

Reconstruction Experience after May 12, 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake

Xun GUO

Professor, Head of Civil Engineering Department, Institute of Disaster Prevention of China

Abstract The M8.0 Wenchuan earthquake occurred on May 12, 2008. This earthquake killed 87,000 people. Among the vast disaster area Beichuan County suffered from the most serious loss. More than 20,000 people died in the earthquake, about 80% of the buildings collapsed in the county center. The whole area of Beichuan was high mountains and deep valleys, there was no suitable land for the reconstruction of the new administrative center. In the beginning of the reconstruction process the central government coordinated 300 km² of flat land from the adjacent county. This land was used for settlement of homeless people and the construction of the new administrative center. The central and provincial government organized a strong team for planning and designing of the reconstruction. Aim at similar development level of the adjacent non-disaster county, the reconstruction needed vast amount of money. One of the most developed province, Shandong Province was designated by the central government to the reconstruction of Beichuan county. One city in Shandong assisted one town in Beichuan, and rich city corresponded to town with serious disaster. Shandong Province provided all the money for the construction of buildings (both for public and residents) and infrastructures. Construction team, including workmanships also came from Shandong. Two years after the earthquake the planned reconstruction was finished.