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Enhancing the Capabilities of Disaster Reduction and Relief, Improving the Level of Natural Disaster Emergency Management

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**6th Senior Disaster Management Officials
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Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)
6th Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum
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Enhancing the Capabilities of Disaster Reduction and Relief, Improving the Level of Natural Disaster Emergency Management

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As we all know, the Asia-Pacific region experiences 70% of the world's natural disasters with a wide range of disaster types and a high frequency of occurrence. For many years, the economies in Asia-pacific region attach great importance to disaster management and keep enhancing the communication and cooperation in the field of disaster management to raise the public awareness on disasters and upgrade the level of disaster prevention and reduction in the region.

China is one of the economies most severely affected by natural disasters in the world. China's natural disasters are featured by the multi-diversity, high frequency, wide coverage and grave losses.



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Over the past 22 years from 1990 to 2011, each year on an average, natural disasters affected

- about 300 million people,
- the collapse of more than 300 million houses and
- a direct economic loss of 30 billion dollars

Especially, catastrophic disasters had caused huge casualties and losses, such as the 1998 Great Flood in the Yangtze River basin, the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake, the 2010 Yushu Earthquake, and the 2010 Zhouqu Flash Flood and Mud Slide.

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to the natural disaster emergency management. Upholding the principles of “people first”, scientific development and harmonious society building, China has integrated the disaster prevention and reduction into its national economic and social development plan.



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A series measures have been taken to strengthen the capability of comprehensive disaster prevention and reduction

- the establishment of a legal system, an organizational system and/or a mechanism on disaster prevention, reduction and relief;
- natural disaster monitoring and forecasting, emergency response and rescue, disaster relief, disaster prevention and resilience in infrastructure, disaster reduction in urban and rural communities;
- various approaches and resources to strengthen the emergency management of all kinds of disasters;
- social participation and public awareness of disaster prevention and reduction;
- international exchange and cooperation to share the experience and good practices

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I. The capability building of disaster information management

an information management system on disasters with five characteristics:

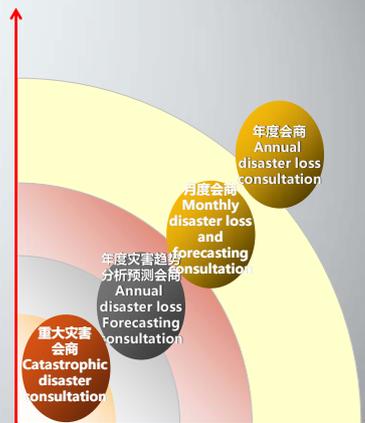
- fast delivery and transmission of information on disasters.
- accurate data of disaster situation based on county-level information



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I. The capability building of disaster information management

- establishment of a consultation mechanism
- supports to government's decision making
- quick information release



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II. The capability building of disaster relief material reserve

The Chinese government pays great attention to the capability building of disaster relief material reserve.

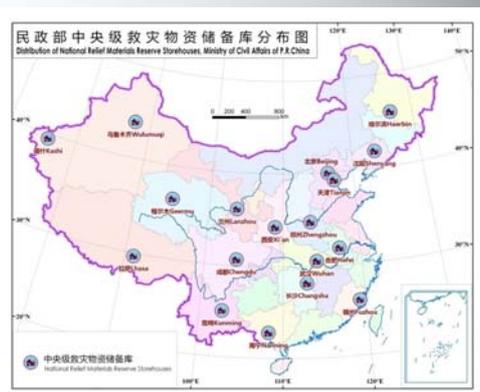
- ◆ keeping a variety of reserved items: **12 types of materials such as tent, coat, quilt, etc in the central-level warehouses, keeping a scale of 300,000 tents in central-level warehouses; convenience foods and drinking water on the reserving list of local warehouses;**
- ◆ setting up strict industry standards: By now, there are 16 industrial standards established for disaster relief with specifications on the rules of production, testing, inspection, product logo, packing, transportation and reservation, etc,



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II. The capability building of disaster relief material reserve

