



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

**Final Report of  
APEC Seminar on Capacity Building for  
Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation**

Emergency Preparedness Working Group

September, 2012

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Produced by

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## **Project Final Report**

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**Project Name:** APEC Seminar on Capacity Building for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation

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## **Introduction of the project implementation**

In response to the increasing destruction and losses to human lives and properties in the Asia and Pacific Region, the APEC Economies are taking actions to address the challenges in disaster recovery process. This project is one of these APEC initiatives implemented by National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC). The project is to support the APEC Member Economies to build capacity in disaster recovery. The project was approved in December 2011 and completed in the end of July 2012.

One of the main project activities is to organize the APEC Seminar on Capacity Building for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation. By the time of this report, the seminar was successfully held on June 27<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Shanghai, China. 51 participants from APEC Member Economies, UN agencies, international organizations, universities and institutes, and Chinese institutions involved in disaster response and reduction attended the seminar.

### **Organizing the APEC Seminar**

The seminar was hosted by Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China (PR China) and APEC Secretariat, and organized by NDRCC and Shanghai Civil Affairs Bureau. During the APEC Seminar, the participants shared their experiences and knowledge in disaster recovery with good practices and cases. Discussions were followed. The participants reviewed and commented the Disaster Recovery Checklist, one of the key documents of the seminar, and provided suggestions for improvement of the checklist. The seminar consists of one plenary session and three thematic sessions, including discussions of the Disaster Recovery Checklist.

**Plenary session** – The plenary session was held on the first day of the seminar. One APEC Economy delegate from China and one expert from UNDP delivered keynote speeches. They shared their working experiences on China's post-disaster recovery management and on UNDP's practices in disaster recovery. In addition, the Co-Chair of APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) made a presentation with a title of "From Capacity Building to Capacity Enhancement – APEC EPWG's contributions to the APEC region" to brief the participants about actions taken by APEC EPWG.

**Thematic sessions** – The plenary was followed by three thematic sessions on disaster recovery in different aspects. The first session was focused on "Catastrophe Recovery and Reconstruction Management". The topics of the other two sessions were "Urban and Rural Community Recovery and Reconstruction Management & Post-Disaster Comprehensive Assessment" and "Discussion on the Disaster Recovery Checklist & Follow-up Actions of the APEC Economies".

**Discussions on the Checklist** – During the thematic sessions, two discussions were arranged to introduce to the participants of the draft Disaster Recovery Checklist and to invite comments and suggestions on the document. The document is one of the main outputs of the seminar. Comments and recommendations expressed and discussed at the seminar contributed to improvement of the checklist that will assist professionals and institutions in their practice and learning to build resilience in disaster recovery process. (Refer to Appendix A)

### **1. Key issues achieved by the seminar**

*Outline two or three of the most important findings or recommendations arising from the project. Examples could include: results from surveys or case studies; fundamental lessons or insights provided by participants, speakers or experts; roadblocks to progressing an issue; priorities for future action; or possible future projects.*

The preparation process of the Disaster Recovery Checklist, one of the first of such documents in this field, is very constructive to learning and fact finding post-about disaster recovery. Understanding,

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ideas, concepts and new thinking have been defined and sharpened through brainstorm sessions and exchange views in group discussions and in the APEC Shanghai Seminar in June 2012. This report is to pin-point the following findings:

**People-based recovery** – The Disaster Recovery Checklist recommends the principle of “People-Based Recovery” (PBR) for post-disaster recovery operations. The principle is not totally band-new. However, the checklist further defined that PBR has three main interrelated parts: a) people’s participation in the recovery planning and rebuilding activities, b) people’s empowerment through the recovery process in terms of the resilience and capability, and c) people’s benefits eventually from the recovery. The three parts are closely connected, one depends on another in process, that people are the target to be benefited in the recovery, which is to be achieved by their empowerment of building resilience; and people will be empowered through their participation in the recovery process and capacity building activities if they desire to “build back better”.

The principle is welcomed at the seminar, as it reaffirms to the concepts and remarks introduced and raised at the seminar, such as “people centered recovery”, “the affected people are not disaster victims, but survivors, partners and actors”, “human recovery needs assessments”, etc.

**Incorporating disaster risk reduction measures into the recovery process** – The message is pretty simple, which is stated by Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 as one of the disaster risk reduction actions in the recovery. But in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes, it becomes harder to put it in practice as an iron rule due to pressing time and competing demands for the recovery while resources are always far short. In defining and advising ways of solutions/ directions, the checklist tries to embed the action of disaster reduction through out the paper in each section and sub-sections. Speakers and comments at the APEC Shanghai seminar also confirmed the strategy through their recovery cases and lessons learned in restoration and improvement of facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of disaster affected communities, in which efforts were made to reduce disaster risks where possible.

