



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

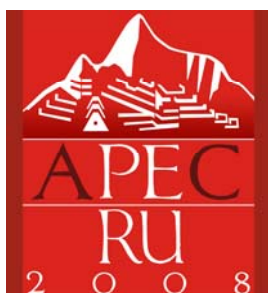
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Agenda Item: IV

**Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and
Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia
Pacific Region: 2009 to 2015 (TFEP 04/2008A)**

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: Peru



Task Force on Emergency Preparedness Meeting

Lima, Peru

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Executive Summary

In response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami, which struck in December 2004, and to collectively be prepared for future natural disasters, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Senior Officials in 2005 adopted an 'APEC Strategy on Response to and Preparedness for Natural Disasters and Emergencies' and established the APEC Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP).

Following the formation of the task force, the first TFEP Emergency Management CEOs' Forum, that was held in Cairns in August 2007, recommended that a three to five year strategic plan for the TFEP be prepared. The intention was that this plan would take into account the importance of developing more effective emergency preparedness and risk reduction initiatives as well as bolster efficiency in providing responses to disasters.

This strategy, that has been endorsed by the Emergency Management CEO's Forum 2008 that was held in Lima, on 13-15 August 2008, draws on the strengths and unique nature of the APEC process to complement multilateral, bilateral and national efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response in the Asia-Pacific. The strategy identifies potential areas for increased cooperation and the development of joint initiatives with other APEC fora and with stakeholders in the regional community.

The strategy proposes a series of projects and initiatives that have been identified and articulated through a process of interaction with member economies, consultations with stakeholders that included interaction through online forums, and through the recommendations made by delegates to the Emergency Management CEO's Forum 2008. It is important to note however, that with the upcoming delivery of the outcomes of the 2008 TFEP Stocktake, the priority areas of activity for TFEP may alter, thus resulting in some of the proposed activities of this strategy becoming more or less relevant than they are currently perceived.

Implementing APEC Leaders' Commitments

The 14th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, in November 2006, noted APEC's value-adding role and cooperative efforts in dealing with emergency preparedness and disaster response. Leaders also recognized that large-scale natural disasters that affect one economy can affect all economies. Thus, Leaders urged member economies to further intensify cooperation, including interaction with the private sector, to maximize the use of available regional resources in order to better prepare the region for disasters and to facilitate post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The 15th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting with the theme 'Strengthening Our Community, Building a Sustainable Future' was held in Sydney, Australia, during September 2007. At the meeting Leaders agreed on the need to further strengthen APEC's efforts to build community resilience and preparedness for emergencies and natural disasters, and affirmed that human security is essential to economic growth and prosperity.

Recommendations:

- That this strategy is endorsed by TFEP
- That the TFEP seek project overseers to prepare project pre-proposals for each of the endorsed initiatives.

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1. Preamble

This proposal was presented at the 2nd CEOs' Seminar: 'Formulation of the Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response and Preparedness of the Asia-Pacific 2009-2015' in Lima, Peru, on 12-14 August 2008, immediately preceding the 2nd Meeting of TFEP. Within the APEC Peru 2008 theme of 'A new commitment for the development of the Asia Pacific', the proposal seeks to enhance the special emphasis given by the theme to the strengthening of associations between the public and private sectors and to the participation of international financial institutions.

1.1. The Regional Need for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum of 21 member economies account for approximately 41% of the world's population, approximately 55% of world GDP and about 49% of world trade, and are thus major stakeholders in a strong, expanding rules-based multilateral trade system. On the other hand, the Asia-Pacific region comprises 52% of the earth's surface area, 59% of the world's population, and over 70% of the world's natural disasters.

Importantly for this strategy, most APEC economies are located in the Pacific Ring of Fire which is home to over 75% of the world's volcanoes and source of 90% of world's earthquakes. The Asia-Pacific region is further affected by weather phenomena's such as the El Niño South Oscillation (ENSO) and its contrary weather pattern of La Niña, which have become increasingly apparent in recent decades. The impact of these phenomena has clearly affected APEC economies socially and economically and are significant challenges that need to be acknowledged.

