	Building Name Address	Use (as per FSA Annexed Table 1)	Date and Time of Incident	Structure and Stories Area	Extent of Damage (Damaged Area/ Total Area)	No. of Casualties	
	Himeji International Conference Hall	Amusement Hall (16) a	Jan 1, 1971	Fire resistive 4 stories		Fatalities 2	
			Breakout at 22:00 (approx)	above ground and 0 below	All, [Half] , Partial, Small		
	Himeji, HYOGO		Noticed at 22:10	Building area 973,1 m ²	1,844 m²		
	Tillileji, TT 000		Notified by emergency call	Total floor	(50.0/)	Injured	
			Extinguished by	area	(58%)	()	
			23:50	3,200.3 m ²		()	

I. Summary of Fire Incident

Fire broke out in the 4-story building on the night of New Year's Day and burned 1,844 m² (from the 2nd to 4th floors of the building). This fire resulted in 2 fatalities. Although the building was a fire-resistive structure, there were no fire compartments inside the building. The interiors were all made of combustible materials and all of the stairwells were widely open. This structural vulnerability and the faulty fire-safety management resulted in the fire spreading and ultimate casualties.

(2	Floo	Total	Damaged	Use (Purpose)	No. of	Fatalities	Fire escape	Firefighting
C	r	area	area		persons		equipment	equipment
(2) Conditions per Floor	/	m ²	m ²				1 set of inside	Fire extinguishers
Ħ.	/						open-ceiling	
Suc	/ /						stairs (1st to	Indoor fire
pe	/						4th floors)	hydrants
Ē	/							
00	/						2 sets of	Automatic fire
•	R	27.0		Machine room			inside spiral	detection system
	4	244.4	1,844	Employee	3		stairs from 1st	
				dormitory,			to 3rd floors	Guiding lights
				Machine storage			and 1 set from	
	3	977.9		Billiard room,	4	2	1st to 2nd	
				Office, Machine			floors	
				room				
	2	977.9		Dance hall,				
				Mah-jong room,				
				Ping-pong room				
	1	973.1		Pachinko parlor				
	Tota	3,200.3	1,844		7	2		
	-							

(3) Origin of Fire

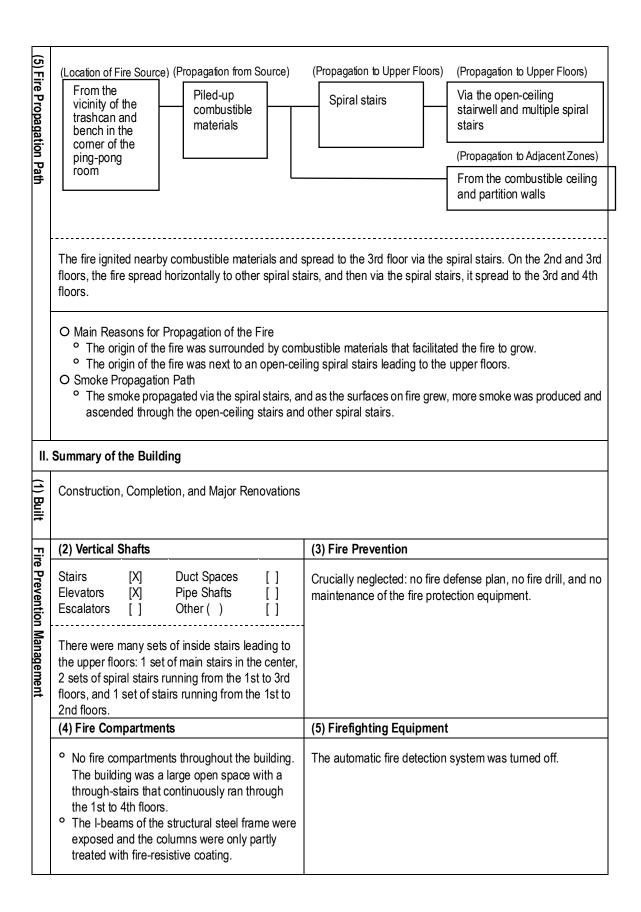
(Floor, Room, Part, Combustibles, Habitable/Non-habitable Rooms, Present/Absent)

From the vicinity of a trashcan and bench next to the spiral stairs in the east-north corner of the ping-pong room.

- O There were various combustible materials (paper, wood, rubber) near the spiral stairs.
- o The interior structures (ceiling, wall, and floor) were made of wood, fiberboard, plywood, or thick plywood.

(4) Cause of Fire Unknown

The cause of the fire could not be determined, but based on the traffic of people in the building that day, it is believed to be a burning cigarette because the fire emerged from the vicinity of a bench and trashcan next to the spiral stairs on the 2nd floor.



