

Paper:

# Business Continuity Planning Status of the Private Sector in the Asia Pacific Region

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The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region accounts for around half of all global GDP. Since its supply chains are closely intertwined, a single disaster could adversely affect economic activities in the entire region. APEC therefore needs to strengthen the private sector's capacity for disaster preparedness and recovery by promoting Business Continuity Planning (BCP) among APEC member economies. This report is summarizes findings from a 2011 regional survey conducted to understand the status of BCP adoption and the level of BCP awareness in the private sector among APEC economies. Outcomes of this survey will be used to determine the next appropriate steps for enhancing and promoting private sector resilience.

**Keywords:** BCP, BCM, supply chain, APEC

## 1. Introduction

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region accounts for approximately 40% of global land area, more than 40% of the world's population, and around half of all global GDP. Regrettably, however, it is the site of almost 70% of the world's natural disasters. One lesson learned from past catastrophic events such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, Hurricane Katrina, the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Thailand Flood is that the private sector plays an important role in reducing economic damage and regional impact when they are well prepared for disasters. Because the region's supply chains are closely intertwined, a single disaster could adversely affect the economic activity of the entire region. It is thus an essential and urgent issue for APEC to strengthen the private sector's capacity for disaster preparedness and recovery by promoting Business Continuity Planning (BCP) among APEC member economies.

A survey was conducted in 2011 to understand the status of BCP adoption and the level of BCP awareness among private sector participants in the APEC region. Accordingly, considerable contributions were made to this effort by the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

This document summarizes findings of a 2011 regional survey conducted by the Asian Disaster Reduction Cen-

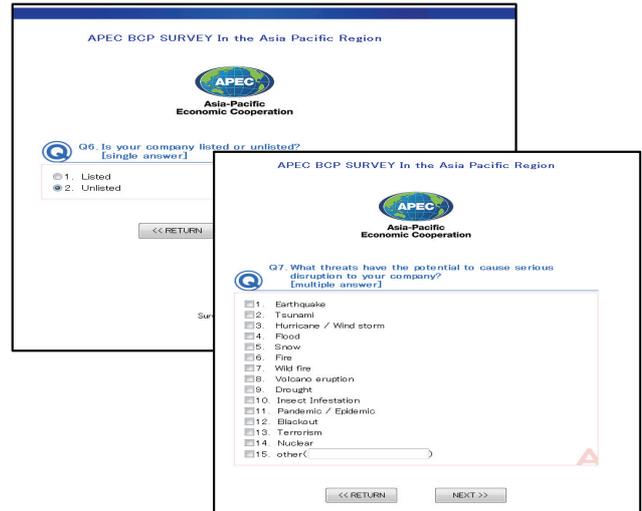


Fig. 1. Web-based online survey.

ter (ADRC) on private-sector preparedness among APEC economies. This is part of an APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) project aimed at promoting best practices in emergency private sector preparedness and at encouraging the adoption of business continuity plans among APEC economies. The outcomes of this survey will be used to determine the next appropriate steps for enhancing and promoting private-sector resilience for a sustainable world.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Survey Method

The survey was conducted through web-based online using an English questionnaire (see Fig. 1).

The online survey URL was disseminated to member companies through contributing organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Association with kind support of APEC Business Advisory Council (see Table 1). The responses were anonymous and voluntary.

### 2.2. Survey Period

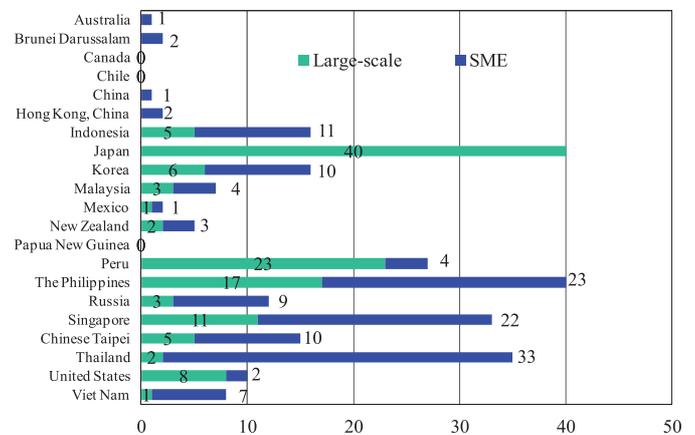
The survey was from June 14 to August 30, 2011.