**Prevention is better than cure** – When a recovery and rehabilitation process is on-going after a large-scale disaster, the planners or decision-makers should consider how to incorporate disaster risk reduction concept into the recovery process in order to build resilience for future disasters. All participants agreed that the social and economic development will benefit from incorporating disaster risk reduction measures into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes, and it is of great urgency and necessity for the APEC Member Economies to raise the awareness of integrating disaster risk reduction into disaster recovery process and to strengthen cooperation in this field.

## 2. Outputs

*Provide a list of the outputs (tangible things you can count) from the project. This may include how many workshops were held and the number of people that attended, the number of case studies / reports / guides developed, or the number of project CDs produced and distributed.*

There are three main outputs that have been produced under the project, which are as follows:

**Disaster Recovery Checklist** – The checklist was prepared under the support and guidance of NDRCC and APEC EPWG. In order to prepare a practical and useful document to assist professionals and institutions engaged in post-disaster recovery, NDRCC organized three workshops, each with more than 10 experts and specialists in the field of disaster recovery and reduction. The workshops were to review the guiding principles and structures of the document identified by the drafter as well as to determine the main contents and users whom the checklist intends to serve.

The draft checklist was distributed to the participants before the above-indicated seminar. Introduction about the checklist and the preparation were made at the discussions. Views, comments and suggestions for finalizing the document had been presented. The checklist is informative for reference

to the participants for better understanding of the subject of post-disaster recovery. The seminar welcomed development of the checklist and recommended early endorsement and release of the document to the public.

For review of the checklist, 55 hardcopies of the draft version had been delivered to all the participants to the seminar. The revised checklist had fully incorporated the comments and suggestions of the participants and was circulated to members of the APEC Economies before the EPWG Taipei Meeting in early July 2012. The final version of the checklist has been disseminated by the secretariat to all the member economies for comments and suggestions. By now, no different or further comments are received.

**Compilation of the Presentations** – At the seminar, participants from the APEC member economies and international, national and local institutes made presentations to share experiences and lessons of disaster recovery from their practices and research activities. Their contributions to the seminar enriched the knowledge and information of the participants who may carry them over to their colleagues in their works. 20 presentations which had been made at the Seminar were compacted into hardcopies with CDs and delivered to the participants.

Follow-up Actions in Capacity Building in Disaster Recovery – A proposal for the follow up action has been prepared and has been primarily sought the comments and suggestions from the participants and may need more discussions on this proposal in the near future. Participant information

*Provide details on:*

- a. The number of participants (or subjects if the project was a survey)*
- b. Which APEC member economies participated*
- c. Any non-APEC member participants*
- d. The relative number of women and men participants*

There are totally 54 participants who attended the Seminar (Refer to Table 1 and Figure 1). Among these participants:

- 16 delegates (participants) from 9 APEC Economies, including 1 from Canada, 2 from China, 3 from Chinese Taipei, 2 from Indonesia, 1 from Mexico, 2 from the Philippines, 2 from Thailand, 1 from the United States of America, and two from Viet Nam.
- 5 participants of the APEC Secretariat and Chinese Government, including 1 from APEC Secretariat, and 1 from the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, PR China, and 3 from the Ministry of Civil Affairs, PR China.
- 19 international and Chinese experts related to disaster issues: 4 from international organizations: 1 TAF, 2 UNICEF, 1 UNDP; 5 experts from universities or institutes of Japan, Laos, India, and Thailand; and 10 from Chinese universities or institutes.
- 9 participants from the provincial governments, including Shanghai Municipality, Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai Provinces.
- 5 seminar secretariat staffs from National Disaster Reduction Center of China.

Table1: Participants to the Seminar

No	Category	Number	Percentage
1	APEC Economies Delegates	16	29.6%
2	APEC Secretariat and Chinese Government Delegates	5	9.3%
3	Experts (International and Chinese)	19	35.2%
4	Local Represents of Sichuan Province	9	16.6%
5	Seminar Secretariat Members	5	9.3%
total		54	





Communication	1000.00	787.42 (4966.24 RMB)	212.58
Hosting	7,500.00	7510.59 (48000RMB)	-10.59
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>126,786.00</b>	<b>63911.06</b>	<b>62874.94</b>

\*Difference between the budget and actual expenditure is a surplus of US\$ 62874.94.

Current rate for RMB to USD is 1: 6.307

## **Report on Review and Discussion of the Disaster Recovery Checklist**

APEC Seminar on Capacity Building for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation  
June 27-28, 2012 Shanghai

The Disaster Recovery Checklist has been prepared under the support and guidance of National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC) and the APEC's Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG). The draft checklist was distributed to the participants prior to the above indicated seminar. The participants to the seminar are from the members of the APEC Economies, international and regional organizations, local governments of disaster affected areas and specialized institutes.

