



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2017/SOM1/EPWG/002

Agenda Item: 5

10th Emergency Preparedness Working Group Meeting Summary

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: APEC Secretariat



**11th Emergency Preparedness Working Group
Meeting
Nha Trang, Viet Nam
18-19 February 2017**

Summary of the Meeting

10th Emergency Preparedness Working Group Meeting, Lima, Peru, 15-16 August 2016

The 10th Emergency Preparedness Working Group was held in Lima, Peru on 15–16 August 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Kyoko Kondo (Japan) and Dr. Tuan Quang Le (Viet Nam).

The meeting was attended by 13 out of 21 APEC Economies namely: Australia, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States, and Viet Nam. The meeting was also attended by 1 Guest Participant from The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) as well as the Chair for the Senior Finance Ministers Process (SFOM) from Peru.

The meeting was opened by Col. Icochea Felix Augusto, Director de Rehabilitation of INDECI (Institution of National Defense) Peru, representing General Alfredo Murgueytio Espinoza who was unable to be present at the 10th EPWG Meeting due to his duty to Arequipa following the recent earthquake that hit Arequipa on 14 August 2016. At the opening remarks, Col Icochea also reported on the earthquake in Arequipa.

Both Co-chairs were also opening the meeting. Ms. Kondo emphasised that Asia Pacific is always struggling with natural disasters. In that regard, through EPWG with its projects and through cross-fora activities could mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction policy into the APEC economies. Dr. Tuan further highlighted that EPWG has the mandate to increase capacity of economies to cope with the new challenges in order to build resilient economies. Further Dr. Tuan informed that next year Viet Nam will be the host economy and Viet Nam will host two EPWG meetings, one in Nha Trang and one in Ho Chi Minh City. Viet Nam will also host 11th SDMOF in Vinh City, in June 2017.

1. Adoption of the Annotated Agenda of the 10th EPWG Meeting

The meeting adopted the final annotated agenda. ([2016/SOM3/EPWG/001](#))

2. 9th EPWG Meeting Summary Report

The meeting endorsed the 9th EPWG Meeting Summary prepared by the Secretariat. ([2016/SOM3/EPWG/002](#))

3. The 10th Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (SDMOF 10)

Peru as the host economy briefed the meeting on their preparation for 10th SDMOF including on the draft Agenda. The 10th Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (SDMOF) will be held in Iquitos, 8-9 October 2016. The forum will focus on “Emergency Preparedness for Supply Chain and Emergency Food Security” issue. The expected output of the 10th SDMOF is to identify mechanisms of development and promotion of food security focused in financial tools such as micro—insurance and catastrophic risk insurance as well as promote collaboration between public-private partnership focusing Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and livelihoods with emphasis to food security.

The meeting discussed draft agenda and topic of the 10th SDMOF and delegates extended their appreciation to Peru for hosting the meeting and for the preparation. ([2016/SOM3/EPWG/012](#))

Representative of Chinese Taipei suggested that as this will be the tenth SDMOF, thus there is a need for this year to revisit all information from the previous SMDOF and to stock take on previous outcomes so that member economies have a comprehensive view on what issue should the group take to move forward and what issue that the group has achieved on disaster risk reduction issues, rather than adding new issue every year.

Representative Australia was of the view that SDMOF has a different nature than the EPWG and SDMOF was established to discuss various specific technical aspect related to Disaster Risk Reduction. The SDMOF is an Ad hoc basis and the selection of theme will be in accordance with

the host economy priority. Further he added that what the EPWG needs to discuss is whether SDMOF should retain as an ad hoc basis and as a senior official level forum to discuss specific issue interest to the host economy or rather to formalize the SDMOF. To Australia's point of view, the current SDMOF has given added value to the overall disaster management work and there was no need to revisit it in near future.

Viet Nam further stated that next year SDMOF, Viet Nam proposed to have technology innovation and collaboration to cope with the new normal as the topic.

