EPWG Overview

Submitted by: EPWG Co-Chair
EPWG Overview

Leslie Williams
EPWG Co-Chair

Presentation

CONTEXT

Recent trends in global emergency
Disasters in APEC over the last year
Disaster management in APEC matters?

EPWG

History in brief
Mandate and approach
Medium term objectives
Summary of activities
Global Emergency Trends

Since the year 2000 over 2500 disasters
- affected billions of people
- causing loss of life
- displacing populations
- wreaking economic damage

2010 year of extreme weather, one of the warmest on record
- 950 major natural disasters compared with 785 in 2009
- 2011 is also shaping up badly:
  - Japanese earthquake and tsunami
  - two earthquakes in NZ
  - severe flooding in northern Australia
  - wildfires in Texas - more than 1000 homes destroyed

Scientist warn that the intensity, frequency and impact of weather-related disasters will rise in coming decades
- Made worse by:
  - Growing population
  - Unplanned urbanisation
  - Poor land use management
  - Changing climate patterns

Recent Disasters in APEC Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disaster</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 earthquake in Chile</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>US$30 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010 wildfires across Russia</td>
<td></td>
<td>300,000 hectares of forest destroyed</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010/11 floods in Australia</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>US$20 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011 tsunami in Japan</td>
<td>24,000 (estimated)</td>
<td>Reconstruction costs 2-4% GDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 earthquake in NZ</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>US$16 billion</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Why disaster management in APEC matters?

World's Surface

- APEC economies: 48%
- The rest of the world: 52%

World Population

- The rest of the world: 60%
- APEC economies: 40%

Why disaster management in APEC matters?

Size of disasters in the APEC region

- APEC economies: 70%
- Rest of the world: 30%
Why disaster management in APEC matters?

APEC economies generate over 50% of global GDP & over 40% of world trade

- Region’s security & prosperity - crucial to world’s economic development
- Disasters affecting one APEC economy – have detrimental effects on others
EPWG’s History in Brief

Established by APEC Senior Officials in 2005 following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami

Originally called the Virtual Task Force for Emergency Preparedness, most of its work was done by electronic communication.

In 2009, APEC Leaders reaffirmed the importance of enhancing human security and reducing disruptions to business and trade.

As a result, in 2010 the taskforce was upgraded to a working group.

The EPWG is currently co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia but their term expires this year.

EPWG’s Mandate and Approach

What is EPWG’s Mandate?

Mitigate, Prepare for, Respond to, Recover from Emergencies and Disasters

What is EPWG’s Approach?

maintaining a platform to share ideas, lessons learned and best practices

engaging with multilateral bodies, the private sector, non-government organisations and civil society

Ensuring that its activities complement and not duplicate other international efforts
Medium-term Objectives

To ensure that APEC political decision-makers understand the economic and social costs of disasters and the human/economic costs of failing to take action

To identify gaps in approaches to regional disaster risk reduction to support the delivery of targeted capacity building initiatives

To develop practical mechanisms to help APEC economies build business and community resilience

These goals were formulated in response to directions from APEC Leaders, Ministers, Senior Officials and ABAC

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Are consistent with the APEC Growth Strategy and the APEC Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region 2009 - 2015

Summary of Activities in 2011

Implemented

- International Disaster Management workshop (Singapore, 27 March to 1 April)
- Facing the abnormal flood disaster: New vision for APEC member economies (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 28-29 July)
- Workshop on Private Sector Emergencies Preparedness (Shanghai, Japan, 8 & August)

Pending

- Workshop on School Earthquake Safety (Chinese Taipei, 17-19 October)
- Training course on Quantitative Precipitation Estimation Forecasting (Philippines)
- Workshop on prevention of forest fires (Huzhou, November)