



#### **24.4.2011: Day of Search and Rescue Dogs**

Natural disasters such as the one at the moment in Japan or in the previous years in Sumatra, Haiti or Chile have precisely shown once again: Search- and Rescue dogs are superior to all technical equipment when it comes to tracing of buried people.

Thousands of rescue-dog teams are in constant training and are at disposal worldwide around the clock to save lives in case of emergency. Almost all dog-handlers work voluntary, in their free time.

Dedicated to all these dog handlers and dogs the “International Day of Search and Rescue Dogs” was installed 3 years ago, this year held on Sunday 24th of April 2011.

From Australia to Canada, from Japan via South-Korea to Argentina and from South-Africa to Russia as well as in all European countries, rescue-dog teams are the centre of this day to present their work to the public on many places.

Lt. Col. Mohamed A. J Al-Ansari, INSARAG Regional Chairman Africa / Europe / Middle East and Ministry of Interior of United Arab Emirates:

“For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Worldwide Day of Search and Rescue Dogs on Sunday, 24.04.2011 – originally initiated by the IRO – we wish all participating organizations all over the world a successful presentation of their important work. A lot of training, mostly done in the background and with not enough public recognition, can then be presented to the public.

And with that, one will see the magnitude of work and effort, carried out by our friends all around the world with all teams, in a highly-appreciated manner that makes us proud and makes us stand to show respect to those people.”

The President of the IRO (International Rescue Dog Organisation) Dr. Wolfgang Zörner on the occasion of the „Day of Search and Rescue Dogs“: „Rescue dog work has made an enormous improvement in the last couple of years, especially in those countries, which are widely affected by natural disasters, just look at the latest mission in Japan. Mostly all over the world, the rescue dog handlers with their dogs perform a long training and deployment voluntary. Therefore it is surely legitimate to show these activities on that special day to the public.“

Info for the „Day of Search and Rescue Dogs“ under [www.rescuedogday.com](http://www.rescuedogday.com)