

Progress of disaster risk management in China

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Cases: Experiences and lessons learned from disaster risk reduction

1. Large-scale lasting extreme weather of low temperature, rain, snow and ice at South China in January-February 2008
2. Wenchuan Earthquake on May 12th, 2008

1. Large-scale lasting extreme weather of low temperature, rain, snow and ice at South China in January-February 2008



snow



wire



Communication Station

cnsphoto



Road



On the High Way





5.12 Wenchuan Earthquake

At 14:28, May 12th, 2008, a massive earthquake measuring **8.0** on the Richter Scale struck the southwest area of PRC. The epicenter was in Wenchuan County, **92** km northwest of Chengdu, affecting a vast area of **100,000** square kilometers, including **10** provinces (Sichuan, Gansu, Shanxi, etc).

A lot of people were dead, missing and evacuated, numerous rooms were destroyed or damaged in the earthquake.

Agriculture,industry,commerce,infrastructure ,public facilities were badly damaged ,Total direct economic losses was 845.1 billion RMB.



Yingxiu town of Wenchuan after earthquake, air taken on May,14th.



The destroyed bridge and building



check-up lake



the frontline of disaster relief



the frontline of disaster relief



Main experiences:

1. Strong leadership of Chinese government and scientific command give the people sufficient confidence and encouragement.
2. Social mobilization and quick action of officials and masses is a tower of strength to victory of resist catastrophes.
3. Chinese People's Liberation Army and Police play a very important role in the catastrophes relief.
4. High technology such as remote sensing, GIS, and satellite communication etc is used that decrease the losses caused by the catastrophes.

Main lessons:

The law of nature must be considered and respected in the social-economic development and construction, the relationship of mankind and nature needs to be dealt with properly.

II Progress of disaster risk management in China

I. Make disaster risk reduction [DRR] a priority

Activities and results

- Significant progress made in disaster management system, mechanism and legislation;
- An effectively system for disaster monitoring and early warning has basically taken shape;
- The training programs at the different level to enhance the capacity of DRR.

Gaps and challenge identified

- The mechanism to mobilize the NGOs and the wider civil society into disaster reduction efforts needs to be strengthened;
- There are short of comprehensive legislation on disaster reduction.

Plan

- Build up the capacity for the disaster reduction in urban and rural communities;
- strengthen the construction of national comprehensive legislation on disaster reduction.

I. Make disaster risk reduction [DRR] a priority



Emergent Plans and legislation for Disaster Relief

I. Make disaster risk reduction [DRR] a priority

• **Training:** The disaster information management training courses in March 2004.



• **Drilling:** The drill for flood response along Yellow River in August 2004.



• **Workshop:** The workshops on disaster situation and possible losses.



II. Improve risk information and early warning

Activities and results

- The disaster early warning systems have been established focus on the flood, drought, earthquake, landslide etc.
- The information technologies have been widely applied in China to improve the efficiency of the early warning, such as satellite remote sensing, GIS and telecommunication systems.

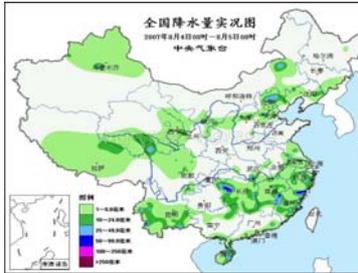
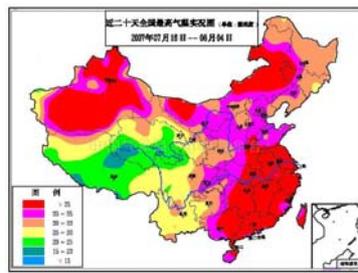
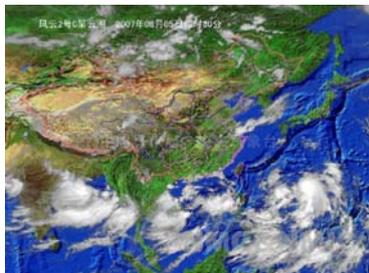
Gaps and challenge identified

- The disaster monitoring system remains incomplete;
- Construction of an effective system for disaster monitoring ,information sourcing and assessment is still lagging behind.

Plan

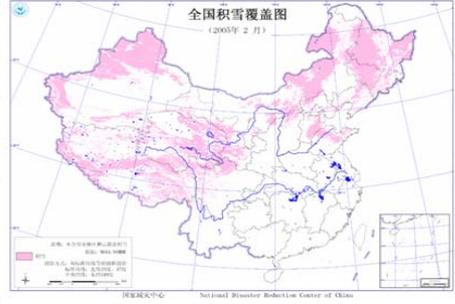
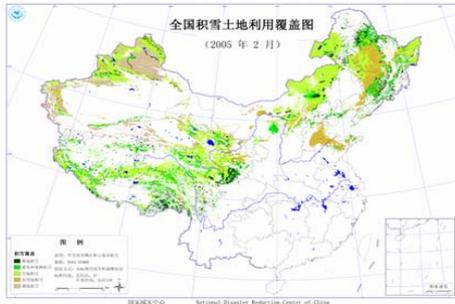
- We shall improve networks for natural disaster monitoring, early warning and forecasting;
- China will increase the number of monitoring stations and enhance the capabilities for receiving and applying Remote Sensing data.

