



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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## **Summary Report On The Dialogue**

Submitted by: Viet Nam

**Dialogue among APEC economies, business community,  
key international and regional partners  
on emergency preparedness**

**Ha Noi, Viet Nam  
24-25 April 2008**

## **SUMMARY REPORT ON THE APEC WORKSHOP**

### **Dialogue among APEC economies, business community, international and regional partners on emergency preparedness**

*(24-25 April 2008, Ha Noi, Viet Nam)*

The APEC TFEP workshop entitled “**Dialogue among APEC economies, business community, international and regional partners on emergency preparedness**” was held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam from 24-25 April 2008. Participants from APEC member economies, the APEC Secretariat, the World Food Program, UN ISDR, Pacific Disaster Center, and businesses attended the workshop.

Main objectives of the Workshop were to strengthen coordination and cooperation among APEC economies, business community and key international and regional partners on disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness; to discuss possible cooperation mechanisms among the above mentioned stakeholders; and to improve capacity for APEC member economies, especially the developing ones, through experiences and lessons sharing with international relevant institutions.

The Workshop was opened by HE. Vu Dung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam and Lieutenant General Tran Quang Khue, Vice Permanent President, National Committee for Search and Rescue. H.E. Ambassador Juan Carlos Capunay, APEC Executive Director also delivered opening remarks. The workshop was then divided into three main sections:

#### **Session outcomes and key issue**

#### **Session 1: Disasters in the Asia – Pacific region and difficulties for APEC members in risk reduction and emergency preparedness**

Four presentations shed a light on the common hazards, disasters and vulnerability in the Asia-Pacific region. These were followed by difficulties and challenges in coping with

those problems, particularly from grass-root level. During this session APEC Secretariat reviewed the on-going and future works of APEC in the area disaster management and emergency preparedness in APEC, including the current on-going second stocktake process, which is meant to identify economies emergency preparedness capacity building needs.

**Session 2: Information and experiences sharing on risk reduction and emergency preparedness among member economies, business community and key international and regional partners.**

Representatives from Viet Nam, Thailand, Chinese Taipei and the Pacific Disaster Center shared their experience in building up a comprehensive preparedness strategy for risk disaster reduction and lessons learnt in rescue, relief and recovery activities. The application of information and technology in those activities was also highlighted.

**Session 3: Future for collaboration among APEC member economies, business community and key international and regional partners**

This session envisaged the future vision of disaster management and emergency preparedness and response as well as potential collaborative frameworks. The role of private sector in responding to emergencies is also mentioned and discussed.

**After two days, participants agreed on the following recommendations:**

1. Note that climate change vulnerability and adaptation are key issues for the Asia Pacific region in the future.
2. Stress on the need to further engage the private sector (e.g. insurance, tourism, transport, micro economic financing schemes) on APEC's endeavor to enhance TFEP's effort in emergency preparedness. Encourage the APEC Emergency Management CEO Seminar 2008 to further explore the possibility for cooperation between APEC and the private sector on this issue. Recommend SOM to take into account the involvement of the private sector in risk reduction

and response in drafting the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report in 2008.

3. Recommend that APEC Emergency Management CEO Seminar 2008 look closely at disaster resilient infrastructure and the UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. Recommend that TFEP give priority to analyzing cost and economic impacts of disasters, including damage analysis and loss assessments. World Bank analysis is a source for reference.
4. Emphasize the need to institutionalize cooperation and coordination between APEC TFEP and international organizations, particularly UN/ISDR (ISDR Asia Partnership), Pacific Disaster Center, World Bank, and NGOs such as the Red Cross Society. Encourage to explore the applicability of existing mechanisms for disaster information sharing, such as ASEAN DISC Net, EMI knowledge base and PDC Asia Pacific Natural Hazards Information Network as models for APEC's activities
5. Encourage TFEP projects for capacity building for the local authorities often hit hard by natural disaster.
6. Encourage projects that promote coherence, preparedness and response such as "Asia Pacific Emergency Preparedness and Response initiative - WFP".
7. Propose further dialogue between public and private sectors as well as NGOs partnership in disaster risk reduction and recovery.
8. Advocate that disaster-prone economies mainstream disaster risk reduction policies into their long-term development plans
9. Outcomes of the Dialogue be sent to TFEP meeting and TFEP Emergency Management CEO Seminar 2008 (Peru, August 2008). Report from China Study Tour and report from Russia on a new National Crisis Management Centre in Moscow also be sent to these events.

Finally, Peru indicated that, as a ‘next step forward’ for the APEC Task Force for Emergency Preparedness, the APEC Emergency Management CEO Forum 2008 would convene in Peru at a time and date to be announced, possibly August 11-13 in Lima.

In conclusion, Mr. Do Van Son, Deputy Chief of the Viet Nam’s National Committee of Search and Rescue delivered concluding remarks, summing up what have been discussed and achieved in three workshop sessions and noted that the 1st draft of the workshop report would be circulated for TFEP’s comments and the final report would be submitted to the coming TFEP meeting and CEO’s Seminar for information. Mr. Son also thanked member economies for their active participation and valuable contributions to the Workshop.

Member economies appreciated the discussion and outcomes of the Dialogue and thanked Viet Nam very much for her good organization and hospitality. Members also commented on the capability and capacity of the Vietnam emergency sector authorities.