

Strategic Planning 2017-2020

Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

APEC Mission Statement

APEC is the premier Asia-Pacific economic forum. Our primary goal is to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

We are united in our drive to build a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community by championing free and open trade and investment, promoting and accelerating regional economic integration, encouraging economic and technical cooperation, enhancing human security, and facilitating a favorable and sustainable business environment. Our initiatives turn policy goals into concrete results and agreements into tangible benefits.

*2009 APEC Branding Strategy: Mission Statement
Approved at AMM 2009*

1. Introduction

Most APEC economies are situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire, where strong earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions pose constant threats. The region has the most active tropical cyclone formation in the world in terms of frequency, including the Category 5 cyclones or super typhoon occurrences per year. These conditions could be further exacerbated by climate change. The Asia-Pacific Region is experiencing temperature changes in the Pacific Ocean, resulting in El Niño and La Niña phenomena.

In response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the APEC Task Force for the Emergency Preparedness (TFEP) was formed to coordinate and facilitate emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction within its member economies. In 2008, TFEP endorsed “Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific region: 2009 to 2015” in response to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). In February 2010, recognizing the continued importance of TFEP’s work, the Senior Officials Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) elevated the TFEP to a permanent Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), which has promoted DRR activities by EPWG member’s endorsements based on its strategic plan 2013-2016, so far.

With the efforts based on the previous two plans, and considering the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the “Disaster Risk Reduction Framework: APEC Strategy to build Adaptive and Disaster-resilient Economy” was discussed and endorsed at the Ninth APEC Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (SDMOF) in September 2015 in Philippines stressing that “*the Asia-Pacific region, straddling the Pacific Ring of Fire, is particularly vulnerable and exposed to disasters*”, noting the phenomenon of the “new normal” – the increasing frequency, magnitude and scope of natural disasters, and the resultant disruption on the increasingly integrated and interlinked production and supply chains.

To address the “new normal”, in 2015 the APEC Leaders adopted the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Framework. The APEC DRR Framework aims to facilitate collective work in building disaster-resilient economies supporting inclusive and sustainable development in the face of the new normal. APEC Leaders then instructed the Ministers to craft an action plan in 2016 to operationalize the APEC DRR Framework.

The APEC DRR framework and the action plan will provide an APEC wide roadmap to address critical of disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness in the APEC region that will encourage wider scope of cross-fora synergy to work on disaster risk reduction in close collaboration with EPWG, while EPWG has discussed revision of its Strategic Plan since the 10th meeting of EPWG held in August 2016 for planning its activities. Following the Strategic Planning-Process Guide for Working Groups, EPWG should discuss and update information, inputs and comments from EPWG delegates to develop the Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

This Strategic Plan focuses on EPWG activities for the period 2017-2020 in line with the Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and towards the implementation of the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan.

2. Vision Statement

The Emergency Preparedness Working Group is composed of the heads and expert level of emergency management agencies, working with APEC member economies and private sector, who share experiences, lessons learnt, tools and the latest thinking related to disaster preparedness in order to strengthen regional cooperation and domestic and collective emergency preparedness efforts. The APEC EPWG brings together government officials from the region’s various emergency services departments to build its members’ capacity to better mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and natural disasters.

3. Mission Statement

The EPWG has a critical and strategic role to provide support and guidance for APEC member economies to achieve EPWG’s mission of:

- building capacity in the region so that APEC member economies can better mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and natural disasters, including by building business and community resilience and fostering private-public partnerships
- improving coordination and enhance intra-APEC cooperation and integration of best practice emergency and natural disaster preparedness efforts in APEC.
- providing APEC economies with updated information and criteria relating to the economic and social costs of disasters including those three global value chain.
- considering the findings of developed data and survey through the proposed quantitative and qualitative research to identify gaps in disaster risk reduction.