4. Discussion on the draft Action Plan of APEC DRR Framework

The Representative of the Philippines reported on APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework that was approved during the 9th SDMOF on 22-23 September 2015 and was adopted by the APEC Leader on 19 November 2015. To operationalize the Framework, an Action Plan should be developed and the Action Plan should serve as the implementation, monitoring and evaluation tool of APEC for the realization of the APEC DRR Framework and contribution to the attainment of our common disaster resiliency goals. The development of Action Plan was a commitment from the APEC Ministers in 2015 through SDMOF and EPWG. In that regard, the EPWG plays an important role to draft the Action Plan. For that purpose, the Philippines presented first draft of the Action Plan at the 9th EPWG Meeting and currently the draft has been circulating for member economies' inputs not only within EPWG but also other fora. The Philippines suggested that this Action Plan should be a living document and is subject to review and updating when necessary on regular basis. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/013)

Co-chairs added that the Action Plan would be the 10th SDMOF deliverable as the document would be presented to the SDMOF.

Further the APEC Secretariat Program Director reported on the progress of drafting the Action Plan and informed that the Secretariat has received input from economies internal EPWG as well as from other relevant working groups. The Secretariat has distributed final compilation and was ready to be guided by member economies for way forward as the draft needs to be presented to the SDMOF and then to the Ministers.

The Philippines stated that it may not be advisable to spend the whole time discussing specific input or activity in the draft Action Plan one by one, instead he proposed to discuss the visibility to implement the Action Plan and to finalize and improve the Action Plan. As proposed before, the Action Plan should be a living document that should be update and improve over time.

United States emphasized that as the Action Plan is an APEC wide document thus inputs from other working groups are important. United States also agreed in terms of process that there is no need to discuss line by line and raised the point on how the Action Plan would be manage if it is a living document.

Australia highlighted that they were still very mindful on what activities inside the Action Plan and there is no need for the document to be endorsed by the SDMOF. In Australia's point of view, the most important thing is to have the document ready in 2016 as has been instructed by the Ministers.

Co-chairs (Japan) suggested to make summary report of the Action Plan since there are many important points to be reported and in her view, the EPWG still needs to report to the SDMOF on this matter.

5. Review Intersessional Work and Project implementation

APEC Secretariat Program Director reported on two works done intersessionally after the 9th EPWG meeting, namely the updated EPWG Term of Reference (ToR) that was endorsed by SCE2 on June 2016 in Arequipa and Guidelines for Co-Chairs of APEC EPWG and Steering Committee Co-Chairs that was endorsed intersessionally by the EPWG on 6 May 2016. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/004 and 2016/SOM3/EPWG/005)

Representative from Chinese Taipei reported on the progress of the establishment of “APEC Emergency Preparedness Capacity Building Center (EPCC)” which the ToR was endorsed intersessionally by the EPWG on 15 March 2016. The EPCC office will be opened in January 2017 for operationalize. EPCC will focus primarily on cross-cutting and cross fora capacity building efforts through scientific research on emergency preparedness issue. It is planned that EPCC will submit its working plan to the EPWG in SOM1 2017. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/014)

Representative of the United States updated the meeting on the APEC-US co-funded project on “Strengthening Public Alert and Early Warning Capacity Project”. The workshop is scheduled to take place in Iquitos on 6-7 October 2016 in Iquitos. Further he also reported on the result of the survey that was conducted as part of the project (2016/SOM3/EPWG/006). Chinese Taipei welcomed the workshop and the project while highlighted that member economies could make full use of ICT and social media to strengthen public alert and early warning.

Representative of the United States reported on Workshop on Operationalizing APEC Guidelines on Appropriate Donations – Best Practice, Approaches and Strategies that is going to be held after the EPWG Meeting in Lima on 17 -18 August 2016. According to the guidelines that was endorsed in 2014, monetary donation is the most effective way to response to disaster. China thanked the United States for holding the workshop and this issue is very important as China recently just passed a Donation Law in China.

Representative of Australia presented to the meeting on the Summary Report on Strengthening Governments’ Role in Promoting Business Continuity Planning. In his report, he stated that Australia has conducted two BCP workshop in 2016 and the initiative has trained around 300 officials. He emphasized that the work in APEC was not just focused on training the SMEs to better use the BCP but also government officials since according to him there was a gap in the implementation of BCP. He further pointed out that there was a lack of cooperation, coordination, and fragmented approach on how government promote the use of BCP in their economies. Australia will consider future activities if there is a need and demand from economies to target government agencies, since the work on targeting SMEs has been done by SMEs WG. Chinese Taipei Representative thanked Australia for this initiative and ready to cooperate for future work. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/007)