APEC brings together to the most important and dynamic economies of the Asia-Pacific region and constitutes a platform to drive international cooperation and to catalyze multilateral relations among its members. Thus, APEC is in a strong position to provide tangible and effective input to global efforts to deal with disasters and emergencies. As the host economy for APEC 2008, Peru has adopted the theme of "A new commitment to the Asia-Pacific development." This overall theme for work undertaken during the 2008 APEC year seeks to build on the success of APEC Australia 2007 in building stronger cooperation between all stakeholders for the benefit of the region. APEC Peru 2008 is seeking to broaden private and public sector partnerships including linkages with representatives from civil society, international financial institutions and other global organizations with a direct interest in the well-being and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific Region.

Compromising regional well-being, several of the most destructive disasters of recent years have occurred in the APEC Region leading to significant social and economic damage and loss across multiple borders and jurisdictions. It is from these unfortunate experiences that the region can learn valuable lessons about the close relationship between disaster risk and development, and establish common actions oriented to the reduction of risk and to enhance preparedness at regional, national and local levels.

APEC Member Economies recognise the far-reaching consequences of disasters and emergencies. Attention to mitigating the damage and loss associated with disaster has been an evolving priority for APEC since the inception of the Virtual Task Force for Emergency Preparedness in 1997. This was given renewed attention in 2005 with the creation of the Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP). Subsequently, at their meeting in Sydney in 2007, APEC Leaders made specific

mention of “the need to further strengthen APEC's efforts to build community resilience and preparedness for emergencies and natural disasters.”

The National Institute of Civil Defence of Peru (INDECI), as the principal national coordination centre for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response in Peru, strongly supports the Region's efforts regarding these subjects and has promoted the design of this preliminary outline of a “Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific region: 2009 to 2015,” (PRERED) in response to a proposal identified and endorsed by the APEC TFEP.

1.2. Authority for Preparation of the Strategy Proposal

In 2005, APEC Senior Officials adopted an ‘APEC Strategy on Response to and Preparedness for Natural Disasters and Emergencies’. That Strategy, as endorsed by the Leaders in November 2005, included a number of measures to strengthen cooperation and technical assistance among APEC economies to address issues such as avian flu, pandemic preparedness and the enhancement of public and business outreach and risk communication to increase transparency and reduce risk to trade and travellers.

The first TFEP Emergency Management CEOs’ Seminar held in Cairns in August 2007 recommended that a 3 to 5 year strategic plan for TFEP would be prepared talking into account the human and political imperative for more effective emergency preparedness and risk reduction as well as more timely and effective disaster response.

The 15th APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting addressed the challenges of climate change and agreed on the need to further strengthen APEC’s efforts to build community resilience and preparedness for emergencies and natural disasters, and affirmed that human security is essential to economic growth and prosperity.

The TFEP's mandate was extended for another two years at the first Senior Officials' Meeting in 2008. The extension will allow the group to ensure ongoing and effective coordination of emergency preparedness work across APEC.

The ‘Dialogue among APEC economies, business community, key international and regional partners on emergency preparedness’, held in Vietnam in April 2008 recommended, *inter alia*:

- that there was a need to further engage the private sector ... on APEC’s endeavour to enhance TFEP’s effort in emergency preparedness and to encourage the APEC Emergency Management CEO Seminar 2008 to further explore the possibility for cooperation between APEC and the private sector on this issue, and
- that the CEO Seminar 2008 ‘look closely at disaster resilient infrastructure and the ... *Hyogo Framework for action 2005-2015* ... (and) that TFEP give priority to analysing cost and economic impact of disasters, including damage analysis and loss assessments.’

Since the 2007 Cairns meeting, Peru’s National Institute of Civil Defence (INDECI), from which staff are drawn to represent Peru in the TFEP, took the commitment to conduct the second Emergency Management CEOs Seminar in August 2008 and is responsible to lead a project named “Formulation of the Strategy for Disaster Risk

Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response of the Asia - Pacific region from 2009 to 2015". The INDECI Team has been on working the preliminary outline of the strategy in consultation with APEC economies and international experts. In order to facilitate the draft Strategy's discussion and receive feedback from economies' representatives, cooperation agencies, national and regional institutions, have participated in an open virtual forum that was hosted by the www.desaprender.org website. The following topics were the focus of exchange:

1. Discussion between member economies on the strategy document
2. Support of Cooperation agencies and regional institutions to improve the proposal
3. Public/Private Investment, territorial planning and vulnerability reduction in future markets

The various contributions to the first draft were integrated into this (draft) document to be presented to the Second Emergency Management CEOs' Seminar.

