

# Establishment of APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group and its activities in 2010

*Presented by*

Vincent Liu (Program Director, APEC Secretariat)  
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# What is EPWG in APEC ?



- Emergency Preparedness Working Group was known as Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP) in APEC and was established by Senior Officials in 2005 to coordinate and facilitate emergency and disaster preparedness and response within APEC.

# APEC Members

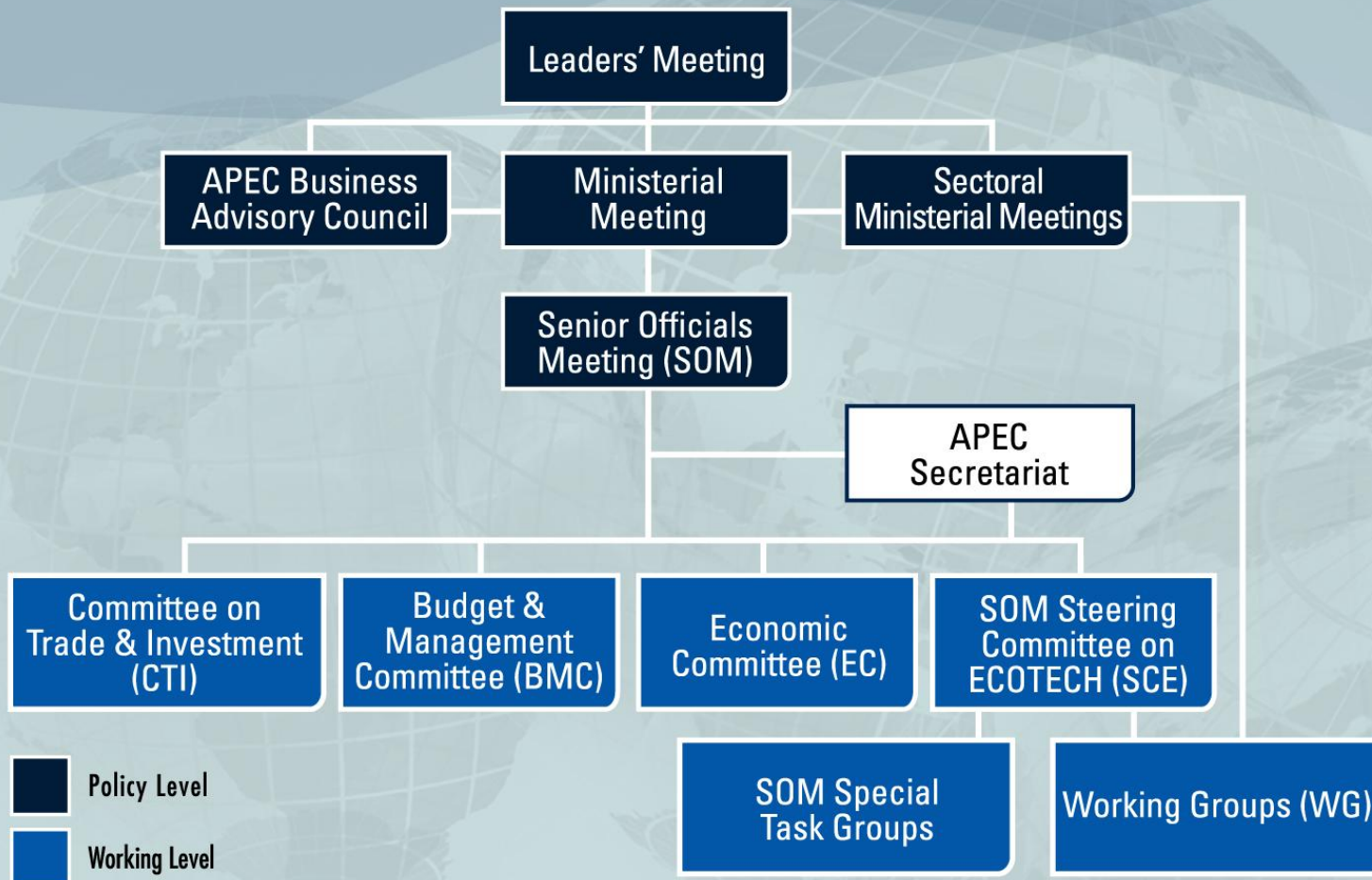


- APEC has 21 members:  
Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China,  
Hong, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,  
Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru,  
Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei,  
Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam.



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# APEC's Structure



# APEC as a meeting forum and its features



Non-biding

Consensus

Member-driven

Project-oriented

# TFEP Mandate (until February 2010)



- Improve coordination and enhance intra-APEC cooperation and integration of best emergency practice, natural disaster preparedness and response efforts
- Build capacity in the region to mitigate, prepare for and respond to emergencies and natural disasters

# New Institutional Development (1)



On February 23 in Hiroshima, Japan, on the occasion of the First Senior Officials' Meeting in 2010, the Task Force was approved to be upgraded to a permanent APEC working group.

