

APEC Food Emergency Response Mechanism (AFERM)

Tracy S.H. Tarng
Senior Specialist and Chief
Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei

July 28, 2015



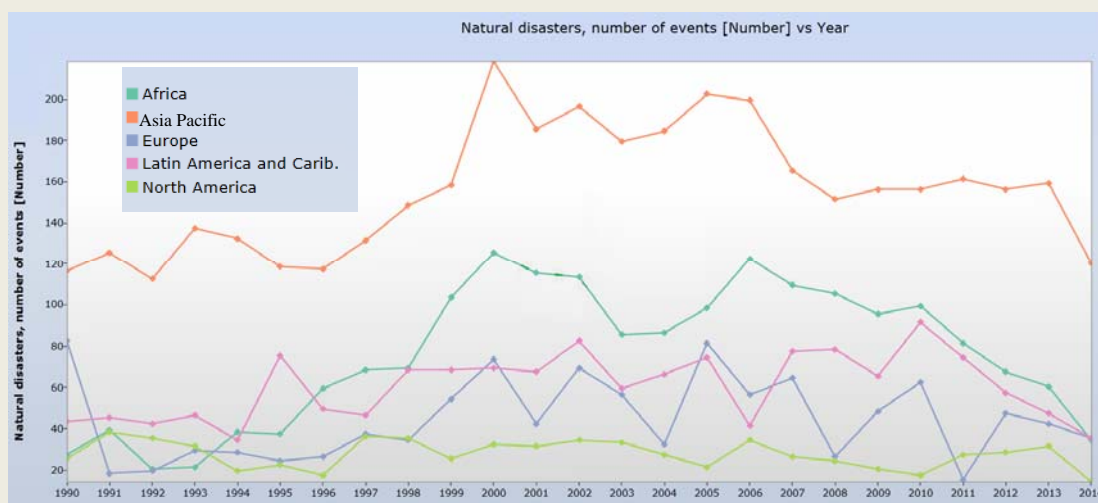
OUTLINE

- I. Rationale for Establishing AFERM**
- II. Proposal for Establishing AFERM**
- III. Objectives**
- IV. Key Features**
- V. Partnering with Humanitarian Groups**
- VI. Expected Achievement**



I. Rationale for Establishing AFERM (1/4)

- Natural disasters, often tied to climate change, are on the rise in recent years (UNEP/GRID)
- The Asia-Pacific region bears the brunt of natural disasters that account for 80% of lives lost globally



Source: : ESCAP based on data from EM-DAT: the OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

2

Asia-Pacific Economies Ranked by Number of Disasters :1980-2013

Rank	Economies	Events
1	China	682
2	India	463
3	Philippines	430
4	Indonesia	358
5	Bangladesh	248
6	Japan	175
7	Viet Nam	171
8	Australia	168
9	Iran	152
10	Afghanistan	150

Rank	Economies	Affected (millions)
1	China	2,978
2	India	1,524
3	Bangladesh	326
4	Philippines	148
5	Thailand	81
6	Viet Nam	71
7	Pakistan	64
8	Iran	42
9	Indonesia	20
10	Cambodia	18

Based on events,
6 are APEC economies.

As for affected people,
5 are APEC economies.

I. Rationale for Establishing AFERM (2/4)

- Low-income economies are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters
- When extreme climate change affects food production, it often occurs within several proximate economies.



Landslide



Flood

4

I. Rationale for Establishing AFERM (3/4)

- Rising Natural Disasters but Less Food Aids
 - World Food Program (WFP) reveals that the volume of **global food aids** deliveries has **decreased** in the past years, **despite a growing need of emergency food aids**.
 - Several of WFP's projects could face a break in food supplies because of low funding or spiked food price led to food aid shortage.
- Existing regional food reserve schemes do not cover all APEC economies and the commonly consumed staple crops.



5

I. Rationale for Establishing AFERM (4/4)

- It is needed to enhance regional capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters affecting the agricultural sector in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The risk of a major food crisis would be reduced if an emergency food response mechanism could cover both sides of the Pacific and both hemispheres.