This strategy proposal is an important step forward in focusing attention on disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness in the APEC process. The strategy seeks to strengthen cooperation and interaction between the wide range of APEC sectoral areas and national resources. This strategy will seek to provide a more coherent platform from which Member Economies can strengthen domestic mechanisms to reduce risk and confront disasters, identify gaps in institutional structures and be proactive in the protection of life and property in future emergencies.

2. Aims and Objectives

This strategy proposal aims at keeping the sentiments expressed by APEC Senior Officials' at their meeting in Seoul, in March 2005, when the TFEP was relaunched (initially as the Virtual Task Force for Emergency Preparedness). Senior Officials were specific in noting that "APEC's efforts should complement, not duplicate, other international efforts and should be sustainable."

As such, APEC is not, nor will it likely become, a major aid delivery or disaster management organisation and this strategy does not seek to expand APEC activities into these areas.

APEC is unique in the global political economy covering an extensive range of sectoral and economic areas where pan-regional engagement and discussion is essential. In the APEC context this draws together government agencies as well as the private sector and civil society, to consider cross border issues and present proposals for endorsement by Leaders and relevant ministers. On an annual basis, APEC's actions and directives are underwritten by the highest political officials in each economy for implementation and action by departments in their respective economies. Another important factor relating to the carrying out of APEC's aims and objectives is that while APEC operates on the basis of consensus and non-binding agreements, decisions by Leaders and Ministers are subsequently supported through the ongoing assessment of individual action plans and peer review.

This strategy proposal recognizes the extensive work that has already been undertaken at a global, regional and local level to mitigate the risks of social and

economic harm associated with disasters. In particularly the resolutions adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction that was held in Hyogo, Japan, in January 2005, provide the global community with a comprehensive framework for mitigating damage and loss associated with disasters. The resolutions that were agreed in Hyogo provide APEC with important guidelines for incorporation into an Asia-Pacific strategy that will integrate and support United Nations efforts on disaster reduction.

To this end, the 'APEC Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia-Pacific Region: 2009 to 2015' will seek to integrate with current TFEP and broader APEC activities to achieve a series of core objectives:

1. To provide APEC economies with solid information and criteria relating to the economic and social costs of disasters that have occurred in the APEC Region and, from this information. The findings from this research will provide an important resource to be used to communicate the anticipated human and economic costs of failing to take action to enhance disaster preparedness. This information can be used in direct stakeholder communication such as with economies and for public information through the media.
2. To consider the findings of the current TFEP Stocktake process together with other data developed through the proposed quantitative and qualitative research to identify gaps in disaster risk reduction. The identification of these gaps will enable member economies, working with multilateral and bilateral development partners, international financial organizations and other international and regional bodies, to investigate additional initiatives to enhance regional preparedness.
3. This strategy will identify practical mechanisms, instruments and communication products for implementation at a community level in member economies. Targeted to strengthen important local level networks and structures, these products should include measures that seek to enhance business and community resilience, embed more comprehensive disaster planning priorities in local government policy development and tools to build capacity and remove gaps in local preparedness.

These objectives will be achieved through coordinated interaction with APEC fora and the identification of actions and directives for presentation to Leaders and Ministers where these are appropriate.

In order to deal with future potential disasters, all economies are advised to give attention to these aims to save lives, protect property and ease social and economic distress when disasters strike.

3. Existing regional policies and instruments guiding and complementing the Strategy

Senior Officials, in establishing the TFEP in Seoul in 2005, stated that the Task Force "will cooperate with other international forums, the private sector and NGOs in areas of natural disaster response and preparedness." This strategy will seek to reinforce alliances and partnerships at a global and regional level that make best use of individual organisational strengths, and seek to strengthen already established

infrastructure and systems at a national and community level. These varying levels of interaction are detailed below.

3.1. Local instruments (within each economy)

The Hyogo Declaration notes that government authorities “have the primary responsibility to protect the people and property on their territory from hazards, and thus, it is vital to give high priority to disaster risk reduction in national policy, consistent with their capacities and the resources available to them.” This approach resonates with the approach taken by APEC to assist member economies to identify and assess their domestic strengths and weaknesses in order to enable economies to strengthen their capacity and infrastructure.

In the area of disaster risk reduction and preparedness, APEC member economies have established a range of strategic approaches that are diverse in both their structure and the resource base that they draw upon. The institutional responsibilities of civil defence/protection agencies, emergency preparedness organisations, and risk management institutions vary widely. In some economies, for example, these agencies specialise exclusively on programs for risk reduction, while others are primarily focused on responding to disasters, with a number of economies focused somewhere in between these two.

