

# EXPERIENCE OF TYPHOON MORAKOT RECOVERY AT TAIWAN

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Taiwan hit by a huge disaster by Typhoon Morakot two years ago. Southern part of Taiwan sustained heavy losses, yet the resilience and soft power of Taiwan have also become even stronger as a response. Governmental departments and different social firms spared no efforts in the rescue, restoration, and reconstruction efforts for minimizing the damages. A reconstruction council was established soon after the incident. Special Act and funding of 116 billion NTD was approved almost without any boycott at the Legislative Yuan in the mean while.

More than 30 commissioners participates Reconstruction Council those from the administrative departments, experts and scholars, civil groups, officials in the counties and cities suffered by the disaster, representatives of victims, and representatives of aboriginal groups. At the end of first year after the disaster, 1600 permanent houses have been completed that benefit 4000 individuals. On the infrastructure, six major road systems totaling 653 km and eight loop railway tracks have been restored. In terms of economical restoration, plants and agricultural production has been restored more than 80%. Related departments are also assisting in the promotion of the restoration of the culture, life, and industries in the permanent-housing communities and regulated supplementary industrial and tourism packages in the wish of achieving sustainable communities and economic recoveries in the disaster areas.

Reconstruction plan is implemented in three levels: the Regional Reconstruction Master Plan, Departmental Reconstruction Plan, and Local Reconstruction Plan. With the Regional Reconstruction Master Plan being the policy guideline under the premise of conserving national land, related central government agencies should follow it to propose approaches and plans to implement the reconstruction in the three phases of "Infrastructure Reconstruction," "Community Reconstruction," and "Industry Reconstruction."

Local governments, on the other hand, may divide disaster areas into several reconstruction separate sections and propose and implement individual reconstruction plans for those sections.

The reconstruction effort is a race against time as many projects must be completed before the season of floods, plum rain, and unpredictable typhoons. The disaster also made the government realize the importance of teaching the public about disaster prevention, minimization, and preparation as the power of nature should never be underestimated. However, regarding those living in hazardous areas and not willing to relocate, the governmental firms will take the "pre-emptive preparation and 24-hour standby" measures once the government announces any disaster alarms.

This paper review and share the experience for disaster recovering for such a tremendous catastrophe. Setting up reconstruction council is introduced at first, and coordination of governmental and NGO's resources is discussed at the second part. Victim's consociation is also the main work since people expects to speak out their mind and no one dares to stop it. Finally, we know that reconstruction is only not an engineering process; it might be more likely a new town planning with many investors having different opinions. Most of the precious records to complete the reconstruction work are summarized by categories as engineering, finance, administration, cultural etc. at the end of this paper.