6

II. Proposal for Establishing AFERM (1/3)

APEC Food Emergency Response Mechanism (AFERM)

- Chinese Taipei proposed a cost-effective, cooperative **AFERM** under the principle of **voluntary contribution, collective action, risk-sharing and self-management**.
- It is to address a state where a member economy suffers from natural calamities and is unable to meet the emergency food needs on its own.



7

II. Proposal for Establishing AFERM (2/3)

2011 APEC Food Security Forum (August 9-10)

- 65 participants from 17 economies, APEC Secretariat and NGOs attended
- Agreed to the overall concept of AFERM
- Called for a detailed proposal and cost-benefit and socio-economic impact analyses of AFERM



8

II. Proposal for Establishing AFERM (3/3)

2012 AFERM Working Meeting (April 10-11)

- Chinese Taipei organized an expert team to prepare a report entitled “*A Feasibility Study of APEC Food Emergency Response Mechanism (AFERM)*” for the discussion
- Attended by 60 participants from 19 member economies, APEC Secretariat, ATCWG and NGOs



9

III. Objectives of AFERM

- To build **a cost-effective**, and **risk-sharing** regional **multiple food crops network** for the provision of a **short-term humanitarian food relief** during emergencies caused by natural disasters
- To provide a **supportive buffer**
- To **complement** existing international food aid/reserve programs



10

IV. Key Features of AFERM (1/4)

- Build a regional network of virtual food stocks, composed of earmarked multiple crops for the humanitarian food relief
- A **cost-effective** cooperative mechanism under the principles of voluntary contribution, collective action, risk-sharing, self-management, and **non-trade-distorting**
- Target only **short-term** emergency food relief in times of natural disasters, and **fully-grant** form of food relief from earmarked reserves to be pledged by member economies



11

IV. Key Features of AFERM (2/4)

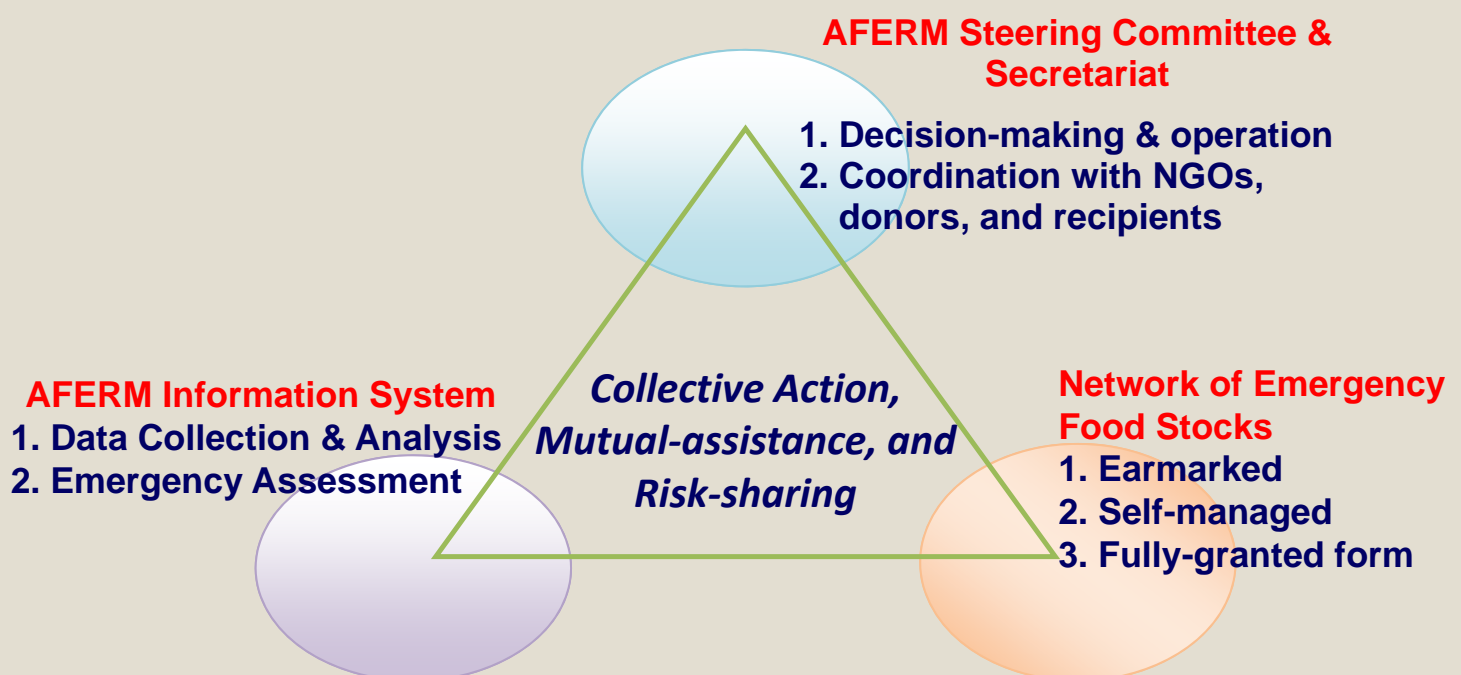
- Both **in-kind** and **in-cash** donations can be earmarked
- Serve as **a second line of defense** complementing the existing humanitarian food aid programs, consistent with existing humanitarian food relief programs (multilateral, bilateral, and regional mechanisms, which cut across governments and NGOs)
- **Cooperate with humanitarian NGOs** to deliver the emergency food aids
- Require **commitment** on the pledges of the voluntary contributions with some flexibility