This strategy will not seek to impose the burden of unnecessary change nor will it propose intrusion into potentially confidential areas of domestic infrastructure and planning. This strategy will seek, through a process of voluntary assessment, to identify gaps in preparedness and disaster management coordination, particularly at a community level, that can be overcome through capacity building efforts and multilateral cooperation.

The TFEP, as with other APEC fora that have been established to strengthen regional development and stability, works according to principles of adaptability and flexibility in its action.

3.2. Regional organizations and strategies involved

A number of multilateral arrangements are currently in existence in the APEC Region through which member economies participate and establish joint policies that seek to enhance disaster risk reduction. These include, among others:

Asia

- ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) with the Committee for Disaster Management ACDM where 7 economies participate: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- ADPC, (Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre), including: Australia, China Popular Republic Indonesia, Lao PDR, Korea, Thailand, Viet Nam.
- ADRC (Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Centre) including: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic,

Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam.

The Pacific

- Pacific Islands Forum
- Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)
- Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), an intergovernmental, regional organisation with 20 member countries, including 18 Pacific island countries and territories, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

Latin America

- Central America Integration System (SICA) with CEPREDENAC, which has two policies for coordination including Mexico: Mesoamerican Plan, and the Coordination Forum of Tuxtla Gutiérrez.
- Andean Community Nations, with CAPRADE integrating Peru and will start joint actions together with Chile.
- International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN)
- Iberoamerican Association of Civil Protection and Defence Governmental Bodies.

3.3. Bilateral – Multilateral Organizations

Working at both global and regional levels of activity, bilateral arrangements and multilateral organisations are in a position to provide funding and Project Management support for capacity building exercises aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness:

- Organization of American States
- World Bank
- Inter-American Development Bank
- Asian Development Bank
- European Commission
- Bilateral technical cooperation agencies

3.4. International Organizations

Other international organizations that have provided support for projects to enhance disaster preparedness include:

- United Nations System (UNDP, ISDR, OCHA, WFP, ECLAC, WMO, ESCAP, UNCRD, WHO, UNICEF)
- International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- The Asian Emergency Preparedness and Response Initiative (AEPR) that was sponsored by the United Nations World Food Programme and aims to enhance coherence and interoperability of all operational response actors through state of the art simulation exercises.
- International Non Governmental Organisations

4. Strategic lines Considered in the Strategy

A series of cores strategic lines were considered in the development of the strategy that are by no means exhaustive, considering the scope of disaster preparedness activities. From these strategic lines a series of priority activities have been proposed for consideration and funding by the TFEP.

APEC's agenda to meet its core "Bogor Goals" of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialised economies and 2020 for developing economies has been undertaken with reference to what have been called the 'Three Pillars' of APEC. These are:

- Trade and Investment Liberalisation aimed at reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment.
- Business Facilitation focusing on reducing the costs of business transactions, improving access to trade information and aligning policy and business strategies to facilitate growth, and free and open trade.
- Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) that is aimed at providing training and cooperation to build capacities in all APEC Member Economies to take advantage of global trade and the New Economy.

APEC Leaders have been very clear in articulating the importance of issues that may not, on face value, appear to be of high economic relevance, but ultimately have significant economic and social impact. Issues such as disaster risk reduction and preparedness, are of vital importance in ensuring that the regional economy can operate without uncertainty and is able to make plans for the future.

Besides the identification of joint activities to strengthen technical and economic cooperation for disaster preparedness, this strategy acknowledges the importance of:

- The outcomes of any activity undertaken as part of this strategy must demonstrate a clear notion of how skills and resources can be transferred to local communities for local implementation, and how they will generate and/or strengthen specific capacities at every level (regional, national and local).
- Shared responsibility between private and public sectors in terms of strengthening resilience and developing recovery strategies.
- Exploring the complementarity of TFEP activities with other fora, working groups and ministerial and Leaders meetings that take place as part of the APEC process.
- Articulating the differences in capacities and mandate a range of international forums with an interest in disaster management with the view of enhancing cooperation.
- Adaptability and flexibility that must be considered as part of the differentiated and local character of existing mechanisms in the economies.

The broad spectrum of sectors in which APEC operates and the depth of networks of public sector officials attuned to APEC issues within member economies, together with the strong associations APEC continues to develop with the private sector and international organisations, provides a strong base from which to consider the three proposed strategic lines of this strategy.