4. Critical Success Factors

Recognizing the multi-faceted characteristics of natural hazards and disaster management, the capacity of this plan to achieve the Vision and Mission Statements will depend on a number of factors:

- Identifying the gaps, demands, range and diversity of natural hazards that help to enhance capacity building in APEC region.
- Developing and strengthening public-private partnerships that support business and community resilience to disasters. This includes involving all levels of government, non-government, and the private sector Engaging and encouraging public-private partnership, a greater role for women in supporting disaster resilient businesses and communities.
- Leveraging existing programs and resources to sustain long-term public-private collaboration and avoid duplication of effort.
- Engaging and developing cross-cutting collaboration with APEC fora, regional and international organizations whose work interacts with and complements the EPWG Strategic Plan priorities and objectives to ensure their awareness of and participation in EPWG projects.
- Strengthening sharing of information, best practices, and learning from experiences.
- Encouraging more direct participation of key stakeholders in the projects

5. Agreed Priorities, Objectives and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

In order to achieve the EPWG's mission, as based upon the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan, the EPWG will work on the four overarching priority areas with the following outlined objectives to enable better focus on disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness.

EPWG projects will be measured by the key performance indicators (KPIs) for their effectiveness in achieving EPWG objectives under each priority area. Member economies are encouraged and welcomed to utilize KPIs to report on the progress of projects on a voluntary basis.

Priority Area	Objectives	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Enhancing regional capacity on disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage and develop cross-cutting collaboration with APEC fora, regional and international organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate further with other APEC fora to jointly work on logistics/supply chain recovery following a large-scale disaster, the economic benefits of risk reduction for MSMEs, climate change and disasters, gender integration in disaster management, and the structural and non-structural measures associated with disaster risk reduction. Invite and welcome non-APEC fora collaboration and participation. Contribute to regional and international initiative on disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and humanitarian assistance. Cooperate with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance mutual assistance in preparedness for emergency response among APEC economies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study on the feasibility of travel facilitation for emergency responders. Conduct a survey to understand operational frameworks and legal regulations of emergency response. Build up a contact network for senior disaster management officials in APEC. Implement programs on enhancing emergency preparedness. Operate the APEC Emergency Preparedness Capacity Building Center under EPWG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen communications among senior disaster management officials in APEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement annual forum for senior disaster management officials in APEC. Build up a contact network for senior disaster management officials in APEC. Report updates of recent disasters and progresses on post-disaster recovery.

Priority Area	Objectives	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Promoting public-private partnerships to develop joint disaster preparedness actions and build up disaster resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and strengthen public-private partnerships that support business and community resilience to disasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance collaboration on community-based disaster Risk management. Cultivate public-private-partnerships that are open to flexible and innovative ways of working together to build business and community resilience to natural disasters.

Priority Area	Objectives	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the development of effective business continuity and critical incident tools and guides for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to reduce vulnerability and promote resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver guidelines on promoting MSME business continuity plans (BCP) to strengthen reliability of supply chains. Strengthen understanding and capability of MSMEs to cope with preparedness for natural hazards. Implement programs to vulnerability at community and MSMEs level.
Supporting recovery processes in disaster affected economies through long-term development approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance resilience capacities of small and medium businesses and local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement programs to enhance resilience to natural disasters at community and MSMEs level. Promote disaster preparedness at all levels: from individual, to community, local, domestic and regional level.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on long-term recovery of economic activity in affected sectors with a focus on business, livelihood and production losses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage private and non-government sector, including individuals, local NGOs, businesses and international organizations, to provide support. Implement programs and deliver guidelines to help understand issues of disaster recovery; serve as a reference product in disaster recovery operations; assist disaster preparedness.
Facilitating sharing of information, knowledge, expertise, best practices and experience learned from disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop joint research on risk, vulnerability and specific instruments for risk reduction and control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify technical capacities of member economies in preparedness and response, particularly related to technology, training, and related human and material resource development. Implement programs to introduce science and technology into disaster management.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the Group’s outreach and communications efforts including by improving the effectiveness and contents of the Group’s website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote exchanges of good practices and lessons learned and to fill gaps in disaster preparedness. Implement program to upgrade EPWG website for better contents related disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and humanitarian assistance.

