



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2019/SOM3/EPWG/010

Agenda Item: 7

Emergency Preparedness Working Group's Achievements and Challenges

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: EPWG Chair



**15th Emergency Preparedness Working Group
Meeting
Puerto Varas, Chile
22 August 2019**



**Asia-Pacific
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EPWG's achievements and challenges

Dr. Wei-Sen Li, APEC EPWG Co-Chairs



What is EPWG in APEC ?

• 2005~2009 TFEP period

- EWPG was known as Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP) in APEC
- In response to 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, 18 members attended the meeting of the TFEP, Bali, Indonesia, 2-3 April 2005
- TFEP was established by Senior Officials in 2005 to coordinate and facilitate emergency and disaster preparedness and response within APEC.
- no involvement of emergency relief
- **In 2009**, APEC Leaders reaffirmed the importance of enhancing human security and reducing the threat of disruptions to business and trade in the Asia-Pacific Region.



From TFEP to EPWG

- **On February 23, 2010, in Hiroshima, Japan**
 - the First Senior Officials' Meeting, the Task Force was approved to be upgraded to a permanent working group.
- **On June 2, 2010, in Sapporo, Japan**
 - During the second meeting of the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE), the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) and
 - the first Co-Chairs of Australia and Indonesia
 - Incumbent Co-Chairs: Chinese Taipei



EPWG's Mandate

- **1. To build capacity in the region so that APEC member economies can better**
 - mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and natural disasters,
 - including by **building business and community resilience** and fostering **private-public partnerships** to protect business, trade and economic growth and communities from disruption.

The EPWG – along with the health (HWG) and counter-terrorism (CCTF) working groups – is an important part of **APEC's human security agenda** to protect business, trade and economic growth from disruptions.



EPWG's Mandate

- **2. To improve coordination and enhance intra-APEC cooperation and integration of best practice emergency and natural disaster preparedness efforts in APEC, including by**
 - fostering research and collaboration, sharing knowledge, lessons learnt and best practices in the field of **emergency management**
 - to better protect business, trade and economic growth and communities in the Asia-Pacific region from disruptions related to emergencies and natural disasters.

Key documents under EPWG

- **APEC Disaster Reduction Risk Framework (APEC DRRF)**
 - Endorsed in 2015
- **APEC DRR Action Plan (DRRAP)**
 - Submitted in 2016
- **EPWG Strategic Plan 2017**
 - Endorsed in 2017
- **Emergency Preparedness Working Group Updated Terms of Reference**
 - Revised in 2018
- **Guidelines for Co-Chairs and Steering Committee Chair of APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)**



Top priorities of APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group since 2010



- **Business and community resilience**
- **Public-private partnerships**
- **Disaster risk reduction**
- **Cooperation and coordination with regional and international stakeholders**
- **Preparations for the recovery phase**