Co-chairs (Japan) briefed the meeting on Japan self-funded Project on Workshop on Tsunami Disaster Risk Reduction that is going to be held after the 10th EPWG Meeting on 16 August 2016 in Lima. She mentioned that the purpose of the workshop is to: (i) identify the status of anti-tsunami policies and measures in member economies; (ii) discuss major challenges to be addressed by EPWG; (iii) strengthen partnership with private sector in promoting anti-tsunami measures. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/015)

Representative of Viet Nam made a brief overview on Viet Nam project on APEC Capacity Building Workshop on the participation of Women and Vulnerable Groups’ in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management towards Resilient Community and Sustainable Growth. Further he stated that if funding were approved, the implementation of 2 (two) day workshop will be held in April 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City. Representative of Australia stated his support towards the project and that if the project were not succeeded in obtaining the APEC funding, Australia was seriously considered working with Viet Nam to self-fund the implementation of the project.

Co-chairs (Japan) presented the CN on Enhancing Rural Disaster Resilience through Effective Infrastructure Investment that was submitted for Project Session 2. Japan conveyed her appreciation to the Philippines, Chinese Taipei and USA for their support by co-sponsoring this project. The project focuses mainly on “Rehabilitation and Build Back Better“, as well as on prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, as defined in the APEC DRR Framework endorsed in 2016. The project also emphasises the importance of infrastructure development planning in particular in rural areas. If funding were secured for this project, there will be survey and workshop conducted.

6. Major Disaster Event in the APEC Region and new initiatives from Member Economies

Representative of Indonesia stated that since the focal point of EPWG from Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency was not present at the meeting thus Indonesia was not able to brief the meeting on the earthquake in Western Indonesia and flash flood and landslides in Central Indonesia.

Co-chairs (Japan) briefed on 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake Survey Report that was conducted on 18-21 May 2016 after the earthquake in Kumamoto that hit southwestern Japan on 14 and 16 April 2016. The survey team visited mostly affected area in Kumamoto and assessed the extent of damage and recovery with particular focus on the human resource development for DRR, house damage assessments for rapid reconstruction, affected cultural heritage and possibilities of creative reconstruction by tourism. Based on the results of the survey, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) would like to continue to investigate the major themes and to promote among other sharing disaster experiences and disaster education, evacuation approaches, possibility of disaster tourism for the reconstruction of affected areas, impact on the supply chain, BCP formulation effects for companies, and strengthening the local DRR information infrastructure. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/008)

Co-chairs (Viet Nam) presented the overview on droughts and saltwater intrusion situation in Viet Nam. He pointed out that since late 2014, El Nino has affected Viet Nam that caused rising temperature and shortage of rainfall. This further leads to drought and saltwater intrusion that caused heavy damage and continuing serious threat to production and people's life. This situation affected two million people and more or less around 460.000 households experiencing lack of drinking water and household water use. Since then, Viet Nam has actively engaged in emergency relief activities with the support from International Community. Viet Nam was also developing a middle and long term recovery plan. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/016)

Co-chairs (Viet Nam) further presented on Viet Nam's self-funded project on tsunami: "Construction of the Tsunami Warning System for High Risk Areas". The objectives of the project are to ensure promptly receive information, through the system of lookout stations and mobile messages in order to actively respond and control disasters, minimum the damages of disaster, contribute to the development of economic – society stability, enhancing national security, enhance the capacity of tsunami warning communications (also other disasters) from communication agency to government agencies and local levels in order to direct and command respond, raise community awareness in the prevention, responds and minimize damages of natural disasters. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/017)

Representative of China presented on Disaster Relief and Donation in China. She stated that in 2016, major disasters that hit China were floods, typhoon, and landslide that have negatively impacted several provinces in China and were impacted 140 million people. She also briefly informed the meeting on Nepartak Typhoon and presented statistic figure on severe losses caused by those disasters. She further informed the meeting on measures taken to relief those disasters including creating specific fund for disaster relief works including reconstruction fund. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/018)

Representative of the United States made a presentation on flood that hit West Virginia in June 2016. He informed the U.S Government's Response were among other: (i) issued a Presidential disaster declaration on 25 June, (ii) engagement of several national relief programs, (iii) \$72 million in total assistance approved as of 28 July. Federal government has also provided assistance to individuals and communities by among other housing assistance, disaster legal services, and other assistance needed including public assistance. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/009)

Representative of Russia informed the meeting on Activities of EMERCOM of Russia in the Field of Humanitarian Assistant to the Asia Pacific Region "Improvement of the Rapid Exchange Center of EMERCOM". In his intervention he stated that Russian Federation continues to place international cooperation in particular for Asia Pacific in the field of disaster as priority by among other conducting humanitarian assistance, sharing of best practice, information on framework, and other disaster responses.