Introduction about the preparation process and the checklist were made before the reviews and discussions of the seminar. Views, comments and suggestions for finalizing the checklist had been presented and expressed. Discussions were followed to clarify issues and to address concerns raised at the review of the checklist. It is noted that comments on the checklist made by the participants are sincere and professional, which are helpful to finalize the checklist.

The seminar welcomed the efforts to prepare the Disaster Recovery Checklist and also appreciated the comments made by the participants. It recommended authorities concerned endorse the final document soon after incorporation of the comments and recommendations into the checklist.

The seminar informed that the revised checklist will be circulated to members of the APEC Economies before the EPWG Taipei Meeting in early July 2012.

The following are comments and recommendations expressed and discussed at the seminar, as well as the conclusions that have been reached:

1. As a reference document and an initial attempt to prepare disaster recovery checklist, the document brings attention to respective institutions and users of only key issues and subjects related to disaster recovery operations and the capacity building activities.
2. The checklist aims to assist the members of the APEC Economies in seeking information related to directions and actions in disaster recovery planning and implementation. However, application for the document will consider specific local conditions given diversified situation of regions.
3. The preparation of the document is guided by contemporary knowledge and practices in disaster management: focusing on disaster risk reduction, highlighting capacity building and taking multi-sector approach to address multi-hazards of disaster, as well as pursuing for sustainable development.
4. Three principles were recommended by the checklist for disaster recovery: "*build*

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*back better*”, “*plan before doing*” and “*people based recovery*”. They have been practiced in disaster recovery in many areas. The paper further defined the principle of “people based recovery” to be consisted of three interlinked parts: “*people’s participation*”, “*people’s empowerment*” and “*people’s benefits*” during and after the recovery process.

5. Environment and eco-system degradation and other issues contributing to intensified disaster risks concerned to the participants, whom wished that finalization of the checklist will further define actions to reduce related risks in disaster recovery and disaster preparedness activities.
6. The seminar agreed with comments for the document finalization, such as: affected people are partners rather than victims in the recovery, sensitivity of minority nationalities in the recovery activities, to better define linkages between relief, recovery and development, to specify the actions for planners and for managers, etc.
7. The seminar recommended that the final document will further address issues of efficient use of resources, sustainability of the recovery projects, care of children, role of volunteers, restructuring economy and business in the recovery, etc. in addition to improvement of wording and format of the checklist as discussed at the seminar.
8. The seminar would encourage trial use of the checklist in the recovery and capacity building. Translation of it into local languages will be welcomed.
9. The seminar took note that the document is a live paper, which are to be reviewed, updated and revised to address issues left over or emerged in future practices of disaster recovery.

June 28, 2012  
Shanghai, PR China

## **Follow-up Actions of the APEC Economies to Enhance Capacity Building in Disaster Recovery**

Preparation and adoption of “Disaster Recovery Checklist” is part of the initiatives to implement APEC Lima Strategy (2009 – 2015) for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response. To enact Hyogo Framework for Action and the Lima Strategy, the member representatives of the APEC Economies brainstormed follow-up actions in the field of disaster recovery on 28 June 2012 in Shanghai at the APEC workshop. In line with the Objective Three and Strategy Lines 4.2 of the APEC Strategy, the following actions are proposed:

### 1. Exchange of information on disaster recovery

Disaster in general does not happen all the time. When situation is turning better, information of the previous disaster recovery may gradually disappear. It is important that respective governments and institutions summarize lessons and experiences of the recovery operations for dissemination.

- Set-up an information exchange platform on disaster recovery.
- Collect documents on mechanisms, instruments and communication products related to disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Summarize community recovery cases and conduct training to review and study the lessons and experiences.

### 2. Post-disaster reassessment

A disaster is likely to severely destruct local society and economy. Reassessment of the damage and loss, disaster impact and disaster risks not only provides basis for disaster recovery planning, but also determines proper disaster risk reduction measures to be taken.

- Study and exchange information on the reassessment indicators and methods on disaster damage and loss, and the impact to disaster recovery.
- Exchange on methods of post disaster risk reassessment in relation to rebuilding the people’s livelihood.
- Workshops on design and application of disaster recovery policies.
- Studies on promotion of incorporating DRR measures into the recovery process by SMEs

### 3. Application for the checklist

Adoption of the checklist is not the end of the efforts. Application for the product may be taken in disaster preparedness and in disaster recovery. Usefulness and relevance of the document to the recovery planning and implementation will be validated.

- Conduct training to introduce the checklist for capacity building and for awareness increase for different users.
- Apply for the checklist in selected areas in disaster recovery planning and implementation.