

## **TQC & TQAC Certification Questions: Dr Yash Paul Chawla**

### **1. What brought you to the Emergency Management / DM field?**

I was introduced to Disaster Recovery incidentally during the 2004 Tsunami in India. While working with an Israeli organisation in India, I had a chance to meet Ratan Tata, the chairperson of the Tata Group. Tata Group was involved in the Disaster Recovery of the Tsunami and asked that we organise a few Portable Desalination Plants for the disaster victims, like one we supplied for the Tata Salt Plant. Meeting the Disaster Victims moved me. Then, from 2012 until 2019, I was involved in the Electricity Regulatory Matters with the Islands and Coastal Regions of India. The floods and storms in these geographical areas were frequent. Thus, I was able to understand the plight of the storm victims. On arrival in Australia in 2020, I joined the Australian Red Cross and interacted with Flood Victims.

My interaction with Prof Vinod Menon has existed for a long time, and his knowledge of disaster management has always impressed me. With Disaster Management thoughts, disaster Management preparedness and the advice of Prof Vinod Menon, I entered the field of Disaster Management.

### **2. What attracted you to the TIEMS organisation and the TIEMS TQC & TQAC certification?**

With limited knowledge of organisations certifying disaster managers, the Emergency Management Professionalisation Scheme (EMPS) in the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council offered a limited firefighting scope. TIEMS is covering the disasters comprehensively. Prof. Menon's advice came in handy to me.

### **3. How will the TIEMS TQC certification benefit your future career opportunities?**

TQC, as a learning process, contributes to expanding my knowledge, which has been focusing on international USAR.

TIEMS Qualification Certificate (TQC) has given me an enhanced status at the Australian Red Cross and many opportunities to speak to the Communities as a Facilitator from the Red Cross. Research on the Urban Heat Resilience Project gives me insight into nine other global cities besides Sydney. Involvement with TIEMS, I could add knowledge to myself towards making the Power Sector infrastructure and Communities resilient to disasters of Climate Change. This has extended to my knowledge of Renewable Energy, which I have professed for about 15 Years. Learning is lifelong; it is not for career building at this stage.

### **4. How was your experience navigating the TIEMS TQC & TQAC certification process?**

The TIEMS team (Board Members) are very supportive in navigating the TQC process and also in various conferences. While learning about Disaster Management, I noticed that Copies of ISO are not available in full on the web, and one has to buy the same from the ISO Secretariat unless TIEMS, an educational and training organisation, considers giving access. One of the board members helped me get the same. TIEMS may consider that the TQC examination does not ask for Clause no. xx or Para no. xx provisions but instead seeks the examinee's knowledge about provisions on a specific para heading or Clause heading. Even the lawyers present the complete provisions to the court rather than only quoting provision numbers. For any legal Petition filed, the specific clause number of the act is referred to by the lawyers who support the same by the contents mentioned therein. For the examinee, provisions are more important than those contained under Para 15 or Clause 5. Anyone sitting for TQC / TQAC need not cram the contents by Clause number-wise – only provisions/ contents should be good to know. TQC covers a wide area from disaster prevention to response, and

all the examinees might not have the experience to cover it, considering that the examinee of TQC/TQAC is in a learning phase.

**5. In your opinion, how does the TIEMS TQC certification compare to other Emergency Management certifications?**

An attempt has been made to compare TIEMS TQC certification with other Schemes as per the table below. TQC compares well. Cell 4 g says “Being developed” is not understood.

SI	Scheme	Accreditation or certification	Target group	Incident management or emergency management	Compliant with AS/NZS ISO/IES 17024:2013	Currently in use in Australia
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
	EMPS	Certification	Individuals	Incident	Not stated	Yes
	EMAP	Accreditation	Organisations	Emergency	Not stated	Unknown
	CEM® AEM®	Certification	Individuals	Emergency	Not stated	Yes
	TQC	Certification	Individuals	Emergency	<b>Not stated</b>	<b>Being developed</b>

**ISO/IES 17024:2013**-Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons. However, no other scheme has been confirmed compliance with the said ISO. Having understood the TIEMS, we can qualify as compliant with the ISO. It will sell better. Also, when we say TQC, can we call it TQC- Disaster Management? Then, it gives a better feel of what we are talking about; otherwise, with stand-alone TQC or TQAC, we have to whisper “Disaster Management” to many.

**6. In light of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, where do you see the Emergency / Disaster Management field heading?**

Disaster Readiness of the Community (Future Ready Communities to Face Disasters) is becoming important. COVID-19, Ukraine War, or the Israeli-Palestine conflict: Future readiness of the communities is essential.

Communities are becoming vulnerable to disasters, human-created or natural, setting new emergencies and crises. Community Readiness to face these challenges is the most important priority for all.

**7. Is there anything else you like to talk about yourself?**

Knowledge Sharing on Disaster Management can be contributed. I am keen on Asia-Pacific, focusing on the Small Islands - Independent Nations and Least Developed Countries having Disaster Management Readiness. With my exposure to industry and communities of diversified profiles, I am enlightened to apply the trans-disciplines of Emergency Management and contribute to society.