Ш	. Actions Taken a	after Fire was Detected					
(1) First Detected	Detected byHow and whAction taker	y (Smoke)					
tected	On that day, the facilities on the 2nd and 3rd floors only were open for business but closed around 21:40. After 4 employees finished work in the office on the 3rd floor, they started to descend the stairs and saw the fire in the ping-pong room on the north-east side of the 2nd floor. One employee then ran up the stairs to the 3rd and 4th floors and loudly alerted others of the fire. The other 3 employees evacuated as soon as they saw the fire.						
(2) Eme	Emergency Call	Yes [X] () Time elapsed since the discovery (10) minutes No []					
(2) Emergency Call	One of the employees who found the fire loudly alerted others on the 3rd and 4th floors and made a 119 call from the office on the 3rd floor before leaving the building.						
(3)		Successful[] Failed[X]		(Reasons or Conditions)			
(3) Initial Firefighting Activities	Initiated	 Extinguished timing Firefighting difficulties Firefighting method	[] [] []	The employees who first found the fire panicked and evacuated without trying to fight the fire because the fire was spreading.			
g Activities	Not Initiated	 Extinguished timing Firefighting difficulties Firefighting method Other	[] [] [] [X]				
(4)	(Obstacles or Difficulties in Fire Control)						
(4) Summary of Firefighting Activities	By the time the firefighters arrived, both flames and black smoke were pouring out of the windows of the 2nd floor. The firefighters could not use the main stairs leading to the 2nd floor because of heavy smoke and intense heat and flames. Therefore, from the street on the north side of the building and the rooftop of adjacent buildings, they sprayed water from 22 discharge hoses. However, the fire spread further and the 3rd and 4th floors were engulfed in flames.						

Means of Escape (No. of Persons) Obstacles to Evacuation (5) Evacuation O No windows [] ° Stairs [X] (4) O Barred openings [] ° Elevators/Escalators [] () Locked emergency doors (Exits) [] Escape equipment [] () O Alarm system [] (Poorly controlled, Malfunctioned, O Directly to ground from windows or openings []() Not installed) ° Rescued [X] (1) Power outage [] o Other()[]() Other[]

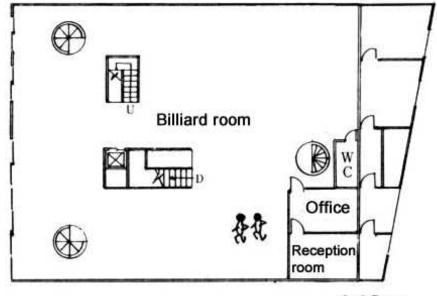
- ° The 4 employees who found the fire evacuated via the stairs after loudly alerting others and making a 119 call.
- One male employee who was in the employee dormitory on the 4th floor heard someone shouting "Fire!" and ran downstairs, but on the 3rd floor, he was suffocated by the smoke coming up from the lower floor and so ran up to the rooftop and waited to be rescued. The firefighters found him and extended an extinguisher hose from the adjacent building on the west and told him to pull it in by utilizing the TV feeder line and tie the hose to the fence column. He used the hose to descend to the ground.

Healthy individuals 2 (Drunk persons) Individuals in need of assistance Infants Elderly Handicapped Patients/ill persons Obstacles to Evacuation No windows [] Barred openings [] Locked emergency doors (Exits) [] Alarm system [] (Poorly controlled, Malfunctioned, Not installed) Power outage [] Obstacles to Evacuation

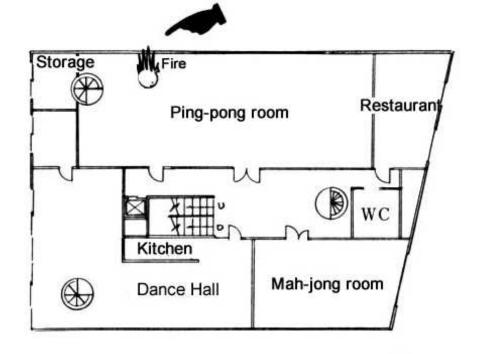
This fire killed 2 female employees, A (age 28) and B (age 23), who were on the 4th floor. They came down the stairs, but on the landing of the 3rd floor, they were trapped by the swelling smoke and tried to escape through the windows on the west. They were familiar with the building layout, but they were found approximately 8 m away from the windows leading to a balcony nearby, indicating they were trapped on the way there and died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

IV. Issues and Lessons Learned

- 1. All stairwells should be protected by self-closing fire doors that are connected to the fire alarm system so they can be closed automatically in the event of a fire, to prevent smoke and/or flames from penetrating.
- 2. If the 4th floor was an employee dormitory, then the main stairwell needed to be a through stairs.
- 3. The alarm of the automatic fire detection system was turned off and no-one was in the control panel room when the fire broke out, which subsequently delayed detection and warning all others present in the building.
- 4. The facility management disregarded fire safety, and the employees were not prepared for an emergency event. As a result, the employees could not respond properly when they first witnessed the fire.
- 5. There were no fire compartments, and the partition walls were made of plywood, indicating that the fire code for interior materials was disregarded.
- 6. The facility failed to carry out any security patrols or inspection for fire hazards, and as a result, combustible materials were piled up near the stainwell.



3rd floor



2nd floor