***The only Fora that was supported to upgrade to permanent working group in APEC in last three years.***

# New Institutional Development (2)



On 2 June 2010 in Sapporo, Japan, on the occasion of the second meeting of the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE), the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) and the co-chairmanship of Australia and Indonesia until end of 2011 was officially endorsed.

# Rationale for an Emergency Preparedness Working Group



Upgrading the TFEP to a Working Group would:

- enable the group to adopt a longer-term focus, consistent with the *APEC Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region 2009-2015* and proposed multi-year capacity-building initiatives;
- reflect the ongoing interest of Leaders/Ministers;
- recognise that the frequency and intensity of disasters will continue to increase.

# APEC Strategy on DRR



## Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in APEC Region 2009-2015

(endorsed in 2008)

# APEC Strategy and HFA



The *Strategy* suggests:

- APEC should also collaborate, as appropriate, with other international organizations that can support its projects, including: APEC Climate Center
- APEC should develop actions that complement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

# New Mandate Since February 2010



The New Working Group is now mandated to :“build capacity in the region to mitigate, prepare for and respond appropriately to emergencies and natural disasters, including by building business resilience and fostering private-public partnerships to protect business, trade and economic growth from disruption”.

# Steering Committee



- A Steering Committee is accordingly established to: (a) assist to advance the Working Groups's mandate and work plans; and (b) assess APEC projects and their implementation.
- China, Japan, Canada, Peru, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, United States and Vietnam volunteered to be Steering Committee members

# Steering Committee (2)

- consider developing a virtual advisory group or network and exploring the possible membership of regional organisations and institutions
- reinvigorate the electronic outreach activities including by:
  - improving the effectiveness and content of the the APEC website
  - issuing an electronic newsletter – content and frequency to be discussed

# EPWG and APCC (1)



In the Outcome report made at APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum in September 2009, Ha noi, Vietnam---

- Welcomed efforts to extend the lead time (early warning) through climate and extreme weather event prediction

# EPWG and APCC (2)



*With regard to Climate Change Adaptation:*

- Recognized the significant impact of climate change on the increase in disaster frequency and intensity, and the subsequent implications for the disaster and emergency management community.

# EPWG and APCC (3)



- Recognized the important role of climate prediction to the development and implementation of disaster and emergency management plans.
- Noted the need for greater certainty in climate prediction information for effective disaster and emergency management planning.

## ***Strategic Plan for the Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response: 2010 – 2015***

Peru is working together with the Steering Committee Members to develop an implementation plan of the afore-mentioned *APEC Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia-Pacific Region 2009-2015*

# Workplan 2010 (cont.)



Tentatively, we will have an EPWG inaugural meeting which will be held in Sendai, Japan on September 21 (TBC)

# Workplan 2010 (cont.)



→ The elevation of the Task Force on Emergency Preparedness to Working Group level reflects the importance attached to emergency preparedness within the APEC region and the high expectations of our senior officials and ministers.

# Workplan 2010 (cont.)



- build the capacity in the region so that APEC member economies can better mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and natural disasters.
- strive to improve coordination and enhance intra-APEC cooperation and integration of best practice emergency and natural disaster preparedness efforts in the region.

# Workplan 2010 in projects (con.)



- Public-Private Partnerships and Disaster Resilience Workshop – 24-27 August 2010 (location to be confirmed), Australia and Thailand co-hosting.
- increase collaboration and demonstrate global best practice between public and private sectors in emergency preparedness and management efforts. (ex. partnership between Google Earth and governments in the region and/or regional disaster management bodies to assist with damage assessment, particularly in remote areas).

# Workplan 2010 in projects (cont.)



- Hazard Mapping and Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Project (United States)
  - on September 19-21, a 3-day workshop will be held in Taipei on Hazard Mapping and Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) methods to increase APEC economies' capacity to identify key hazards, assess risks posed by these hazards to vulnerable infrastructure and populations, and evaluate and prioritize mitigation efforts.

# Workplan 2010 in projects (cont.)



- Seminar on Cooperation to Prevent Forest Fires  
October 2010, Khabarovsk, Russia

# Workplan 2010 in projects (cont.)



- Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Disaster Recovery (in late 2010, Sichuan, China tbc.) .
  - aimed at incorporating disaster risk reduction measures into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes.
  - develop a disaster recovery checklist.
  - discuss the best and most efficient ways to recover from the disaster, including returning to the social normal order, economy and human life.
  - highlight the social and economic impact of large scale disasters and help identify capacity-building needs in the Asia Pacific region

# Workplan 2010 in projects (cont.)



- Workshop on School Earthquake Safety in APEC Economies: Reducing Risk and Improving Preparedness (United States)
  - a two-day workshop in late 2010 or early 2011 held at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Earthquake professionals and school safety stakeholders would describe experiences and best practices, produce materials for a summary publication and enhance technical cooperation.



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**Thank you!**