APEC’s Vision of Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness and Response

Submitted by: Australia

Dialogue Among APEC Economies, Business Community, Key International and Regional Partners on Emergency Preparedness
Ha Noi, Viet Nam
24-25 April 2008
APEC’s Vision of Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness and Response

Mr. Neil Head
Director, Policy Projects & Information
Emergency Management Australia

[representing both TFEP Co-chair Helena Studdert & Australian Head of Delegation to APEC Emergency Management CEO’s Forum, Tony Pearce, Director-General, Emergency Management Australia]

Introduction

- TFEP revived by Senior Officials 2005 in response to 2004 tsunami
- 2 primary objectives:
  - Intra-APEC cooperation
  - Capacity-building to prepare for emergencies
- Key APEC strengths
  - Multi-sectoral participation
  - High-level political commitments
  - Private-sector partnerships
  - Broad regional reach
  - Conduit for cooperative response to regional disasters
APEC’s Vision of Emergency Preparedness

- Develop **best practice capacity** in the region to better prepare economies for future disasters
- Support community-based disaster response plans to minimise **economic disruption**
- Promote intra-APEC **information sharing** and communication of outcomes
- Share information and resources through **disaster management experts**
- Ensure APEC **complements** and does not duplicate the work of other international organisations

Emergency Preparedness Planning Framework

**ALL HAZARDS**

- Pandemic
- Tsunami
- Earthquake
- Response to Man-made emergency
- Space debris

Prevention  Preparedness  Response  Recovery
Ongoing Significance

- **APEC Leaders 2007:**
  - “We agreed on the need to further strengthen APEC’s efforts to build community resilience and preparedness for emergencies...”

- **APEC Ministers 2007:**
  - “Strengthening emergency preparedness is an abiding priority for APEC and promoting the economic benefits of investing in risk reduction is an important means to achieve this.”
  - “… we welcomed new initiatives to further cooperation between our senior emergency and disaster management officials, business and international partners…”

A Role for APEC as a Regional Organisation

- **UN Hyogo Framework for Action** establishes a key role for regional organisations – to develop:
  - Programmes to support disaster risk reduction
  - Baseline assessments and progress reviews
  - Early warning capacities
  - Information sources including examples of best practice

- **APEC facilitates unique North-South cooperation**
- **Asia remains most severely affected by natural disasters**
Economic Dimensions of Emergency Preparedness

- *Hyogo Framework* recognises need to address economic impact of emergencies
- APEC’s broad agenda is trade liberalisation and business facilitation – impeded by natural disasters
- APEC can add value to emergency preparedness by coordinating with the business community
  - Business resilience to disasters contributes to sustainable development
  - Public-private partnerships can reduce the overall impact of disasters

Key APEC Achievements – Past and Present

- APEC Pandemic Response Exercise 2006
  - All 21 APEC economies participated together with observers from international fora – including the WHO
- APEC Emergency Management CEO’s Forum 2007 Australia
- Women in Times of Disaster 2008
  - Ongoing project to ensure women are able to sustain their livelihood after a disaster event
- ABAC project to foster emergency preparation by business 2008
  - Focus on protecting critical infrastructure
- APEC Emergency Management CEO’s Forum 2008 Peru
Emergency Management CEOs’ Forum 2007

- Brought together senior emergency management officials from APEC economies for the first time
- Created a unique opportunity for engagement between APEC economies and international partners including UN organisations
- Facilitated reporting to Leaders on cooperation from a practitioners’ point of view
- Generated agreement to engage the private sector in building capacity for emergency preparedness

APEC Emergency Management 2008

- TFEP facilitates high-level implementation of APEC’s vision of emergency preparedness
- CEOs’ Forum is run by practitioners – plays a key role in capacity-building and information exchange
- Peru is leading the TFEP to formulate a Strategy for emergency preparedness in the Asia-Pacific
  - To promote cooperation between member economies
  - To develop synergies between diverse regional actors
  - Will incorporate a 2nd CEOs’ Forum
TFEP Looking Forward

- To progress regional emergency management:
  - Economic impact of disasters
  - Community and business resilience
  - Regional exercising
  - Training/secondments/exchanges
  - Sub-regional emergency strategic planning

- CEOs’ Forum 2008
  - Build on work of 2007 CEOs’ Forum
  - Respond to Ministers’ call for greater cooperation between emergency management practitioners
  - Report to APEC Senior Officials and Leaders

www.ema.gov.au

EMAsafer sustainable communities