



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2016/SOM3/EPWG/021

Agenda Item: 9.11

Update on Major Disaster Event and New Initiatives - Thailand

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Thailand



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

Thailand's Update on Major Disaster and DRR Policy Initiatives

1. Let me first of all expressed my sincere thanks and glatitude for the organizer and host of the 10th EPWG meeting for giving me the opportunity to share with you on what we have done in terms of disaster risk reduction and management. I will be as briefly as possible.
 2. In the past year Thailand was faced with worst drought situation since 1997 which was caused by the so-called El Nino phenomenon.
 3. In terms of the severity, the drought affected 548 districts out of 928 districts in 42 provinces out of 76 provinces. Major water dams had the lowest water level in 50 years.
 4. The impact on the economy, the cost of damage from drought in the last season was around 2 billion USD. The rice production declined almost 20 percent.
 5. The response to the drought crisis was undertaken and led by the government. The anti-drought measures included: 1) Soft loan for projects with low interest and 5 years to return; 2) Training for new occupation; 3) Promotion of new products; 4)Tempolary suspension of Rice production ; 5) Royal rain making project; 6) Distribution of water ; and 7) Rehabilitation of underground water pump.
 6. The challenges were: 1) The prolonged period of drought ; 2) Poor preparation for drought season; 3) The lacking of necessary resources; 4) Increase of demand for water;and 5) Environmental issues especially the difficulty in building new water resouvoirs due to resistance from some parties.
 7. As for the new initiative we have in the past year, the government adopted the new version of the National Plan on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. Learned from our past major disaster , the new plan offers more effective coordination system as well as the improvement of leadership intervention. The national plan also embeds some important elements from the Sendai Framework for DRR including the target goals and priority programs of the global framework.
 8. Finally, I would like to inform you that we have been actively participate in the regional activities. As an example we plan to join the World Tsunami Day and the upcoming AMCDRR in November in India. We are also an active member of the ASEAN Cooperation on Disater Management which is based upon the AADMER and guided by the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020.
 9. Thank you very much for your kind attention.
-

Prepared by Mr.Arun Pinta, Director of International Cooperation Division, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) for the 10th Meeting of the EPWG of APEC, Lima, Peru, on 15 August 2016.