

Earthquake survival education

By Anisha Samuel

TOKYO, Japan - With a 70% chance of Japan's capital experiencing a major earthquake that can destroy the city in the next 30 years, it is preparing its citizens to survive such a catastrophe.

This education is being transmitted especially to children, who are considered the next generation.

One such institution dedicated to this task is the Honjo Bosai-kan (Life Safety Learning Centre), operated by the Tokyo Fire Department.

This center was visited on Friday October 20 by participants of the 2017 APIC-FPCJ



Local participant Anisha Samuel attempting to open air-tight room door during simulation

Journalist Programme. Through a 20-minute movie, the participants learnt the best practices in time of an earthquake.

They include a practice that National Disaster Management Authority (NaDMA) has been advocating in Grenada - kneeling and placing one's head under a table, holding on to its legs while staying clear of items that can tumble over.

Other practices are - When outside stay away from walls, poles, etc, that can fall at any time; when leaving one's home after the earthquake, turn off the main switch to electricity and gas lines

to prevent fire; and seek to help others, especially children and elderly.

The group also got the opportunity to experience a 7.0 magnitude earthquake via simulation and were expected to demonstrate the safety tips for survival as shown in the movie.

In addition, the journalists got hands-on experience of opening an air tight room door and a car door in a flood, during a simulation exercise. The group found out just how

difficult a task that can be, as some members failed in their individual attempts to open the room door. The tour guide advised that in a real-life scenario, more than one person should attempt to open the door, and if successful, place something between the door to prevent it from shutting back as lots of water will be gushing in.

The Guide also advised that the car door will open easier when the water level outside is the same

level as the door.

The Centre has on display various tools that residents can purchase to make their homes more secure; such as accessories to keep furniture in place and doors sealed. Of interest to the group was the emergency tool to cut seat belts and crack vehicle windows in a flood.

According to information from the Japan Meteorological Agency, the country records about 200,000 earthquakes per year, many of which are minor.

'No vending sign' is not stopping vendors in Grenville



the unsightly way the carpark looks."

Charles said the actions taken by their organization to erect the sign which reads "No Vending" and a "No dumping sign" have been met with stiff resistance from the people who have been vending there for years.

The SADO leader stated that they have identified alternative venues such as the Grenville Market; but have been unsuccessful in making the switch with the vendors. Meetings, he added, have been held with the Parliamentary Representatives to come up with solutions to the problem but to no avail. Other avenues explored, include the Grenville Bus terminus and the blocking of a street on Saturdays.

Charles noted that in the past fees have been collected from the regular vendors; but the organization was often faced with new people setting up shop at the Grenville Car Park for

a day without any permission being granted especially at festive seasons. He added, "The business community is up in arms over what is happening, because it is their observation that the vendors do not pay taxes nor rent."

The organisation has stopped collecting fees in a bid to stop the illegal vending; but despite that and the notices being erected since October, the SADO President noted that the sales continue. Charles said they are aware that some people who are vending in the Car Park also own booths in the Vendors' Mall which is located a stone's throw away.

Another challenge SADO often encounters he noted, occurs when vendors fail to remove themselves from the carpark after receiving notice that they should vacate because the space has been officially booked and rented for other activities.

He added that the organization is not trying to put anyone out of a livelihood but is merely trying to bring back the car park to its original purpose - which is a Car park.

Vendors continue to ply their trade at the Grenville Car Park despite signs erected in the area that speaks to No vending and No dumping.

The area, which was an established parking area, is now buzzing with sale of different items on the weekend where patrons come from all over the island to cash in on a bargain.

President of the Saint Andrew Development Organization (SADO) Ryan Charles in a

recent interview with *The Grenadian Voice* said their aim is to bring the area back to its original purpose - which is a car park.

He stated that the organization has received several complaints from businesses, police and citizens in general that, that particular portion of Grenville looks like a shanty town at the end of the day's sale. He said, "As a community, we have had letters written to us by the Ministry of Health and other persons about



APPLICATION - ASSISTANT FINANCE MANAGER - NAWASA

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of Assistant Finance Manager at the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA), Grenada.

POSITION SUMMARY

Reporting to the Finance Manager, the Assistant Finance Manager will be responsible for the daily management and supervision of the commercial activities which include billing, revenue collection and asset protection operations.

The Assistant Finance Manager is expected to work under limited supervision.

PERSON SPECIFICATION (QUALIFICATION) AND EXPERIENCE

- The position requires ACCA and at least five (5) years' related experience; or a Bachelors' Degree in Accounting and at least five (5) years' related experience.
- Experience in revenue collection, receivables management & recoveries will be an asset.
- Possession of a valid drivers' licence.

SPECIFIC SKILLS/ EXPERIENCE AND/OR KNOWLEDGE

- Ability to assess customers' needs and resolve problems.
- Results oriented.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Strong leadership, motivational and analytical skills.
- Familiar with the use of computer software for customer billing, financial and management accounting.

Applications including Curriculum Vitae should be submitted no later than November 17, 2017 and be addressed as follows:

The General Manager
Vacancy for Assistant Finance Manager
National Water and Sewerage Authority
P.O Box 392,
The Carenage,
St. George's,
Grenada.

EMAIL: nawasa@nawasa.gd

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