4.1. Develop joint disaster preparedness actions

The experience in large and small-scale disasters has demonstrated the benefits of developing joint activities for disaster preparedness and response. This effort still requires to be promoted and coordinated.

Identifying gaps in disaster preparedness will be for the purpose of clearly identifying opportunities for increased cooperation among economies, and with multilateral and bilateral development partners, international financial organizations and other international and regional bodies that have an interest in contributing to improve national disaster risk reduction and preparedness infrastructure.

The TFEP CEO's Seminar of Cairns, Australia, in August 2007 agreed on the elaboration of a strategic plan for the TFEP be prepared 'taking into account the human and political imperative for more effective emergency preparedness and risk reduction.' In the meeting, seminar participants agreed that, since the Task Force is not an operational fora, its main role is in the area of emergency preparedness.

Based on the activities prioritised in the Cairns meeting and in the consultation process developed, main activities identified in the domain of preparedness are:

- To promote access to information relating to disaster risk at community level.
- Identification of technical capacities of member economies in preparedness and response, particularly related to technology, training, and related human and material resource development for promotion of new projects.
- The development of promotional and advocacy activities, such as seminars and exhibitions, in order to enhance awareness and to learn from other experiences in the region.
- Collective training, including computer supported simulation programs.
- To enhance mutual assistance in emergency response among APEC economies.
- To promote exchanges of good practices and lessons learned and to fill gaps in disaster preparedness identified through the application and assessment of the Stocktake Template (2008).
- Development of information systems or geospatial data infrastructure for regional hazard monitoring, early warning and disaster response in real time, particularly, the implementation and reinforcement of end-to-end Tsunami early warning systems that reach vulnerable communities.
- Strengthening of local communities resilience capacities, considering that local communities are the most affected and the first line of response.
- To promote disaster preparedness at all levels: from individual, to community, local, national and regional level.

4.2. Support to recovery processes in disaster affected economies through long-term development approach

In direct relationship with APEC's three pillars mentioned in the introduction to this chapter, actions should be taken in order to ensure business continuity regardless of the size of the enterprise, and to further develop the resilience capacity of the local and national actors.

APEC member economies have agreed that in responding to natural disasters as devastating as the Indian Ocean Tsunami, APEC should leverage its strengths of multi-sectoral participation, private-sector partnerships, broad regional reach, and high-level political involvement. To this end, APEC recognised its capacity to play a constructive role in addressing long-term economic recovery in affected sectors.

In the dialogue among APEC economies, the business community, key international and regional partners on emergency preparedness, held in Viet Nam in April 08, participants recommended that need to ‘Stress on the need to further engage private sector’. The Viet Nam meeting encouraged the APEC Emergency Management CEO Seminar 2008 to further explore the possibility for cooperation between APEC and the private sector on this issue. It was also recommended for the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to take into account the involvement of the private sector in risk reduction and response in drafting the Corporate Social Responsibility Report on 2008.

The main strategic lines are:

- Long-term recovery of economic activity in affected sectors with a focus on business, livelihood and production losses. APEC’s member economies diversity in size and level of development, with different comparative advantages, allows for a range of short to medium and long-term activities to be developed that will overcome the post-impact phase of a disaster. To this end, document and information sharing among APEC members would assist communities and sectors to recover and prepare for crisis situations and establish long term recovery actions allowing for market support and regulations for better market functioning.
- Enhance resilience capacities of small and medium businesses and local communities. This represents an opportunity to create synergies with other actors working at the communal level. Tools for developing self-reliance and minimizing dependence on external assistance would be promoted. Indigenous production and appreciation of local culture helps in long-term sustainability could be considered such as, for example, the identification of crops that can withstand droughts or the use of hazard maps to guide community physical development.
- Encourage private and non-government sector, including individuals, local NGOs, businesses and international organizations, to provide support for the protection and strengthening of critical public facilities and physical infrastructure. This would be by means that include donation, technology and expertise, program planning and policymaking.
- Promote public-private partnerships to enable a collaborative approach to disaster risk reduction.
- Promote the development of effective business continuity and critical incident tools and guides for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to reduce vulnerability and promote resilience.
- Promote the development of donation management processes and procedures at local, national international levels to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.