6. Prioritized Implementation Schedule

The prioritized implementation schedule is updated and modified in line with EPWG Work Plan annually and APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan.

Objectives	Actions/Activities	Timeframe	Links with APEC DRR Framework	Stakeholders
Agreed Objectives in affiliation with priority areas to be listed below	Member economies to fill in projects that will attain related objectives annually, including APEC-funded and self-funded projects	Project Timeline	Relevant pillars of action plan	Relevant stakeholders of the project to be listed here, including APEC and non-APEC fora
Enhance regional capacity on disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness				
To engage and develop cross-cutting collaboration with APEC fora, regional and international organizations	Invite other APEC fora to EPWG meeting to identify opportunities of cross cutting collaboration based on the Action Plan.	2017-2020	All four Pillars	EPWG , All other relevant APEC fora
	Attend ISDR Global Partnership and, Asia Partnership (IAP) Meeting and other DRR related meetings in Asian Pacific region	2017-2020	All four Pillars	EPWG, economies
To strengthen communications among senior disaster management officials in APEC	APEC Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum	2017-2020	All four Pillars	EPWG: 2017: Vietnam 2018: PNG 2019: Chile 2020: Malaysia

Objectives	Actions/Activities	Timeframe	Links with APEC DRR Framework	Stakeholders
	APEC joined Plan for Disaster risk reduction in Coastal Deltas	2017-2020	Pillar 2, 4	EPWG, All other relevant APEC fora
	APEC Workshop on preparation for super typhoons and natural multi-hazards in Asia- Pacific	2017-2018	Pillar 2	EPWG (Vietnam will propose in 2017 in EPWG 12 Meeting, seeking for co-sponsor from EPWG members)

Promote public-private partnerships to develop joint disaster preparedness actions and build up disaster resilience				
To promote the development of effective business continuity and critical incident tools and guides for Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to reduce vulnerability and promote resilience	Promotion of Business Continuity Planning (BCP) within APEC	2017 - 2020	Pillar 2 preparedness	EPWG, economies
	“Best Practices in Policies, Regulations and Flexibility for Resilience of Global Value Chains”	2017-2020	Four pillars	EPWG, economies

Support to recovery processes in disaster affected economies through long-term development approach				
To enhance resilience capacities of small and medium businesses and local communities.	Enhancing APEC Cooperation on Community-based Disaster Risk Management	2017- 2020	Four pillars	EPWG, economies

Support to recovery processes in disaster affected economies through long-term development approach				
To focus on long-term recovery of economic activity in affected sectors with a focus on	Enhancing rural disaster resilience through effective infrastructure investment	2017-2018	Pillar 4: Rehabilitation and BBB	EPWG (Vietnam Japan, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, USA)

Facilitate sharing of information, knowledge, expertise, best practices and experience learned from disasters				
To improve the Group's outreach and communications efforts including by improving the effectiveness and contents of the Group's website	Studying the damages and status of recovery of recent disasters with a focus on business and production losses, and sharing the outcome with other relevant fora	2017-2020	Four pillars	EPWG and relevant fora
	Enhancing APEC Cooperation on ecosystem-based DRR	2018-2020	Pillar 4	EPWG (Vietnam will propose in 2017 in EPWG 12 Meeting, seeking for co-sponsor from EPWG members)

7. EPWG Project Development and Ranking

EPWG project proposals to develop capacity building activities should focus on issues/topics that will enable APEC member economies to achieve the priorities of this Strategic Plan.

Project proposals that have a direct link to the priorities of the EPWG Strategic Plan 2017-2020 will be given higher ranking by the EPWG.

8. Review of Strategic Plan

The EPWG will prepare a progress report on the implementation of this Plan before the end of 2018. A final review of Strategic Plan 2017-2020 and a Strategic Plan 2021-2024 will be presented before the end of 2020.