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**8th Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum -
Strengthening Science and Technology in Disaster
Risk Reduction - Proposed Recommendations**

Submitted by: China



**8th Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum
Beijing, China
11-12 August 2014**

APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)
8th Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum
August 11–12, 2014, Beijing, China

“Science and technology strengthening disaster risk reduction”

Recommendations

(to be adopted by 8th SDMOF on 12 Aug)

The Eighth APEC Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (SDMOF) was held in Beijing, China on August 11–12, 2014, with a dedicated theme on “Science and technology strengthening disaster risk reduction”. It was participated by senior disaster management officials and delegates from 17 APEC member economies of Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam, and 4 international organizations of UNDP, UNICEF, UNSPIDER and ADPC.

Considering the critical enabling role of science and technology for effective and efficient disaster preparedness and emergency response, the SDMOF adopted the following action-oriented recommendations to be implemented by APEC member economies.

1. Enhancing awareness of policy makers through dissemination of DRR-related scientific knowledge and technical information via multiple channels to bridge the gap between them and trained professionals, and to create synergy for achieving long-term DRR strategies and plans, and integration with climate change adaptation.
2. Strengthening the role of S&T applications in DRR and emergency response, such as sharing of knowledge and information including synergy and be complementary with indigenous technologies and local wisdom, resources, best practices and experiences, and joint research development, to better prepare for large-scale and cross-boundary disasters. Priority would given to following fields:
 - a) Enhancing collaborative initiatives of S&T enabled disaster monitoring and early warning systems for all types of hazards;
 - b) Sharing experiences in applications of S&T in emergency management, particularly in disaster management information system, public warning dissemination, emergency communications, multi-platform disaster assessment, and techniques assisting search and rescue actions;
 - c) Continuing to finalize the Work Plan on Emergency Response Travel

Facilitation(ERTF) as mandated by APEC Ministerial Joint Statement 2013.

3. Strengthening the role of S&T in post-disaster rehabilitation and the recovery process to ensure “Build back better” with stronger resilience to disaster risks and improved development sustainability.
4. Balancing response-focused disaster management with risk reduction and prevention oriented disaster risk governance by taking full advantage of cross-cutting S&T opportunities and capabilities.
5. Concurrent investment in S&T and related infrastructure development to meet actual needs in DRR and emergency response and to strengthen evidence-based disaster management.
6. Facilitating public–private partnerships (PPPs) for the provision of S&T enabled services and solutions for DRR and emergency response, such as remote sensing and communication satellite services, and for the development of insurance for large-scale disasters.

Suggested wording on S&T for DRR

to be incorporated in the APEC Leaders' Statement

We call on the APEC member economies to place more emphasis on the applications of science and technology in disaster management, and recognize them as effective approaches to responding to global climate change and promoting sustainable social-economic development in the region.

Experiences in recent years have consistently demonstrated that the applications of science and technology prove to be an important approach to reducing disaster risks and losses. We encourage further efforts be made among APEC economies to strengthen cooperation in disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and reconstruction, and constantly improve the efficiency of science and technology applications.