4.3. Prospective Risk Management

The reduction of risk is inextricably linked with the enhancement of quality of life in member economies. To not employ best practices that seek to properly embed disaster risk reduction considerations into development planning processes would be committing those who can least afford it to experience the worst effects of disasters in the future.

The experiences of APEC member economies, often accompanied by the tragic loss of life and property, have led to the development of improved practices and technologies to manage and reduce the risks that would result from future potential disasters. The outcomes and lessons from these experiences provide the basis for further cooperation and information sharing on minimizing and controlling risk factors activities as part of APEC's ECOTECH agenda.

The SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE), that coordinates and manages the APEC ECOTECH agenda, has identified a number of priority areas that are central to this area of work. They provide the basis for the implementation of the ECOTECH activities outlined in the Osaka Action Agenda and include the development of human capital, the enhancement of human security, the facilitation of technology flows and safeguarding quality of life through environmentally sound growth. Working groups and SOM special task groups within the SCE are mandated to strengthen cooperation and capacity building in these areas, many of which have a direct link to disaster risk management.

Specific activities for understanding and reducing factors contributing to risk linked to development decisions will be undertaken. These are anticipated to include:

- Establishment of risk indicators relating to the disruption of:
 - Social services provided at a community level
 - Essential government services
 - Commercial products and services
- Promote public policies based on successful experiences drawn from other member economies in the fields of land use planning and territorial organization, environmental management, public and private investments and other related topics.
- Financial mechanisms, such as risk transfer, and incentives including for small and medium-sized enterprises, and the promotion of diversified income options for populations in high-risk areas to reduce their vulnerability to hazards
- Development of joint research on risk, vulnerability and specific instruments for risk reduction and control
- Promote the inclusion of existing information related to El Niño Phenomenon (ENSO) into the public and private development planning process, with specific emphasis on ECOTECH initiatives.
- Development of integrated information systems for risk reduction, and integration of existing regional information systems.
- Add "risk assessment considerations" into the planning process for both private and public investments portfolios.
- Facilitate the development of promotional and advocacy activities, such as seminars and exhibitions, in order to enhance risk awareness and to learn from other experiences in the region in the context of prospective risk management.

5. Proposed Initiatives of the Strategy

The initiatives and direction advocated in this strategy proposal take account of APEC's guiding principles, including the Three Pillars of APEC, so as to ensure that measures proposed are within APEC's scope of activities.

Drawing from the core aims and objectives identified in this strategy, further elaborated and considered through the three defined strategic lines, and very importantly, including recommendations from the Emergency Management CEO's Forum 2008, this strategy proposes the development of the following core initiatives as the basis for APEC projects.

This list is by no means complete, as over the coming years ongoing reviews of the strategy should be initiated and the work agenda reviewed. The outcomes of the TFEP Stocktake 2008 is also expected to have a significant impact on the priorities identified for the projects undertaken by the TAFP and this may lead to a re-evaluation of some of the projects proposed in this strategy. However, these factors considered, the following is a list of priority areas that have been identified for presentation to the TFEP.

No	Details
1	<p>Research Project on the Economic and Social Costs of Disasters and Projections for Future Disasters in the APEC Region</p> <p>The development of a quantitative and qualitative research project that will seek to provide deeper understanding of the consequences of not acting to mitigate disaster risk. This research project should be in two parts:</p> <p>A). The quantitative exploration of the financial cost and casualty rates of previous disasters in the APEC region that can be applied to a projection of costs associated with future disasters and estimates of potential reductions in both financial costs, the loss of life and personal injury. This research will seek to establish baseline data that can be used to assess the economic flows affected in post-disaster situations.</p> <p>B). The qualitative analysis of the flow-on effects, in terms of businesses effected by previous disasters in the APEC region, to provide a more specific picture of the businesses that are likely to be affected in the event of a disaster. This will be particularly valuable to SMEs who often experience substantial difficulty as the consequence of a disaster due to lack of preparedness and financial resources.</p>
2	<p>Tsunami Early Warning System Final Mile Gap Assessment for the APEC Region</p> <p>A study to identify final mile gaps in Tsunami early warning systems that place economies and lives at risk. Despite the development of intricate early warning systems around the Pacific Ocean, many economies, both industrialised and developing, have limited capacity to employ this information to warn people in local communities that a disaster is imminent. This project would consider this last link in tsunami warning systems that can then be considered for attention by APEC, member economies and international organisations. The Assessment will use the format already developed and employed by IOC-UNESCO, so to be able to compare results from post Tsunami 2004 assessment, focusing on the "last mile" issues.</p>

