Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Chinese Taipei
Executive Summary

In response to the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Disaster Resiliency held in Honolulu, Hawaii in 2011, “Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment” Initiative was approved as a symbol of determination of members to improve disaster resiliency and to secure supply chain connectivity of SMEs by benchmarking business continuity plans (BCPs) in ICT, logistics and auto parts industries.

Since 2012 to 2014, many achievements have been made, such as:

1. A High Level Policy Dialogue on Resilient SMEs for Better Global Supply Chains was held on March 24, 2014 to announce the Joint Statement with SMEWG and EPWG Chair’s endorsement for raising the awareness of SMEs in response to natural disasters and promoting SMEs to adopt BCPs;
2. The Guidebook on SMEs BCPs was published in 7 languages and over 350 seed trainers were trained through a series of symposiums and workshops held in Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand, Vietnam, and Chinese Taipei.

In order to respond 2014’s APEC Economic Leaders and Ministers’ instruct and echoes the 2015 APEC priorities, The Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment project, with the support of SMEWG and APEC Secretariat, will extend to 2015 to further expand the benefits by cooperating with more economies that are in need of assisting SMEs to aware and establish BCPs. The draft annual plan includes, but not limited to:

(1) Hold the APEC Policy Dialogue for SME BCPs Forum and Workshop, which is co-hosted by the Philippines and Chinese Taipei, at the margins of SOM1. Around fifty local seed trainers were trained.
(2) Hold the APEC Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Promoting SME Business Continuity Plans on July 30-31, 2015 at Taipei to train more BCP seed trainers for member economies.

Required Action/Decision Points

It is recommended that Senior Officials:

1. To note the achievements and upcoming plan of the MYP Initiative Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment” and its forthcoming implementation.
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I. Introduction:

This project, in response to the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Disaster Resiliency held in Honolulu, Hawaii on November 11, 2011, intends to improve disaster resiliency and to secure supply chain connectivity of SMEs by benchmarking business continuity plans (BCPs) in ICT, logistics and auto parts industries which are affected greatly by natural disasters, as noted in the flood of Thailand in 2011.

Starting from 2012, the achievements of this multi-year project are many, including:

- A High Level Policy Dialogue on Resilient SMEs for Better Global Supply Chains was held on March 24, 2014 to announce the Joint Statement with SMEWG and EPWG Chair’s endorsement for raising the awareness of SMEs in response to natural disasters and promoting SMEs to adopt BCPs;
- The Guidebook on SMEs BCPs was published in 7 languages and over 350 seed trainers were trained through a series of symposiums and workshops held in Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand, Vietnam, and Chinese Taipei.

II. Project implementation:

The Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment project, with the support of SMEWG and APEC Secretariat, will extend to 2015 to further expand the benefits by cooperating with more economies that are in need of assisting SMEs to aware and establish BCPs.

The APEC Policy Dialogue for SME BCPs Forum and Workshop was co-hosted by the Philippines and Chinese Taipei at the margins of APEC SOM1, January 30, 2015. Fifty local seed trainers were trained.

The APEC Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Promoting SME Business Continuity Plans is to be held from July 30 to 31 of 2015 at Taipei, Chinese Taipei to train more BCP seed trainers for member economies.

III. Expected outcomes:

With the achievements of the past 3 years of this project and through keep hosting BCP workshops in the APEC region, more local SMEs in the Philippines and Chinese Taipei can access the BCP Guidebook more efficiently and with the focus on the typical risks of that local.

Additionally, there will be more seed trainers in the Asia Pacific to keep disseminating the BCP knowledge. Thus, more SMEs will be benefitted because a secure business environment will lower the risk of price increases (or inflation), supply chain disruption, and product shortage, which is relevant to the Next Generation and Trade Issues.

The work also echoes the 2015 APEC priorities and follows 2014’s APEC Economic Leaders and Ministers’ encouragement and suggestion of that we should place more emphasis on the application of science and technology in disaster preparedness, risk reduction, response and post-disaster recovery as well as the establishment of BCPs in order to secure their global supply chains and facilitate trade and investment.

IV. Looking Forward:

The APEC Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Promoting SME Business Continuity Plans will be held in Taipei, July 30-31, 2015. Chinese Taipei sincerely invites you to recommend experts or stakeholders specialized in business continuity plans for SMEs or related issues from public or private sectors to join our event.

Also for your information, The Guidebook on SMEs BCPs in 7 languages (English, Chinese, Spanish, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, and Indonesian) can be downloaded at the webpage of APEC Publications. We also wish to have more economies joining to translate the guidebook into their local language to benefit more SMEs in the APEC region.