Representative of Chinese Taipei briefed the meeting on Emergency Responses to Kaohsiung Earthquake and Typhoon Nepartak in Chinese Taipei, 2016. The 6.4 magnitude earth quake hit

Meinong, Kaohsiung City on 6 February 2016 which caused 117 died and 546 wounded. At his presentation, he summarized numbers of damages and casualties, as well as emergency operation to response to the earthquake in particular operations taken by NCDR. He also pointed out some lessons learned from the quakes including to retrofit on old-existing buildings, the needs of modern technique to identify people under deep debris, to enhance resilience of underground pipelines, the importance of Business Continuity Plan to help quick recovery, to raise public risk perception: impacts by soil liquefaction, acknowledgement that space remodeling requires a professional certificate to ensure seismic safety. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/019)

Delegate from the Philippines updated the meeting on the recent flood and landslides including the response that has been taken by the Government of the Philippines, however he highlighted that no big disaster hit Philippines recently.

Representative of Republic of Korea briefed on Korea domestic policy initiative regarding Disaster Safety Communication Network Building. He explained about the concept of Korea Safe-Net which will utilize a nationwide unified network by activities such as usual duties and prevention services as well as integrated command, control and assistance among all agencies in disaster. Pilot project was done from November 2015 – June 2016 and there will be 2 (two) phases of implementation, which phase 1 will involve 9 provinces and phase 2 will involve Seoul, GyeongGi & 6 Metropolitan Cities. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/020)

Representative of Thailand briefed on Major Disasters and DRR Initiatives as in the past year, Thailand was faced with worst drought since 1997 which affected 548 districts in 42 provinces. These disasters brought impact on the economy which cost of damage from drought in the last season was around 2 billion USD and declined in the rice production by almost 20 percent. Responses to the drought crisis was undertaken by the government which anti-drought measures including among other soft loan for projects with low interest and 5 years to return, training for new occupation, promotion of new products, temporary suspension of rice production. He also raised some challenges to tackle this drought season as well as new initiative to tackle those challenges including adoption of new version of the Thailand Plan on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. He also pointed out on lessons learned from the past major disasters and highlighted that the new plan offers more effective coordination system as well as the improvement of leadership intervention. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/021).

7. APEC Cross-Fora Report and Outreaching Collaborations

By the invitation of EPWG Co-chairs, Mr. Javier Roca Fabian (the Chair of Senior Finance Officials Meeting (SFOM)) shared the meeting on the Senior Finance Officers Process related to Disaster Risk Reduction Financing and discussion under the SFOM process including Disaster Risk Financing Working Group. In 2015 the Finance Ministers adopted the Cebu Action Plan (CAP) as a ten year road map for the Finance Ministers' process with the aim of building an APEC economy that is more financially resilience and connected. This document has several financial initiatives and divided into 4 (four) pillars namely (i) promoting financial integration, (ii) advancing financial reform and transparency, (iii) enhancing financial resiliency, (iv) accelerating infrastructure development in finances. Under enhancing financial resiliency, the CAP has initiative called disaster risk management financing solutions in insurance, which has several activities such as collection of disasters data, the analysis of possibility of constructing disasters risk database, research of the status of disaster risk data and insurance system, establishing and promoting private disaster insurance schemes including deepening disaster risk insurance penetration. For that purpose, 2 (two) workshop on Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance was organized. The first one held in Lima, on 13-14 February 2016 with a title of "Improving Catastrophic Risk Data". This aimed to share experience among APEC Economies and to develop a set of recommendations in the field of disaster risk financing and insurance. Workshop also engaged the participation of World Bank and OECD and the finding was there was a gap in catastrophic risk data including for public assets and vulnerability. The second workshop was entitle domestic catastrophic insurance pooling with the aim to encourage APEC economies to recognize the importance of insurance to help reduce the contingency fiscal risk. This process was also involving private sector through ABAC and forming a Working Group on Regional Disaster Risk Financing Solutions. The WG consists of representative of Peru, Philippines, Canada, Chile, Japan, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, the USA, ABAC, OECD, and World

Bank. The WG agreed on developing standard methodology for public assets exposure database and standard methodology for insurance exposure and incurred claims database.