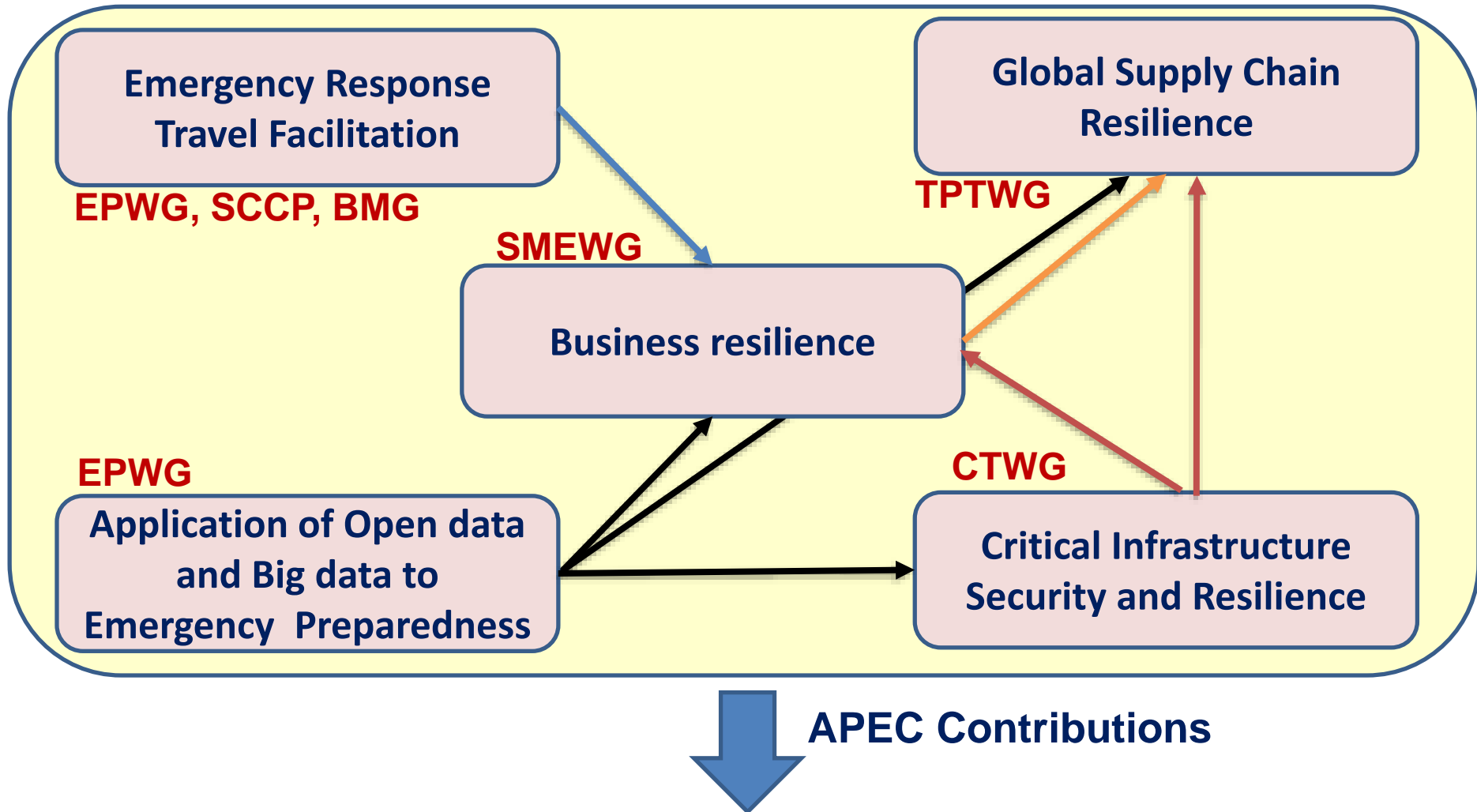


Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum

- **Emergency Management CEO's Forum**
 - CEO: Chief Executive Official
 - **From 2007 till 2010**, the first CEO was held in Cairns, Australia
- **Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum**
 - The 5th SDMOF was held in San Francisco, the US **in 2011**
- **SDMOF's reports and statement**
 - Most host proposed a theme for each SDMOF
- **SDMOF and EPWG meeting**
 - Structural relationship



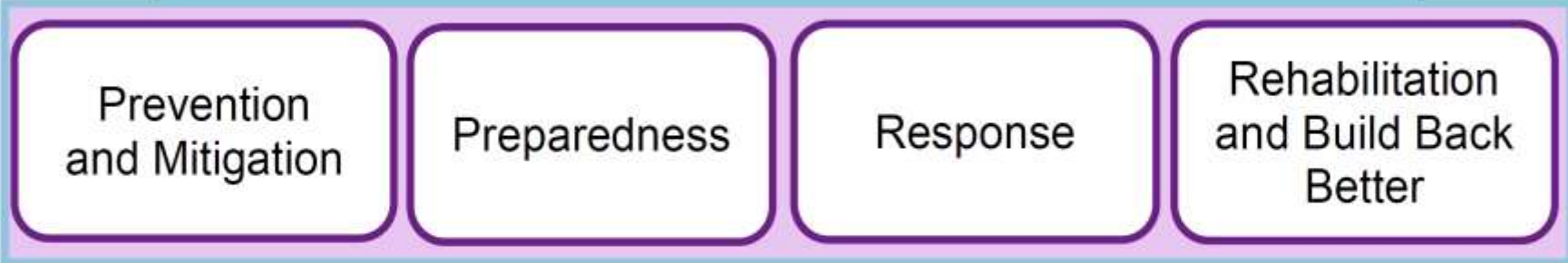
Cross-fora collaboration





APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (APEC DRRF) Oct. 2015

Adaptive and Disaster-Resilient Asia-Pacific Economies
Supporting Inclusive and Sustainable Development



Community Participation

Disaster Risk Governance

Disaster Risk Financing

Science and Technology

Critical Infrastructure Resiliency

Ecological Integrity

Inclusiveness of Women and Vulnerable Sectors in DRR



Challenges

- **Quorum issues**
 - Each working group meeting must have **14 or more** member economies
 - In last two year, **EPWG failed and receives a notice** to solve the issues
 - Improve EPWG's operation
- **Projects proposed under EPWG**
 - EPWG **proposed less APEC projects** including
 1. APEC-funded
 2. Self-funded
 - EPWG needs momentum
 - A mechanism to assist in preparing concept notes and project proposal



Cross-fora interaction and collaboration

- **SMEWG**
 - Business continuity, O2O
- **TPTWG**
 - Global supply chain resilience
- **TELWG**
 - for early warning
- **PPSTI**
 - With APCC, ACTS
- **CTWG**
 - Critical infrastructure protection
- **SCSC**
 - Climate change
- **EWG**
 - Resilience of critical infrastructure
- **PPFS**
 - Resilient
- **PPWE**
 - Female empowerment
- **OFWG**
 - Early warning of tsunami, EQ



Enhancing EPWG's operation

- **Discussion on**
 - Policy dialogue groups on focal issues
 - **Early warning system, resilient city, ICT, search & rescue, DRR policy,....**
 - Schedule to host EPWG working group meeting and SDMOF
 - **One or two EPWG working group meetings (by host or voluntary member)**
 - **Positioning SDMOF and EPWG working**
 - Sharing information of relevant capacity building programs
 - Organize focal points for EPWG network
 - **Network by instant messengers**
 - **APEC EPWG satellite website**
 - Cross-fora



Discussion on EPWG's core work to support APEC agenda: topics could include

- 1. EPWG's mandate**
- 2. Roadmap for EPWG**
- 3. Cross-fora collaboration**
- 4. APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (APEC DRRF)**
- 5. New initiatives**



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- More collaboration-