



# Lessons of Reconstruction from Sichuan Earthquake Disaster

**Dr. Wang Zhenyao**

Dean, Philanthropy Research Institute,  
Beijing Normal University, China  
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## I. The serious situations of Sichuan Earthquake



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**Aerial photograph: Yingxiu Town of Wenchuan County on May 14**

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**The terrain of the vast affected area is complex, limiting the efficiency of rescue efforts**

**A collapsed bridge on the way to Wenchuan on May 16**

**Collapsed buildings**



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## Quake-afflicted people were removed



A bird's-eye view of the affected area



the quake-afflicted people were facing great difficulties



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## 5.12 Wenchuan Earthquake

- The Great Wenchuan Earthquake that measured at 8 Ms occurred at 14:28 on May 12, 2008, with its tremors extending to 48810 villages, 4667 towns, 417 counties and cities in 10 provinces including Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Yunnan, Henan, Hubei, Guizhou, Hunan and Shanxi.
- **15.1 million people were forced to relocate immediately. The severely quake-stricken area exceeds 116,700 square kilometers.**

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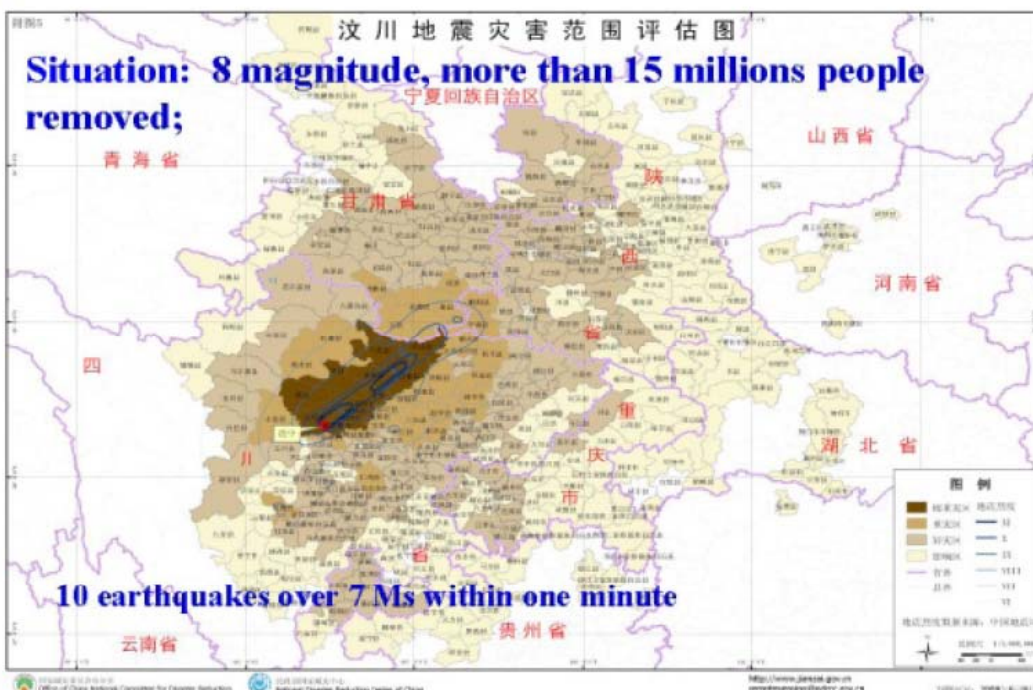




## Big Challenge to China

- 69,227 people are reported dead and 17,923 people are listed as missing. The economic loss run higher than 1 trillion yuan.
- Western district is very poor. The local governments could not reconstruct independently;
- The situation is dangerous because too many people were waiting!

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Rescue: a temporary shelter in a stadium in Mianyang on the evening of May 14, 2008



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**Roads at northwest were blocked for 3 months and 20 days!!!**

- The Yingxiu-Wenchuan Road was finally cleared on Sept. 2, which was already 3 months and 20 days after the Earthquake.
- Before Sept.2, people had to make a **800-km detour** and climb over snow-capped mountains to reach Wenchuan from Chengdu.

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But as a result, **at the end of September, 2010**, the main task of rehabiliyation already finished.

1908.5 thousand rural households and 288.3 thousand urban households, 3839 schools, 2169 hospitals and other medical buildings, and 5000 different infrustructures alredy finished in Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu.

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## Why so fast?

Six lessons

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## **Lesson one, central government were responsible for the reconstruction.**

- In the emergence response, the Central government decided to form a general headquarter of earthquake relief .
- The headquarter decided to set up a frontline general command office in Chengdu on May 15<sup>th</sup> to coordinate frontline relief efforts.

