



ADRC Highlights

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Workshops on tsunami disaster risk reduction 1: APEC Workshop on Tsunami DRR Held August 16 in Lima, Peru

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Workshops on tsunami disaster risk reduction 1: APEC Workshop on Tsunami DRR Held August 16 in Lima, Peru

Last December, as one of the follow-ups to the WCDRR, a resolution designating November 5th as the World Tsunami Awareness Day was adopted at the UN General Assembly. This year, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) organized two workshops on tsunami disaster risk reduction (DRR), in close collaboration with cabinet office, one in Lima, Peru and the other in Krabi, Thailand.



APEC Workshop in Lima

The APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) meeting was held on August 15-16 in Lima, Peru. Back to back this meeting, on the second day in the afternoon, ADRC, in collaboration with National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI), organized a half-day workshop on tsunami DRR to identify present tsunami-related policies and challenges in the APEC economies.

Many APEC economies situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire have suffered the direct impacts of tsunami disasters. Tsunamis struck Peru in 1996, and Indonesia and Papua New Guinea in 1998. The Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 caused extensive damage across a wide area, including Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, and many tourists from APEC economies who had been visiting the tsunami-affected areas also lost their lives. In the second half of the 2010s, tsunamis claimed lives in Indonesia again and in 2010 in Chile. The year 2011 saw the devastating tsunami triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake, eventually reaching the opposite side of the Pacific Ocean. This led to the loss of lives in Indonesia and the US. The main objectives of this workshop were to identify the status of anti-tsunami policies and measures in APEC economies, to discuss the major challenges to be addressed, and to strengthen partnerships with the private sector in promoting anti-tsunami measures.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Icochea Iriarte, Director, INDECI, Peru, Mr. M. Yamashita, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Peru, and Dr. Le Quang Tuan, Co-Chair, EPWG. The first session of the workshop entitled “Anti-Tsunami Measures by APEC Economies: Sharing Experiences” was chaired by Mr. E. M. Salonga, Chief of the Disaster Risk Governance Division, Office of Civil Defense, Philippines. Representatives from Peru, Thailand, Chile, and Japan gave presentations on the status and challenges of anti-tsunami policies, followed by a presentation on Asia-Pacific views of anti-tsunami measures by JICA.

The second session focusing on collaboration with the private sector was led by Dr. Li, Wei-Sen, Secretary General of the National Science and Technology Center, and former co-chair of EPWG. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) opened the session with a presentation on the US tsunami warning system and other measures, while National Society of Industries (SNI),

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Perú elaborated on this theme from the viewpoint of the local private sector. This session featured comments from representatives of Toyota in Peru.

APEC covering majority of tsunami affected areas is one of the best fora to discuss tsunami DRR in close collaboration with the private sector, since a huge tsunami could bring about significant indirect damages on the world economy through global value chain, while a tsunami of significant magnitude could physically affect many economies directly, as did the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Further collaboration bridging both sides of the Pacific should be pursued based on the outcomes of the workshop.

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