Member economies conveyed their appreciation for the comprehensive presentation and the work under FMP. Chinese Taipei Representative reiterated the importance of risk insurance and SME has a crucial role to be engaged in the discussion of disaster risk insurance, while the Representative of the USA acknowledged that disaster risk insurance penetration was very low in the Asia Pacific Region, thus made the work of FMP important.

Co-Chairs (Japan) presented the document on Compilation of Good Practices on Enhancing Resilience of GVC to Natural Disaster. The paper is compiled based on the presentations made during the APEC Capacity Building Seminar on Enhancing Resilience of Global Value Chains to Natural Disasters held in Tokyo, Japan on March 14-16th 2016. The paper also consists of discussions and future directions to enhance resilience of GVCs against natural disasters. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/011)

Representative of the USA briefed on “Best Practices in Policies, Regulations and Flexibility for Resilience of Global Value Chains” (TPT WG Project endorsed by EPWG). In her presentation on Supply Chain Resilience Update, she reminded the group on APEC Seven Principles of Supply Chain Resilience in which one principle was promoted each year for all economies. This year 2016, with APEC funded project, led by United States, a Resilient Responder Workshop will be held on 26 – 27 September 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. Another project under this issue is also focus on one developing economy in each year, in which last year was taken by the Philippines and this year in 2016 will be the Viet Nam that will develop an Action Plan for Supply Chain Resilience. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/010)

Delegation from China presented on the development of civil society engagement into disaster donation work. In her presentation, she shared information regarding donation work and the history of donation in China. She also presented the statistic that depicted the amount of donation received from the whole society starting in 2008 when the Wenchuan Earthquake hit. The big amount received demonstrated their willingness to engage in the disaster relief work. In that regard, the government tried to regulate the donation which include the issue of who to donate, what to donate and how to donate including where the money goes and transparency. The government then issued a regulation on Donation Laws. The Government of China also empowered civil society to assist in collecting the donation. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/018)

Representative from INBAR made a presentation on the use of Bamboo in the Andean Countries: Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Smart Infrastructure and sustainable livelihood. In his presentation, he briefly explained about the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan which is an intergovernmental agency to represent major bamboo or rattan producers and how bamboo was used to build back housing after the disaster.

The United States presented an update on the Energy Resilience Taskforce under the EWG, co-chairs by the United States and the Philippines. Established in 2015 to help address critical challenges to energy infrastructure coming from climate change and natural and man-made disasters. The group discussed on the strategy to increase energy resilience through build capacity and share best practices. The task force held their meeting in May 2016 in the margin of Energy Working Group Meeting in Canberra. At that meeting the task force finalized their Term of Reference (ToR) and implementation plan. EWG was also seeking more collaboration with other WG including EPWG.

8. Discussion on revision of the EPWG Strategic plan

Co-chairs (Japan) reminded the group that current EPWG Strategic Plan will be expired by the end of 2016. In that regard, she discussed about the strategic plan for 2017-2020 and invite member economies' for inputs. Co-chairs (Japan) proposed that same structure could be maintained. Further she proposed that Intersessional work will be done before 11th EPWG Meeting.

9. Report of the Secretariat

APEC Program Director briefed the meeting on an update on the project management process. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/022)

Further she also informed the meeting on the work under Friends of the Chair (FoTC) on Connectivity with regard to a paper on "Enhancing the APEC Yearly Review Framework on Connectivity" that will be endorsed at the upcoming FoTC meeting. The paper suggested to consider the complementarity between the APEC Connectivity Blueprint and APEC Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Framework and proposed the Secretariat to include DRR related work on Connectivity at the Report.

IT Division from the APEC Secretariat also briefed the new ACS that will be implemented in 2017. (2016/SOM3/EPWG/023)

10. Documentation Classification List

APEC Secretariat and the meeting reviewed the Document Classification List and endorsed the Document 2016/SOM3/EPWG/000.

11. Agenda Item 14: Other Business

No other issue was raised.

Viet Nam presented a video on Viet Nam hosting year of 2017 and invite delegation to attend the upcoming EPWG Meeting that will be held in February 2016 in Nha Trang, Viet Nam.

12. Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs

Both Co-chairs delivered their closing remarks to close the meeting.