

Response to call for public comment on the "Overall National Plan for recovery and rebuilding following the Wenchuan Earthquake disaster"

Provided by:

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I am very pleased to be able to provide a response to the call for public comment on the recently published "Overall National Plan for recovery and rebuilding following the Wenchuan Earthquake disaster". I have enjoyed reading this plan and commend the committees on their hard work and balanced proposals. China's response in regard to rapidly rescuing people who could be rescued, repairing vital infrastructure, honouring the people who died and providing the survivors with food, shelter and clothing has been an incredible feat that one day should be told to people outside China. It must also include the hardships and death faced without question or hesitation by rescue workers. However, in the future it is also important for people to rebuild their lives and hopes and this is what the overall plan is providing.

I would like to make a comment in regard to the allocation of the relief. The area on the boundary of Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu is a place where many Qiang people live and where historical sites and relics are part of the people's livelihood through tourism and conservation. This area, from near Qingchuan and Guangyuan in Sichuan to Ningqiang and Lüeyang in Shaanxi has been hit by thousands of aftershocks since May 12. There have been recent aftershocks of magnitude 6.1 on August 5 and magnitude 6 on July 24. There have apparently been four earthquakes greater than magnitude 6 in this area since the main shock of May 12 and many lesser quakes.

This area has a history of earthquakes but the recent events have been extreme and are possibly not yet finished. Many historical sites including towns (such as Da'an, Qingmochuan etc), temples (Temple of the River God and Lingyan Temple at Lüeyang, the family Temple of Wu Zetian in Guangyuan etc) and other relics have been badly damaged and they, along with the infrastructure that supports tourism, need to be repaired and made safe before Chinese and western tourists will revisit. The needs of people for food, shelter, clothing, safety and security must come first but employment, income, self-confidence and self-esteem will also need repair and re-building. My concern is that despite the ongoing seismic activity that has affected this area, it seems to have been less noticed in your overall plan than the many areas of suffering nearer the original epicentre.

The area from Zitong in Sichuan to Lüeyang in Shaanxi has had a long and connected history of great significance to Han and Qiang people. I believe that only by improving

the infrastructure along the length of this track will the tourism industry recover fully. Attending to a few sites independently will have less impact. I am aware that you have many constraints to work under, of which money is not the least. You will have deliberated long to make a fair allocation in the face of an impossibly huge task. It is therefore your decision as to how you allocate limited capacity. Given the task it may also be possible to make use of international concerns for specialised areas such as these. I have great admiration for your document and understand that you will make a balanced decision among many greatly deserving potential recipients. I wish you great success with your Plan.

David Jupp
August 24, 2008

关于《国家汶川地震灾后恢复重建总体规划(公开征求意见稿)》的回应

我非常荣幸能为《国家汶川地震灾后恢复重建总体规划(公开征求意见稿)》提供我的一些建议。我很高兴阅读此规划，并且希望表达我对相关单位的杰出工作及其和谐提案的诚挚的赞意。中国对地震作出了迅速的反映，及时地救援所有可能获救的人员，修缮必需的基础设施，对罹难者以及为幸存人员提供食物、住房和衣物的人民群众都致以崇高的敬意，这些都是中国惊人的功绩，是我们有一天应该向世界人们宣称的。毫无疑问这也包括救援人员所面临的困难和死亡。但是，在未来同样非常重要的人们能够重建起他们的生活和希望，这就是“规划”所提供的。

我希望对救灾资源的分配方面提出以下意见。四川、陕西、甘肃三省的交界处是许多羌族人民居住的地方，这里的历史古迹遗址也是他们赖以生存的旅游和天然资源。这个地区，从近处的四川的青川、广元到陕西的宁强、略阳，自 512 以来遭受了无数次的余震的冲击。最近又在 7 月 24 日和 8 月 5 日分别受到了 6 级和 6.1 级的余震。自 512 主震以来这一地区发生了 4 次的 6 级以上地震，以及许许多多的稍轻级别的余震。这一地区虽然历史上也有过地震，但是这次的地震无疑是最强烈的而且可能仍然没有结束。许多的历史古迹包括城镇（例如大安、青木川等）、庙宇（略阳的江神庙、灵岩寺，广元的皇泽寺等）和其它古迹以及这些古迹的旅游基础设施都受到了地震的破坏，这些地方和设施在大众和国外旅游人士能够重新访问之前都需要进行修复，达到安全程度。人们的衣食、居住和安保当然是首要的，但是就业、收入以及人们的自尊、自信心也需要修复重建起来。我的担忧是，在这个川、陕、甘三省交界处除了最近连续不断的地震活动外，您的总体“规划”中对这个区域的关注比其它许多距震源较近的地区相对要少。

从四川的梓潼到陕西的略阳之间的地区有着对汉族和羌族都极其重要的悠久历史。我认为只有沿着两地之间全程改善基础设施，才有可能使其旅游业完全恢复。相对地只对个别的古迹给予单独的关注会收效较少。我很理解您在“规划”工作中有很多的限制因素，也有资金方面的制约。面对如此艰巨的任务，您一定经过了深思熟虑才作出最后公平的分配。因此如何分配有限的资源是您的最终决定。我相信在分配工作中，对以上的一些特殊地区的海外来的建议也可能被您采纳。我对您的规划由衷的赞赏，并相信您会平衡各方面潜在的救灾需要，合理分配。诚挚地祝愿您的规划圆满成功！

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