

## Message from the Winner



### **Fang-Ming Kuo**

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I am Fang-Ming Kuo, a Secretary Officer in the National Fire Agency of the Ministry of the Interior. I have been working for the National Fire Agency (NFA) for about 13 years, since graduating in 2010 from the Department of Fire Science of the Central Police University.

Evacuation safety plays an important role in fire engineering design, and that is why I became interested in stampedes and started to do related research. As we have learned from case studies, human stampedes often occur at the exits and the neck nodes of crowd movements. Though their frequency is quite low, stampede events may cause a large number of casualties, and they have unimaginable negative social impact on public psychology. This was seen in 2022 after the stampede in Itaewon, Korea.

I deeply appreciate that the *Journal of Disaster Research* has awarded us this prize. It is also an honor to receive an award together with Professor Chun-Hao Shao. It is recognition that we have truly worked hard on this, and it encourages us to continue doing so in the future.

*Fang-Ming Kuo*  
*December 6, 2023*