- ◆ enabling fast allocating of reserve materials:
 - 17 central-level warehouses have been built nationwide;
 - all provinces and 92% cities and 60% counties have built their local warehouses or reserving centers for disaster relief;
 - supply of disaster relief materials for the [victims](#) within 24 hours after disaster's occurrence

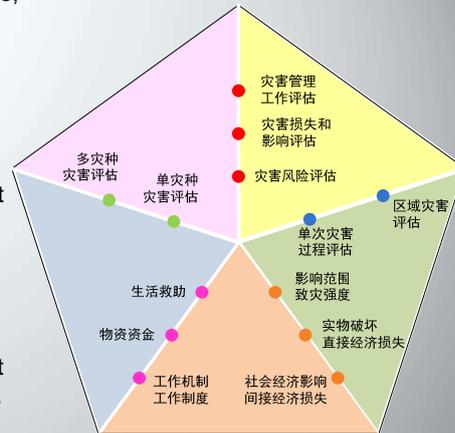


- ◆ improving the ability of management:
 - *The information management system of disaster relief reserve materials;*
 - integrate central, provincial, city and county level governments' information and realize the network management of storage, allocation, acceptance of materials .

III. The capability building of disaster comprehensive assessment

- ◆ disaster assessment includes 7 aspects,
 - disaster risk assessment,
 - rapid middle-disaster loss assessment,
 - post-disaster comprehensive loss assessment,
 - disaster relief needs assessment,
 - disaster relief capability assessment,
 - disaster relief performance assessment
 - annual comprehensive assessment.

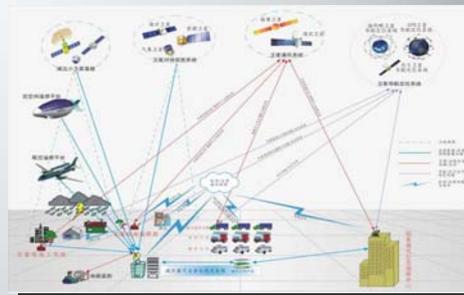
◆ contains a set of systematized quantitative indexes. For example, there are 13 statistical reporting tables in post-disaster loss assessment, involving about 40 industries and more than 800 indexes.



III. The capability building of disaster comprehensive assessment

◆ disaster assessment is based on high-tech approaches. Based on the integrated “space-ground-site” platform, comprehensive assessment is conducted by using space techniques such as RS, GPS and GIS.

◆ importance is attached to make the best use of assessment outcomes. Disaster comprehensive assessment provides reference for the decision-making in disaster emergency response, disaster relief, recovery and reconstruction.



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IV. The capacity building of disaster recovery and reconstruction

- ◆ all the reconstruction work is well-organized.
 - using the resources all over the economy;
 - one to one support;
- For example, in the reconstruction of Wenchuan Earthquake, totally 15 billion US dollars were invested by 19 provinces/cities in 3 years, one province helping one hardest-hit county.
- ◆ the reconstruction is put on a legal basis.
 - *Wenchuan Earthquake Reconstruction Regulations*



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IV. The capacity building of disaster recovery and reconstruction

- ◆ high-speed reconstruction.
 - one year after Wenchuan Earthquake, 2.92 million rural houses and 1.46 million urban houses had been repaired;
 - within one year and half, 1.91 million rural houses had been reconstructed,
 - within two years, 290 thousand urban houses built; furthermore, all reconstruction work were finished within three years.
- ◆ high-quality reconstruction.
 - seismic fortification intensity of schools and hospitals was increased from 7 to 8;
 - infrastructures;
 - industry structure
 - jobs for family members,
 - social security for everyone,
 - economy develops and ecological environment



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Here, we would like to make the following suggestions in capacity building: first, enhance information sharing on products; second, strengthen information sharing on techniques and experience; third, explore the cooperation on joint research on disaster risks with a purpose to build up a disaster risk control system; fourth, deepen the existing multi-lateral and bilateral cooperation to benefit all the economies.

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With the intention of win-win cooperation and mutual development, we will truly strengthen our capacity of disaster reduction and relief in the Asia-Pacific region, and build a safer and better region.



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THANK YOU

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