3	<p>Disaster Risk Management Package for Local Communities</p> <p>The development of a Risk Management Package for local communities that can be delivered to local government organisations for application at a municipal level. To be conceived as a “train-the-trainer” exercise, the project would develop a teaching strategy, workbooks and teaching guides in multiple APEC languages. The project could draw from the success of the ‘Tourism Risk Management Strategy’ developed by the ‘APEC Centre for Sustainable Tourism (AICST)’ that was produced in Bahasa, English, Chinese, Thai and Vietnamese. The number of languages to be translated would be a decision based on cost factors. The translation process would also need to incorporate a process of contextualisation of the content so as to ensure local relevance.</p>
4	<p>Pilot Program to Foster Government and Private Sector Disaster Management Collaboration at a Local Level</p> <p>To develop a pilot program in one, or possibly two (if economies of scale and operational synergies allow), developing APEC member economies to foster incentives for government to collaborate with private and non-governmental sectors in the aftermath of disaster to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance transparency • Enhance governance/monitoring • Foster training, solutions/capacity-building • Enhance early warning <p>This program would employ case studies from previous disasters, both existing and case studies that would be carried out specifically for the project, to identify areas of collaboration that have proven successful. The program, that would include printed and audio-visual materials highlighting processes and opportunities for collaboration, would be produced for further distribution in that economy and adaptation for use in other economies.</p>
5	<p>Linking Disaster Risk Information Systems in the Asia-Pacific</p> <p>In order to initiate the rapid exchange of information and improve collaboration, this project will seek to assist economies to connect their national disasters and/or risk information systems.</p> <p>This will allow to generate an information system on disaster risk reduction in the Asia Pacific region that links existing sub-regional and national systems (network of networks) to enhance information sharing among member economies and to contribute to the strategy implementation</p> <p>A research project should be developed that will list and assess existing data exchange capacities, detail priority information exchange gaps and provide recommendations on standardising information sharing protocols between APEC member economies.</p>
6	<p>Disaster Preparedness Guide for Local Communities and Their Languages in the APEC Region</p> <p>The development of a “Disaster Preparedness Guide” in multiple languages for distribution to small and medium enterprises throughout the APEC region. SMEs and micro-enterprises are typically adversely affected by the disasters due to their lack of capacity to prepare for a disaster and lack of financial resources available for recovery. At the 2007 SME Working Group in Hobart, an “APEC Pandemic Flu Planning Guide for SMEs” was produced for distribution and filtration through to local levels. It is proposed that a one</p>

	<p>page guide be developed that draws attention to the essential activities small businesses should undertake to prepare for and so mitigate the impact of a disaster when it strikes. The guide would need to be not only translated into local languages but placed into local context. Versions in the official languages of each member economy are proposed with the possibility for further extension of the project into dialects and languages that are not official (pending consent of the relevant economy). The guide would be short, numbering only one to two pages, and could be distributed at as either a hard copy or as a PDF to the community level for printing/copying and distribution.</p>
7	<p>Encouraging Business to take Account of Non-Economic Risks Relating to Disasters</p> <p>Develop a project with relative APEC fora to undertake a pilot program for increasing the capacity of businesses in at-risk areas. The project would be conducted in a developing economy to highlight and generate greater understanding of the relevance and importance of attending to non-economic risks associated with disasters. These cover areas such as regulations, social outrage, government reaction, corruption in government procurement and other relevant areas in order to foster Corporate Social Responsibility.</p> <p>The project would entail workshops and seminars to seek the standardisation of equipment relevant to disaster preparedness, the develop varied strategies for specific types businesses and engagement with existing industry associations.</p> <p>Following completion, of the program could be reviewed with the intention for adaptation and use in other economies.</p>

6. Coordination with the Hyogo Framework for Action

Agreed to by 168 members of the United Nations meeting at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, the Hyogo Framework is furthering a strategic and systematic approach for the mitigation of disaster effects. This framework, which will be in force until 2015, stresses the need to increase the resilience of nations and communities to disasters, and specifies the means to achieve this. Additionally, it establishes a general commitment to significantly reduce losses associated with disasters, whether they are human lives or social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.

