

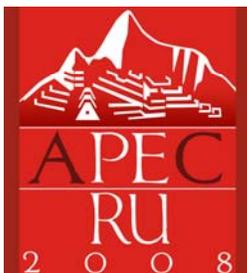


**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: VI

APEC Principles on Disaster Response and Cooperation

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: TFEP



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APEC Principles on Disaster Response and Cooperation

Against the backdrop of frequent natural disasters taking place recently in the Asia-pacific region, disaster related cooperation has been further revitalized in APEC. APEC members are expecting to do more through information sharing, experience exchanging, capacity building and other means to get this region better prepared for disasters.

Based on past practices and experience and giving due consideration of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities, APEC economies have identified the following principles for a better disaster response and cooperation within individual member economy and in the APEC region as a whole. While these principles will serve as guidance for APEC member economies in order to better prepare for emergency situation, they will not, in any way, affect the rights, obligations or responsibilities of member economies under International and domestic law. Member economies are encouraged to make use of these principles on a voluntary basis.

For Individual member economy:

1. Priority should be given to disaster risk mitigation when formulating policies on disaster reduction. Disaster risk management should be incorporated into the process of policy-making and socio-economic development planning by individual member economy.
2. For sake of better disaster mitigation and preparedness, it is important to identify, assess and monitor disaster risk and improve the early-warning system.
3. Preventive measures should be taken to reduce the possible damages to be caused by disaster. A strong institution and system within member economy should be set up to steer the disaster reduction.
4. It is encouraged to draw up an Emergency Preplan for Natural Disaster Response and establish a cross-sector Emergency Response Steering System in order to be ready should a disaster take place. The preplan should take into account planning for disaster recovery as well since response and recovery often occur simultaneously. .
5. Member economies are encouraged to establish a comprehensive disaster management mechanism accessible for all and available on 24/7 basis.
6. It is important to raise public awareness of disaster preparedness through knowledge sharing, technological innovation and mass media publicity, which would also enhance the disaster resistance capacity of all walks of the society.
7. Effective disaster response requires timely and accurate release of disaster related information. Member economies are encouraged to communicate through appropriate channels with relevant international organizations immediately after the disaster.
8. Great importance should be attached and effective measures should be taken to immediately contain the negative effects of the disaster.
9. A proper disaster response steering system should be initialized immediately after the event to conduct the overall direction, coordination and supervision of disaster relief.
10. Any disaster relief activities at the onset of disaster should focus on life-saving activities so as to improve the chance of survivors.
11. Military and civil defense assets can play an important role in disaster response and relief, as a tool complementing existing mechanisms.

12. The whole society should be mobilized to yield the maximum gains in disaster relief. An effective partnership among government, enterprises, NGOs on disaster relief is useful and important to make full use of the social resources.
13. Preventive measures should be taken to avoid the occurrence of succeeding disasters such as plague, disclosure of radioactive, toxic and other deleterious materials, collapse of reservoir and landslide etc.
14. The financial and material donation made by public should be put under good governance and made best use. The information on the receipt and allocation of these resources should be transparent and open for public supervision.
15. It is essential to maintain order and stability of the disaster hit area so as to ensure the disaster relief can be conducted on smoothly.

For Disaster related Cooperation among member economies

16. The disaster hit member economy has the primary responsibility to provide prompt and effective humanitarian assistance to its disaster victims.
17. At the request or with the consent of the disaster hit member economy, member economies are encouraged to provide, on a voluntary basis, and in accordance with their capacity and type of assistance needed, disaster relief assistance to the disaster hit member.
18. Prior consent of the recipient member is required before any humanitarian assistance is implemented. Humanitarian assistance should be provided in close coordination with the recipient members.
19. For sake of prompt and effective disaster management, the recipient members should provide assistance in case of need to the humanitarian operations from other members.
20. The recipient member should provide necessary guidance, management and coordination for the humanitarian operations from other members to go on smoothly in its territory.
21. The recipient member should ensure fair, equitable and rational allocation of disaster relief materials against all kinds of discrimination, inter alia, those based on gender, race, nationality, religion and language etc.
22. The recipient member is encouraged to inform the assisting member regarding the status of provision of assistance.
23. All members should, taking into account its need and capacity, actively contribute to the disaster mitigation and relief cooperation in APEC region.
24. All members should endeavor to contribute to science and technology cooperation in disaster mitigation and relief.
25. All members are encouraged to integrate disaster risk reduction education into school curricula and promote cooperation in information sharing and best practice on how the material would be best taught/delivered.
26. Where appropriate, a disaster information sharing mechanism should be set up to facilitate the sharing of experience and lessons learned on disaster mitigation, response, relief and recovery.