

Report on Kick-off Seminar for Establishment of the "FORUM for Advanced Fire Education/Research in Asia"

The kickoff seminar hosted by the Center for Fire Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Science was held in order to establish "FORUM for Advanced Fire Education/Research in Asia" on December 27-28, 2012 in Tokyo. Professors and researchers on fire safety in universities/institutes and administrative officers of fire brigades along with fire protection engineers gathered from home and abroad such as Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Bangladesh from Asia and the U.K., New Zealand, Brazil in the areas from other than Asia.

On the first day, eleven lectures were delivered in two sessions as to the common recognition about Asian fire statistics, the common recognition on fire safety regulations and standards in Asia and also introduction of important fire accidents in this region. On the 2nd day, three lectures were given in the session on the topics such as what will be expected of the education regarding building fire safety in Asia, what will be expected of the FORUM we plan to build this time. After the session, a panel discussion about establishment of the FORUM was held. The total number of participants was 88 on the first day and 46 on the second day.



In the mega cities in Asia, construction of skyscrapers and urban development of underground space etc. are rapidly progressing in connection with economic growth. The space and material used for development are also changing rapidly and hence the potential risk of fire is increasing. And, in fact, a number of serious fire accidents that resulted in many fatalities really have occurred in this region. Although it is earnestly desired that the appropriate measures are developed based on fire risk analysis of these incidents to solve such issues, fire protection engineers, which can cope with these problems, run short crucially in the region because we do not have enough education system to nature professional fire protection engineers in this region. Therefore, this calls for urgent attention among us.

Due to all those things, as the continuing activity of 5-year project of Global COE Program called as "Center for Education and Research on Advanced Fire Safety Science and Technology in East Asia" of Tokyo University of Science, which will complete in March, 2013, the required action must be the establishing the FORUM, where people on research and education concerning fire safety in Asian

countries cooperate constantly. For this purpose, a panel discussion on the second day was organized and we adopted the resolutions described below in the end of the discussion.

- 1) Construct a common platform to exchange the information about education and methodology for fire safety engineering and science among related academic organizations in countries in the Asia-Oceania region.
- 2) For this purpose, one is through the Internet website and the mailing list, and the other is a periodical meeting like this FORUM.
- 3) For the time being, Tokyo University of Science will play as a secretariat of this FORUM until the activities have become steady.
- 4) Seek a common funding from countries involved in the FORUM.
- 5) The next FORUM will be held in South Korea around October, 2013. The detailed plan will be discussed further after creating the mailing list of the persons concerned.



Masayuki Mizuno, Ai Sekizawa and Yi-Ting Song