II. Improve risk information and early warning



Monitoring and early warning of meteorological disasters

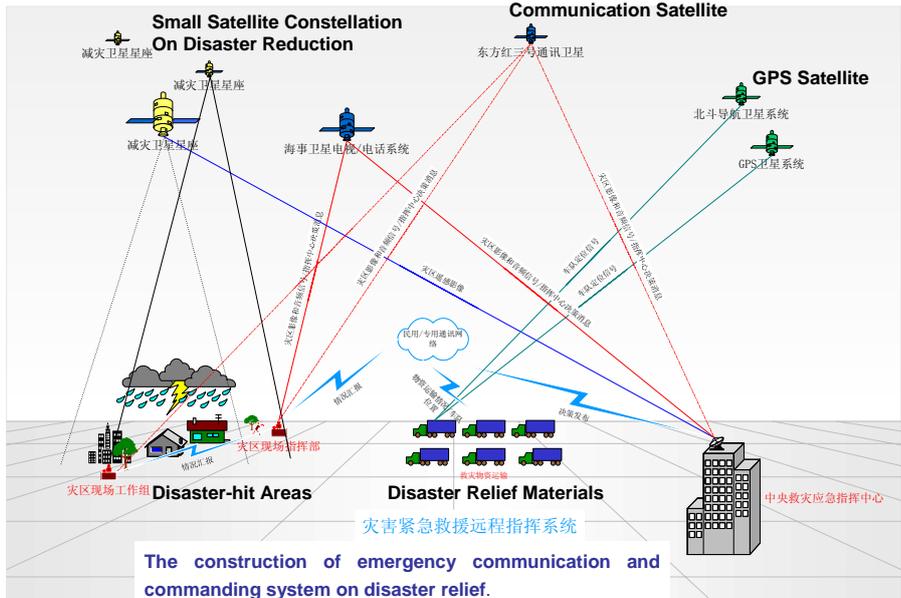
II. Improve risk information and early warning



Early Warning System



II. Improve risk information and early warning



III. Build a culture of safety and resistance

Activities and results

·Ministry of Civil Affairs have extensively launched “ Disaster Reduction for Safer Communities” campaigns all across the country In order to enhance the disaster reduction awareness of community residents and their disaster relief capacity in the event of a disaster these years.

Gaps and challenge identified

- Disaster management personnel at every level are expected to improve their professionalism;
- Public awareness of disaster reduction needs to be elevated.

Plan

· China will forge ahead with grass-roots disaster reduction efforts and embark on programs of creating role-model communities for comprehensive disaster reduction.

III. Build a culture of safety and resistance



Disaster Reduction Publicity Campaign in Peking



Earthquake Evacuation Exercise

IV. Reduce the underlying risk factors

Activities and results

- China have built up capacity for management of natural disaster risks and relevant information sourcing;
- A four-tier disaster information report system from the central level down through provincial, municipal and county level are being built up
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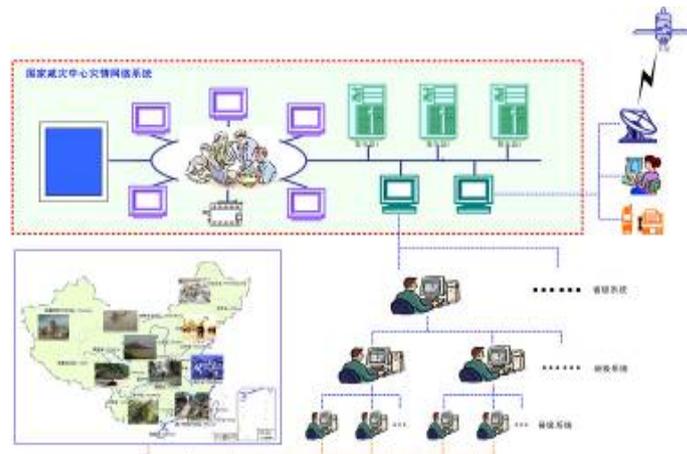
Gaps and challenge identified

- Programs including censuses on disaster reduction resources and overall survey and assessment of disaster risks have yet to be launched;
- The distribution of disaster risks remains unclear.

Plan

- The survey on comprehensive disaster risks and disaster reduction capacity in key areas across the country will be conducted.

IV. Reduce the underlying risk factors



the National Disaster information Management System

V. Strengthen preparedness to respond in an emergency at all levels in order to effectively and speedily assist those who are adversely affected

Activities and results

· There are ten big ware-houses and other small warehouses charged by MoCA and its local agencies cross the country. And a large amount of goods are stored .Once major disaster occurs, the first batch of disaster relief tents could be sent to the hands of the afflicted people within 24 hours, which is vital to rehabilitate the victims and give them some immediate comfort.

Gaps and challenge identified

- The reserve system for disaster response and relief supplies has yet to be completed;
- The equipment used for emergency communications, command & control and transport should be renewed.

Plan

· China will build some new warehouses for disaster relief supplies, rebuild and expand some existing warehouses.

V. Strengthen preparedness to respond in an emergency at all levels in order to effectively and speedily assist those who are adversely affected



Since 1998, China has started to establish its national reserve system for relief supply. At present, national reserve sites have been set up in 10 cities such as Shenyang, Harbin, Tianjin, Zhengzhou, Hefei, Wuhan, Changsha.

Distribution of Central warehouses for reserving disaster relief materials

V. Strengthen preparedness to respond in an emergency at all levels in order to effectively and speedily assist those who are adversely affected



Disaster Relief Materials at the level of the Central Government

Conclusion

- ❑ Chinese government pay great attention to disaster reduction, which has for long been viewed as highly critical to realizing the overall goals for sustainable socio-economic development.
- ❑ All regions, departments and sectors have strengthened the construction of disaster reduction projects and related work.
- ❑ The capacity to resist and reduce natural disasters in china has been obviously enhanced.
- ❑ Of course, some questions in the above presentation still exist.



Many thanks to you!

