

Action Plan of Weihai City

The capacity building on environmental emergency management in Weihai

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1. Background and the problem

At present, the national economy of China is developing rapidly. With the increasing tension and rhythm of social and economical activities, the possibility of environmental pollution accident increases greatly. Environmental pollution accident is very harmful to the human health, to the ecological environment and the economy development. The government of China paid high attention on the environmental emergency, but because lack the advanced technology, limited funds, the capacity of emergency response is much behind the developed countries.

Weihai is located in the eastern tip of Shandong Peninsula of China. After China open up to the outside of the world, Weihai developed very fast. With its developed harbors, airport, railway station and highway net, Weihai become a cargo distribution center for both national and international. The cargos include a large quantity of oil, and sometimes include dangerous chemical substances that have potential pollution accident in a certain extent. If the pollution accident occurs, it would not only cause bad damage to the cargos and influence the national and international trade, but also would cause serious environmental pollution, affect the human health in the region, even may bring harm infection to the environment of Japan and other neighbor countries. Therefore, the capacity building on environmental emergency management in Weihai is very important both for the environmental and social, national and international aspects.

Now in Weihai, because the lack awareness on the environmental emergency, lack the efficient organization, lack the technology, lack the equipment, especially the lack the experience, so the environmental emergency management is the problem.

In recent years, Weihai government persists in sustainable development both in economy and environmental aspects. The rapid development of economy made Weihai listed as one of the top 50 cities of China in term of comprehensive economic strength and the 40 best cities with the best investing environment. Weihai has been awarded with the title of "1st National Sanitary City", one of the first cohort "National Environmental Protection Model Cities", "National Garden City" and "National Excellent Tourist City". It has been entitled as "the Best Example For Improving Living Environment" by UN Human Living Center for twice. In 2003, Weihai got the honor of "Habitant Scroll Award" from UN.

The next goal of Weihai is to construct an eco-city. Weihai has invited some professors and experts to make 《The Plan of Constructing a Eco-City》. The capacity building of environmental emergency management is on the top of priorities.

2. Target area and population

The targeted area is the land and sea area under Weihai city's jurisdiction. The population is 2.5 million.

3. Resources and Constraints

Now in Weihai we have the Environmental Protection Bureau and other related

departments of the government, we have 98 staff working on the Environmental Protection Bureau, so basically the organization and human resources is ok in Weihai about the environmental emergency management.

The constraints in Weihai now are:

- 1) the awareness on the environmental emergence need to be improved
- 2) the preparedness for the environmental emergence in local community level need to be improved
- 3) lack the advanced technology;
- 4) lack the equipment;
- 5) lack the experience;
- 6) lack the financial support;
- 7) the organization now existed in Weihai is not efficient enough during the emergency case, it is need to be improved.

4. Action Plan

1) Creating an interagency steering committee. The committee should consist of Environment Protection, public security, public sanitary, traffic & communication a etc. the organization should be headed by the mayor or vice mayor.

2) Establish an environmental emergency database. Investigate the harmful substance that are producing and using in Weihai, name of the substance, the prosperity, the location, the amount, what kind accident it may happen, what kind of response action should be taken.

3) Improve the preparedness for the environmental emergency in the local community level, especially in units that have the potential environmental disaster. 2) Training. Invite experts from developed countries giving lectures on the environmental emergency. Send technicians to developed countries work with their counterparts, have technical training, to improve the skills of our staff.

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5) Upgrade the environmental emergency response equipments that include the monitoring, communication, transportation, rescue etc.

6) Public education. Use TV, radio, newspaper, workshop and other method to publicize the knowledge of environment, enhance the public awareness on the environmental emergency, make sure the public can take correct countermeasures for environmental emergency.

The schedule of the action plan is as follow:

Action Plan by Quarters

Action	3/06	4/06	1/07	2/07	3/07	4/07	1/08	2/08	3	4/08	1/09	2/09
1. Creating an interagency steering committee.												
2. Establish an environmental emergency database.												
3. Improve the preparedness for the environmental emergency in the local community level												
4. Training												
5. Upgrade the environmental emergency response equipments												
6. Public education												

5. Monitoring System

The monitoring process should be carried out by the Environmental Protection Bureau, the indicators should includes: the creation of the steering committee, the establishment of the environmental emergency data base, the hardware and software preparedness on the local community level, the staff be trained, the proper environmental equipments have been acquired and the public awareness on the environmental emergency has been improved.