This international strategy has set five Priorities for Action:

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

These priorities for action may be articulated with the APEC agenda, and include the following key issues, which are stated in the Hyogo Framework:

- Sustainable development, through disaster risk reduction and adequate environmental management.
- Resilience to adverse situations by strengthening capacities.
- Preparation plans for action in emergencies, contingency plans.
- Recovery after a disaster through cooperation and financial risk reduction programs by promoting the use of insurances.
- Scientific and technologic development for an adequate monitoring and early warning (information systems)
- Alliances, such as the coordination between the public and private sector.
- Social responsibility translated into humanitarian support in crisis situations.
- Development of indicators for measuring progress.

It is important to restate that the aim of this strategy proposal is not to duplicate what has already been identified under the Hyogo Framework, but to develop actions that are more consistent with APEC's structure of actions.

7. Coordination with APEC fora, groups and ministerial meetings

The APEC process comprises numerous working groups, committees, task forces and other fora that cover a broad spectrum of economic areas that accommodate networks reaching deeply into the government, private sector and civil society systems of each economy. This is further augmented by a comprehensive system of sectoral ministerial meetings that are conducted across a wide range of ministerial portfolios that have direct relevance to disaster mitigation and emergency management.

This strategy proposal advocates a strengthening of relationships and interaction between the TFEP and the following fora and meetings in order to achieve the objectives of this strategy proposal. The processes for increasing interaction with other fora involves varied avenues of formal and informal interaction that will ultimately lead to closer collaboration and perhaps joint involvement with specific projects. In the first instance, it is advisable that the designated representatives of the TFEP, such as the Chair, contact the senior Officials, Chairs and Lead Shepherds of other groups and request an informal discussion of areas of shared interest. Then both sides can report back to their fora and from this prepare more formal proposals with the support of their members. The following is a preliminary outline that can form the basis of further discussion within the TFEP.

Policy Support Unit (PSU): Located within the APEC Secretariat, the PSU assists APEC Member Economies on issues such as economic and structural reform, trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation and related ECOTECH policies. The PSU is a resource for APEC fora to use to better elevate the quality of the work they are undertaking and expand linkages where these are appropriate. It would be wise to engage with the PSU to enhance momentum for TFEP activities and expand interaction with other fora.

Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI): While the core focus of the CTI's work is the reduction of impediments to business activity in the areas outlined in the Osaka Action Agenda and the deliberation of trade and policy issues, several of the sub-groups and industry dialogues overseen by the CTI are active in areas that have direct relevance to enhancing disaster preparedness in the region such as:

- Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance
- Government Procurement Experts' Group

SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE): The SCE coordinates and manages APEC's Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) agenda, which is outlined in the Osaka Action Agenda.

The SCE is in a position to coordinate with the TFEP on a range of capacity and infrastructural development issues that relate directly to disaster preparedness. The binding principle is that not attending to these development issues relating to disaster mitigation seriously undermines prospects for attaining sustained growth and development in the APEC Region.

In particular, the following are areas that have specific relevance to preparing for, managing and recovering from disasters:

- Human Resources Working Group
- Health Task Force (leading to the Health Ministers' Meetings)
- Industrial Science and Technology Working Group
- Related Meetings (leading to the Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting)
- Tourism Working Group and Ministerial Meeting and the APEC International Centre for Sustainable Tourism
- Telecommunications and Information Working Group (leading to the Ministerial Meeting)

APEC Study Centers (ASC): The ASC undertakes studies and research in APEC-related issues through leading academic communities around the region. There are ASCs in 19 member economies, comprising some 100 universities, research centers and centers of academic excellence across the Asia-Pacific. It is possible for the TFEP to seek collaboration with the ASC in conjunction with the Economic Committee to develop research projects in areas such as disaster impact calculations, scientific research and other studies linking disaster risk reduction with economy at regional, national and local level. .

Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF): The experience of the CTTF carries strong parallels to a great deal of the work of the TFEP and provides a rich source of practical and process information that will assist the TFEP with the implementation of its activities. This relationship will be useful firstly in considering the successes and failures of the CTTF, particularly where these relate to the intricacies of interaction between the Task Force and Member Economies. Secondly, there are a number of areas in which the activities of the CTTF and the TFEP cover similar topics, particularly relating to the use of resources.

This list of potential opportunities to integrate activities and approaches with APEC fora is dynamic and will continue to grow as the potential links with other bodies in the APEC process will grow as opportunities are identified.

“Building a strategy for disaster risk reduction in the Asia Pacific region”