

# Rescue Work and Coordination with the National Authorities in Thailand

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Göran Schnell has worked 35 years in the Municipal Civil Protection, served two years in Kosovo and equal time in the NATO headquarters in Brussels. There he worked with international disaster management coordination. Since 2003 Göran is the CEO of the Swedish Fire Protection Association.

Göran Schnell tells us about his personal experiences as the leader of the Swedish Rescue Services Agency in southern Thailand after the tsunami disaster on December 26, 2004. The story contains facts about the tsunami and its impacts, the cooperation between different actors during the occasionally chaotic rescue work, handling of deceased, the repatriation of survivors, heavy processes such as identification work, meetings with families of victims, official ceremonies and visits as well the robust Thai society. Mr. Schnell also underlines how important it was to be sensitive to those affected. Being present and showing compassion is essential in crisis management.