

## ***Interactive comment on “Analysis of disaster characteristics and emergency response of the Jiuzhaigou earthquake” by Wei Wang et al.***

**Wei Wang et al.**

vivi\_wangwei@163.com

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Dear Sir, Thank you for your comments for this paper. Your suggestions will help us to improve our research paper, but there are some issues that require further discussion. The original intention we wrote this paper was to summarize lessons and advances in emergency response operation by this Jiuzhaigou Earthquake, and then analyze the changes and advances in all phases of earthquake emergency management in China in the past decade since Wenchuan Earthquake. For this, we provided useful information and implementation of national laws, plans for disaster emergency response in China, and specifically described emergency response activities of all levels of the government, various departments, rescue teams, enterprises and public institutions as well as social organizations during Jiuzhaigou Earthquake response. The response

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activities exhibited three distinct characteristics relative to those during similar earthquakes. It was a successful emergency response event and reflected the changes and advances in all phases of earthquake emergency management in China after the Wenchuan Earthquake, which we discussed in the conclusion of the paper. It is highly important in further research on earthquake emergency management in China and is a good example in natural disaster management in China and could be referenced by other earthquake-prone countries. To the detail questions, our answers are as follows: 1. More rational than the past earthquake emergency response. 2. China uses departmental system of management to deal with different disasters. Chinese contingency plan system covers specialized emergency plans of all government sectors (the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Land and Resources, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction, the Ministry of Transport, the National Health and Family Planning Commission, China Earthquake Administration etc.) and all government levels (national, provincial, municipal, prefectural and community level). The contents include disaster monitoring and early warning, prevention and preparation, emergency handling, disaster relief, and rehabilitation and reconstruction. Detailed measures and working regulations are worked out by the relevant government departments in line with the specialized plans and their respective responsibilities. In the wake of a major natural disaster, under the unified leadership of the State Council, the relevant departments with different focuses shall act in coordination and launch emergency response plans to guide disaster control and relief work. The governments of the affected areas shall immediately start emergency response measures and set up a local disaster emergency response command with the heads of the local governments serving as the chief commanders, and leaders of relevant departments as members, to jointly draw up emergency plans and measures, organize field emergency response work, and report disaster details and work progress to governments of higher levels and relevant departments. In the case of earthquakes, China has the National Earthquake Contingency Plan and the Earthquake Contingency Plan of the China Earthquake Administration, then all levels of the government of China,

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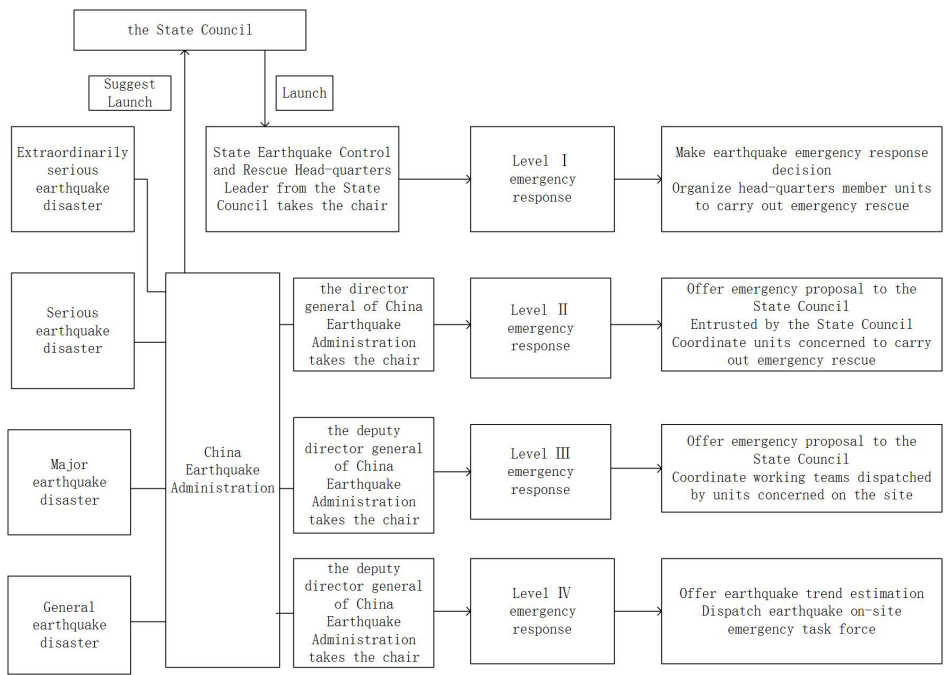
relevant departments, departments in charge of earthquake-related work, organizations directly under the China Earthquake Administration, key enterprises and institutions, schools, hospitals, communities and condensed populated places have established their own earthquake contingency plans. China has large population density and some of the most serious earthquake damage statistics and casualty rates in the world. The earthquakes that occur throughout China are widespread, generally have larger magnitudes with shallow focus depths, and are typically characterized by substantial hazards. Earthquakes with  $M \geq 5$  have occurred in every province of China over the course of recorded history. So the Chinese government places great importance on the prevention of earthquakes and the mitigation of their associated hazards. And established the State Earthquake Control and Rescue Head-quarters as the high authority responsible for the earthquake work, which consists of competent department (the China Earthquake Administration) and other ministries and commissions (the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Land and Resources, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction, the Ministry of Transport, and the National Health and Family Planning Commission, etc.) and the office of the head-quarters is set up in the China Earthquake Administration. When the earthquake occurred, launched different response level according to different earthquake disaster levels. The Earthquake Administration as the competent department organized and coordinated the emergency rescue operation. We drew a flow chart to show the lines of command and control of the Earthquake Emergency Command System. Fig.1 Earthquake Emergency Command System 3. I agree, delete "month". 4. "Rockfalls", I will take your advice. 5. 8 degree of earthquake fortification (seismic precautionary intensity). 6. It is the name of the command center. 7. I agree, substitute "they" for "did". Finally, thank you for your help again. And thank you for this "interactive comment", which let me learn more about what kind of up-to-date sources in English about China you may be interested in. And I wish to keep contact with you about research progress in earthquake emergency management.

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**Fig. 1. Earthquake Emergency Command System**