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## **"Act of Disaster Management and Reconstruction of Sichuan Earthquake" was announced earlier by State Council, systematizing and standardizing post-disaster reconstruction**

- The Act published on June 8 plays a positive effect on the systematization of the post-disaster reconstruction.
- It's the first time in China to publish the Act of Reconstruction.

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## Lesson two, earlier announced the central budget standard to disaster people.

one household ten thousand  
yuan, and it is double than before.

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## Formulating new policy for three-month temporary aid

- On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the general headquarters decided to issue temporary life assistance to people in straitened circumstances who had no room to live in, no capital goods and no source of income for 3 months.
- The standard was 10-yuan grants and 0.5kg processed grain per person per day; in this way the affected people in straitened circumstances would get a little more than the one-dollar international minimum standard of relief;

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## The high standard for rural housing reconstruction

- In the middle of June, it was decided that the central government should spend 40 billion yuan, including 35 billion yuan in Sichuan, 3.8 billion yuan in Gansu, 1 billion yuan in Shanxi, and 100 million yuan in Chongqing and Yunnan each.
- **Local governments should ensure that disaster-afflicted people can get a subsidy of 20,000 yuan per household.**

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## The mechanism of urgently starting to construct the temporary shelter

- On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the headquarters decided to purchase 900,000 tents and tarpaulins and thousands of tons of awning cloth urgently and required it to be done by June 20; the headquarters decided to purchase 1 million mobile rooms and each province should start to help the rebuilding efforts in certain counties that they supported, in order to fully guarantee the temporary shelter for the victims
- Sichuan Province was also determined to issue 2000 RMB subsidies to every farmer household who built temporary shelters for themselves to encourage farmers to build temporary shelters for themselves.





## Lesson three, established the special partnership

**"big help small"**

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## **“one province to help a severely affected county ”**

- In the process of emergency rescue, the Ministry of Civil Affairs set up an emergency support system on May 21<sup>st</sup>: one province supporting a county, playing a very positive role in stabilizing the situation in disaster areas.
- On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the central government decided to set up a comprehensive “one province to help a severely affected county ” reconstruction counterpart support system. The central government required that the support provinces’ corresponding support relief work load should not be less than 1% of the local fiscal revenue of the year before. Henceforth the mechanism of 18 provinces and cities supporting 18 counties in Sichuan province, Tianjin supporting Shanxi Province, Shenzhen supporting Gansu province.

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## 18 provinces to severely affected counties in Sichuan province

广东—汶川 山东—北川 浙江—青川 江苏—绵竹  
上海—都江堰 北京—什邡 河南—江油 河北—平武 辽宁—安县  
福建—彭州 山西—茂县 湖南—理县 吉林—黑水 安徽—松潘  
江西—小金 湖北—汉源 重庆—崇州 黑龙江—剑阁

**Guangdong province (mainly Shenzhen)---severely affected areas of Gansu province**

**Tianjin--- severely affected areas of Shaanxi province**

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## Lesson four, encouraging NGO participation

donation, volunteers, and do some projects for reconstruction

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## Motivate social donation on a large scale

- According to The Ministry of Civil Affairs's announcement on Mar 9, 2009, they have received accumulative donations worth 76.022 billion RMB.
- In comparison with the situation in 1998: During the combating Flood period in 1998, donations received was 7.259 billion RMB.
- The amount of the donation has exceeded all the previous annual historical donation records.

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## encouraging volunteer services

- It is estimated that there were 3 million volunteers having reached the disaster-stricken area. They created a new mode of voluntary work.
- Due to the less-developed volunteer organization in China, the volunteers were self-motivated. They organize by themselves and integrate with the local management team, forming different service networks.
- The volunteers were also involved in the order maintenance and psychological treatment works in the settlement of earthquake victims.

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## Lesson five, encouraging international cooperation

### Learn from Japan



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## International emergency rescue and reconstruction

- The government invited the international rescue team for the first time to participate in emergency relief, and it also called on all other countries to support. The rescue efforts made by neighboring countries and regions showed the power of the international cooperation;
- All countries and regions which have diplomatic relations with China provided various support for us. On May 15th, international relief teams started to arrive!
- Followed that, a lot of international experts arrived disaster district.

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## Lesson six, open policy for media to the process of reconstruction

transparency to society

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## Opening media to disaster districts after that it is still.

- Media from home and abroad can interview freely in the disaster-stricken area. Feature programs from CCTV and other media have become important information platforms for reporting disaster-relief and reconstruction.
- All the influential media gave more concerns about reconstruction.

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## The urgency and spontaneity of innovation

- As a whole, adjustment, innovation of many policies based on the institutional innovation played an important role in the reconstruction of Sichuan Earthquake.
- The administrative work of the government has made great adjustment since the decision making process was open and all the significant decisions were open to the public for advices.

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## The recognized shortcomings: equipment, regulations!



- We are far behind in equipment: compare our equipment with MIG-26 helicopter.



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