

Visiting Life Safety Learning Center in Tachikawa

July 13, 2011

The University of California Tokyo Study Center

On July 13, 2011, our 14 UCEAP ICU-Year students and all of the UCTSC staff visited the Life Safety Learning Center (LSLC). The objective of this excursion was to understand and experience major disasters such as earthquake and fire. LSLC is an educational facility where visitors can learn proper actions in the event of an earthquake, successful evacuation, effective fire-fighting, first-aid treatment, and so on. This time, we took part in 1. Earthquake Simulation Room, 2. Disaster Prevention Theater, and 3. Smoke Maze Room.

1. Earthquake Simulation Room

The room was furnished with a kitchen, dining table, chairs, and imitated cupboards. Students were



asked to follow the 4 important tips which were taught prior to the simulation— 1. Protect your head from falling objects / 2. Open the doors to secure the way out / 3. Turn off gas / 4. Turn off circuit breakers. In addition to these, we were taught to scream “Earthquake!” as soon as we detected a quake. This is to notify and alarm people around you that an earthquake is actually happening.

The shockwave we experienced ranged from 4 to 7 in Japan Meteorological Agency seismic intensity scale. The last group experienced the simulated 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake which lasted for about 1.5 minutes. Since the students had only experienced small earthquakes before, it felt frightening for many of them to feel the larger ones.

2. Disaster Prevention Theater

- We saw a short movie that showed what would happen in modern Tokyo in an earthquake of the magnitude of the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake. A powerful effect was created in this theater with a projector, a stereophonic sound system and vibrating seats functioning all together. Images on a screen made us feel exactly like we were struck by an earthquake.

3. Smoke Maze Section

- The Smoke Maze Room helps you learn how to escape from fire without getting involved in or being attacked by smoke. In order to avoid the intake of smoke, we learned that it was effective to cover our nose and mouth with a wet handkerchief. If we did not have a handkerchief, using clothing (such as sleeves, or shirts) will work, too. However, none of the students had a handkerchief with them... We learned that there are Four rules when escaping from smoke— Don't push, Don't run, Don't talk, Don't return.



At every section, there were always 5 tips to follow. At the very last part of the tour, we were assessed by the evaluation machine for each section with a score ranging from 1 to 5 on how well we followed the tips along with a letter grade as an entire evaluation. We not only hope all students learned and realized the fear of disaster but also hope they now became confident of how to protect themselves and act in a disaster situation.

