



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2020/TWG/COVID-19/003**

Agenda Item: 2.2

## **Updates on Emergency Preparedness Working Group Initiatives Related to COVID-19**

Purpose: information  
Submitted by: EPWG Co-Chair



**Tourism Working Group Virtual Meeting on  
COVID-19  
15 May 2020**

## **2.0 Post COVID-19 Tourism Scenario**

**APEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) Virtual Meeting on COVID-19**

**15 May 2020 (Friday), 10:00 to 13:00 (Malaysia/UTC+8)**

### **2.2**

## **Updates on initiatives related to COVID-19**

**Koji Suzuki,  
Co-Chair, APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group**

# EPWG Co-Chairs letter to EPWG member economies

- proposing EPWG member economies to voluntarily share their practices in responding to Covid-19 pandemic, as of 17<sup>th</sup> April.

From: Co-Chairs of APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)  
To: EPWG member economies  
Subject: Voluntary sharing of practices on the fight against COVID-19

April 17th, 2020

Dear EPWG colleagues,

The global spread of COVID-19 is affecting individuals, families, communities and societies across the world. It has not only overwhelmed health systems but also put unprecedented strain on other sectors including the economy, trade, tourism and emergency management. In this context, APEC Secretariat Executive Director has requested all Program Directors to communicate with fora chairs to discuss what each group can contribute to this global health emergency. As part of APEC efforts, Health Working Group has issued a statement on COVID-19 following the first APEC Senior Officials Meeting, APEC Business Advisory Council also issued one calling for APEC leadership and cooperation to address the challenges, and other related fora are planning or starting to play their roles through their channels.

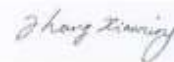
EPWG, with its focus on promoting resilience and sustainability of APEC region, has also been following closely the latest updates. We believe it is of central importance to make our due contribution to the global effort as an APEC Group. Hence, we propose that EPWG member economies to voluntarily share practices on responding to the pandemic, based on your respective conditions and capabilities in the areas of EPWG. We would welcome if EPWG members have comments to this proposal.

If there are no adverse comments, we suggest EPWG members to share their practices on the table as attached in this letter to EPWG Co-Chairs and EPWG Program Director by 5 May 2020. The Program Director will then collate and circulate all inputs to member economies for consideration. Once endorsed by member economies, APEC Secretariat will upload the information on APEC EPWG website.

We would also like to bring your attention to the dual challenge of COVID-19 and disasters. Now as many parts of the region either prepare for - or already in - cyclone season, part of the member economies may be confronted with a major climate-related disaster at a time when they are firmly focused on COVID-19 response and recovery. The physical distancing practices implemented in many economies will also create more difficulties for disaster response, rescue, relief and recovery work. Therefore, disaster risk management becomes even more important to mitigate the possibility and impact of disasters in this already challenging situation. We call for the great concerns and more researches on this dual challenge and necessary preparedness actions for possible disaster response in advance.

It is very likely that COVID-19 has been affecting the scheduled work plans and projects of EPWG member economies. We, EPWG co-chairs, are ready to receive suggestions from you on how to reprogramme and coordinate our work. Let us stand even closer together to tide through the tough time and successfully complete our work of 2020. Thank you for your efforts.

Best regards and with appreciation,



Mr. Xiaoning Zhang



Mr. Koji Suzuki

Co-Chairs, APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)

# Responses from EPWG Member Economies

Australia; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; Malaysia;  
Mexico; Singapore and Chinese Taipei (as of 14<sup>th</sup> May)

## Public health:

border control, movement restrictions, home/community isolation,  
business operation control, media and public relations, remote education,  
remote working, IT technology application, changing event schedule,  
tracking human behavior, stock piling commodities

## Relief package:

hands on cash transfer, benefits in kind, tax exemption, financial  
supports for business operations, job safeguard, price ceiling, resales  
restrictions

# Disaster Management Organizations Concern

- What if disaster attacks in the midst of the pandemic?
- Cyclone Harold hit the Pacific island countries in April
- Tropical Depression Ambo hit Philippines in May
- Typhoon, Earthquake, Tsunami, Volcanic Eruption could happen anytime and anywhere
- Management of evacuation centers with COVID-19

# Response Measures in disaster preparedness and disaster response, especially at the evacuation centers

- Open many evacuation centers, as possible
- Minimize crowd at evacuation centers (other evacuees to stay at relatives' or friends' houses)
- Discuss in advance the evacuation of *home care patients* with health and welfare offices
- Regularly check evacuees' health condition

- Thoroughly practice basic preventive measures (e.g., washing hands and coughing etiquette)
- Maintain hygienic environment at evacuation centers
- Ensure adequate ventilation and space
- Secure space for people with symptoms (e.g., cough and fever)
- Prepare, in advance, appropriate measures in case someone is found infected of COVID-19

# Introducing **Mobipack**

- Decision Making Support System for COVID-19 Management
- Collaboration with University of Tokyo & ADRC



# Mobipack for COVID-19 management

- Tracking the COVID-19 affected people with mobile phone communication data
- Free & open software: **no cost** for introduction and download
- Remotely introduce & download the software: **infection risk free**
- Remotely support the software operation: **infection risk free**
- All the process of data analysis stays in the economy: **data security**
- **University of Tokyo & ADRC** jointly promoting & ready to make web presentation upon request.

# Contact Information

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