do you see the Emergency / Disaster Management field heading?**

In the Covid-19 era, it is becoming more difficult to send international emergency teams quickly after disasters happen. Thus, the importance of disaster preparedness, especially the role of first responders who are already in the affected areas, should be highlighted more.

### **7. Is there anything else you like to tell about yourself?**

I have been playing judo for about 30 years, wherever in the world, such as Australia, Indonesia, St. Lucia, Switzerland, Viet Nam.