**Table 1.** Contributing organizations.

Economy	Contributed Organizations
Australia	Australian Industry Group
Brunei	National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Brunei Darussalam
Canada	Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Chile	Federation of Chilean Industry (SOFOFA)
PRC	China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Chamber of Commerce in Guangdong Province
Hong Kong, China	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Indonesia	Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industries
Japan	Support Council for ABAC Japan Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Japan Machinery Center for Trade and Investment
Republic of Korea	Federation of Korean Industries Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Malaysia	Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers
Mexico	Cámara Nacional de Manufacturas Eléctricas Cámara Nacional de la Industria de Productos Cosméticos Cámara Nacional de la Industria Molinera de Trigo Cámara Nacional de la Industria del Vestido Cámara Nacional de Industriales de la Leche
New Zealand	Business NZ
Papua New Guinea	Manufacturers' Council of PNG
Peru	Sociedad de Comercio Exterior del Peru (COMEX-PERU)
The Philippines	Makati Business Club Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Russia	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation
Singapore	Singapore Business Federation
Chinese Taipei	Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce Chinese National Federation of Industries
Thailand	Thai Chamber of Commerce
The United States	National Center for APEC US Chamber of Commerce
Viet Nam	Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**Table 2.** Contents of questionnaire.

Q1-Q6	General information
Q7-Q8	Potential threats and disaster experiences
Q9-Q10	BCP adoption and awareness
Q11-Q12	Reasons for BCP development
Q13-	Public support for building a BCP
Q14-	How to build a BCP
Q15-Q16	Coordination with suppliers
Q17-	Obstacles to BCP development
Q18-	Related plans
Q19-	Coordination with community
Q20	Standards and certification
Q21	Risk management/Finance
Q22-23	Situation of BCP implementation
Q24	Obstacles to BCP implementation



**Fig. 2.** Number of respondents by economy.

### 2.3. Questionnaire Contents

The survey was designed into 24 multiple choice questions so that each responder could answer within about 10 minutes.

The questionnaire was also developed to be as comprehensive and concise as possible to obtain enough information to analyze the characteristics of responding companies.

The contents of the questionnaire are listed above (see **Table 2**).

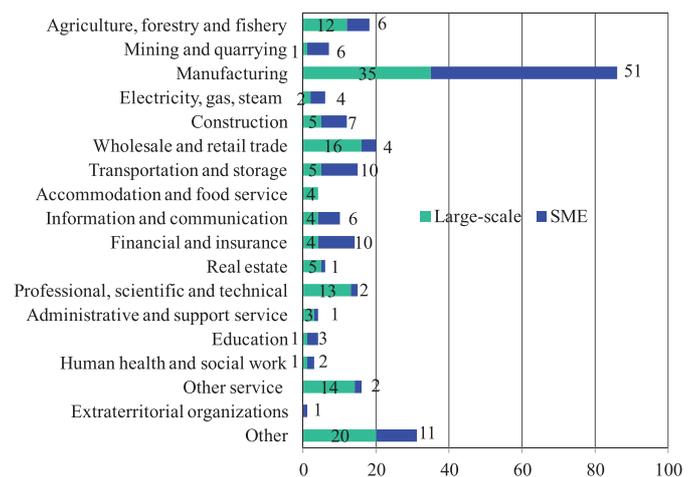
### 2.4. Survey Coverage

As a result of the survey, 272 responses were received from 18 economies in total (see **Fig. 2**).

Since the characteristics of participating organizations and member companies differ among economies, the size and industry sector of respondents vary accordingly (see **Fig. 3**).

Also the number of data is insufficient in some economy to be statistically significant. Therefore, the result data do not reflect the situation of each economy properly.

Small and medium enterprises (SME) are defined in this survey as companies having under 300 employees.



**Fig. 3.** Number of respondents by industry sector.

## 3. Results and Findings

### 3.1. Potential Threats and Disaster Experiences

In terms of both potential threats and disaster experiences, “Earthquakes” represent the greatest hazard (see