12

IV. Key Features of AFERM (3/4)

Functional Concept of the AFERM



13

IV. Key Features of AFERM (4/4)



14

V. Partnering with Humanitarian Groups (1/2)

- Cooperating with delivery networks of **volunteer humanitarian groups** is crucial and would be arranged to expedite the food deliveries and bear transportation costs
- The transportation from donor economies to receiving economies would be determined by the parties involved
- A list of humanitarian NGOs will be established, based on AFERM members' suggestion and AFERM Secretariat's search



15

V. Partnering with Humanitarian Groups (2/2)

- **Chinese Taipei has long worked with Humanitarian Groups**, e.g. Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, World Vision, Noordhoff Crainofacial Foundation, Chinese Taipei Root Medical Peace Corp., **to deliver and distribute food donation for disaster relief in the receiving economies**
- **from 2003 to 2015 - total 289,190 tons**
- **Best Practice : Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation**



16

V. Partnering with Humanitarian Groups Best Practice

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

- under the Humanitarian Food Relief Program
- from 2003 to 2015 - total 111,120 tons

(1) INDONESIA

Year 2003 - 2005

- Major objective - For the poor
- 50,000 tons for 2,500,000 families
- Areas covered including Jakarta, Jawa, Northern Sumatera and Aceh.



17

(2) INDONESIA

a) Year 2005 - 2008

➤ 2005 Tsunami

Emergency Relief & Poor.

➤ 30,000 MT-1.2m families

➤ Areas covered including

❖ Aceh – 7,000 tons - 2005 tsunami

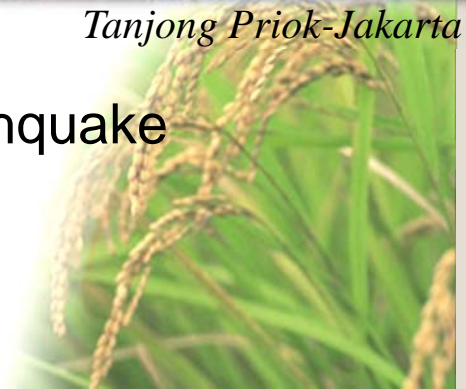
❖ Yogyakarta – 2,925 tons - 2005 earthquake

❖ Pekanbaru – 506 tons - flood relief

❖ Jakarta – 225 tons – flood relief



Tanjong Priok-Jakarta



18

(3) INDONESIA

Year 2011

➤ Major objectives -
For The Poor.

➤ 5,000 tons



(4) IRAN

Year 2003

➤ Bam earthquake

➤ 2,500 tons for
80,000 victims families



19

VI. Expected Achievement of AFERM

- AFERM is a **cost-effective, risk-sharing, non-trade distorting**, and earmarked food aids network to support APEC economies in the case of natural disasters.
- AFERM is a regional food emergency preparedness mechanism complimentary with international disaster reliefs on assisting receiving economies experiencing natural catastrophes.
- AFERM would strengthen economies' resilience to natural disasters and increase food security of the Asia-Pacific region.



20



Thank you for your attention!

