

EXPERIENCE OF IDENTIFICATION MASSIVE DISASTER VICTIMS AND UNKNOWN BODIES

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Disasters, whether natural, technological or man-made, are unfortunately a fact of life. One common aspect to them all is the inevitability of the many police, technical, medical and other investigations that follow. One type of investigations conducted when lives have lost is Disaster Victim Identification. Characteristics of disasters include: larger numbers of victims, seriously wounded and difficult to be identified bodies.

In recent years, we have had some of massive disasters in Taiwan:

1. Feb. 1998 Air Crashed at Tao-Yuan; 202 killed.
2. Sep. 1999 Earthquake; 2,494 killed, 11,305 wounded.
3. Nov. 2000 Air Crashed at Tao-Yuan; 82 killed.
4. May 2002 Air Crashed above Peng-Hu Islands; 225 victims, 50 have not been found.

We developed a computer program with "Visual Basic" language and Excel to compare all the data. MJIB DNA laboratory is assigned to conduct the identification of nationwide unknown human bodies; the computer program is also applied on our DNA STR database. Keywords: massive disaster, victim identification, DNA STR database.