

The Research on the International Cooperative Mechanism in the Public Crisis Events-- from the perspective of Regional Public Management

Zhang Yi¹, Zhang Yinzhu²

¹School of Public Management (SPM), Yunnan University of Finance and Economics;

²Law School of Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, Kunming, P.R.China 650221
jenny_zhang186@126.com, yzh16702@126.com

Abstract

With the development of global economics and politics, the international joint problems which have been endless in number and increasingly serious challenge all the nations as well as all humanity. Without proper handling, the interests of nations even all human beings will be impaired. As the measures taken are beyond the range of sovereignty, it cannot be tackled by a single nation or region, which requires the cooperation, coordination and integration of resources by different areas in the world to promote comprehensive ability of crisis management and to efficiently deal with the crisis management events. On the basis of the current situation of international cooperation of public crisis management, this paper analyses the flaws in it and suggests that the valid and sound international cooperative mechanism of regional public crisis management should be constructed on the background of economic globalization.

Key words:public crisis events; international cooperative mechanism; regional public management.

1. Introduction

In the 21st century, with the development of economic globalization, lots of crisis correlate and interact with each other and become international, challenging the whole world. As the spillover effect decides that the emergence of the crisis is beyond the locality, the local crisis may evolve into the overall crisis even global crisis, causing the international influence. In the trend of the globalization, all the countries in the world should strengthen the cooperation in the crisis to guard against the damage and reduce the loss. In such events as 911 terror attack in USA, the financial crisis in the world in 2008, the tsunami in Indonesia and the earthquake of Wenchuan, the international communication and cooperation in the public crisis management, which is the key subject of the regional public management, become increasingly important.

2. The need for the international cooperation in the public crisis events

Economy globalization is not only the trigger of the public crisis, but also has the effect of expanding and proliferating the consequence of

the crisis. The public crisis caused either by human beings or by the nature are the challenges for all human beings. As for the global crisis with acute consequence, it is necessary for the entire international society to cooperate and take the principle of interests balance, to jointly undertake the crisis cost and responsibility and to share the experience and resources to deal with the crisis. Consequently, it is of great significance in regional public management to strengthen the international cooperation of public crisis management and integrate the international resources.

2.1. Reduce the remedy for the cost of crisis remedy and promote the remedy efficiency of crisis

Due to the particular attributes of public crisis, some countries and areas are suffering the shortness of resources not only in funds, technology and informations but also in human resources when dealing with the crisis. Especially in the under developed countries and areas which have the lagged economy and technology, many lost their lives in vain because the crisis events fail to be dealt with properly on

time. Experiences of foreign countries about warning, prevention, rescue, education and aftermath in dealing with the crisis can be learned from the international cooperation in the public crisis so that the on-the-spot organization can be improved and the advantages of leadership mechanism of foreign countries when facing the crisis can be depended on and learned, which are all beneficial for the promotion of crisis rescue ability. The crisis rescue cost will be sharply reduced and rescue efficiency will be greatly enhanced if the rational rescue such as advanced apparatus, equipments, medications and suggestions of experts from the international society is accepted.

2.2. By means of international cooperation, the crisis can be eliminated and the harmonious and civilized world will be reconstructed

Under the background of the acceleration of globalization, the public crisis occurred in some specific country or area will fastly spread to other areas and even cause the global fluctuation due to the “butterfly effect”, leading to the wide-spreading panic and disturbance and undermining the civilized and harmonious living environment of the people. The financial crisis which started in America in 2008, for example, undoubtedly exerted severe impact on the global economy. Every state is striving for the self-rescue as well as international cooperation. By means of joint effort, they break the predicament of economy and promote the overall recovery of global economy. The tendency of public crisis globalization decides that the governments should strengthen the international cooperation so as to control and eliminated the crisis. Through the communication between governments by modern tools of information transmission, the cooperation and

communication with the foreign individuals, public and social and international organizations on communicating technology, economy, health and ecology should be made. In dealing with the crisis, the crisis can be eliminated by integrating and utilizing international resources and the civilized and harmonious world can be reconstructed.

2.3. The liberal and responsible image of the state can be erected by international cooperation

To deal with the public crisis is to test the ability of the government. In the crisis, what challenges the government is not merely a dangerous event, but also the complex situation concerning the multiple interests. Especially in the informational society of the “global village”, the information transmits fastly and widely. If a government fails to handle well the crisis, not only has the public lost the trust to the government, but its image in the international society will be impaired. The international cooperation in the public crisis management can help the government to erect the international image of liberality and responsibility, create the friendly international environment and enhance the cooperation of public crisis management between governments so as to facilitate the democratic and scientific decision of public crisis management of the government.

3. Problems in the international cooperation of regional public management of the public crisis events

In the real condition, due to the constant occurrence of the serious public crisis in recent years, all the countries realize that we should cope with the crisis jointly. As a result, some regional and international cooperative activities have been gradually carried out. However, the

international cooperation of emergency management of the public crisis is still at the initial, temporary and tentative stage. The problems exist are as follows.

3.1. The system of the international cooperation of regional public emergency management has not been formed

Although the developed countries have accumulated the mature experiences in crisis emergency management and formed some typical models, such as the ones of America, Russia and Japan, those models apply only to a certain country to handle the crisis and it is hard to surpass the traditional political boundary so as to coordinate the participants of countries and organizations. Without the mature and effective management model as guidance, the joint force of the international cooperation of crisis emergency management can hardly be formed. In the daily emergency management, the “power dilemma” is not rare, namely, the imbalance between “understand how to do it” and “have the power to do it”. So the international cooperation will be affected.

3.2. The lack of long-term and stable mechanism of international cooperation

After the happening of the large-scale public crisis, measures were taken by all the participants including all the governments of the state where the crisis happened, the participant state government, international organizations, regional organizations and local organizations. But because of the declining of the position of the UN, all the forces can only be organized and coordinated temporarily, which evolves into the contest for the room of political power between sovereign states and in turn hinders the progress of the international cooperation of the emergency management. As the gambling between all powers is contemporary, new game will start

when the crisis occurs due to the change of the participants and the relationship of the locality and interests.

3.3. The current prevention of the international cooperation of the crisis emergency management needs to be improved

The emergency management is not merely the remedy after the emergency events, but also the emergency management in the whole process. At present, all the developed countries place the focus of the emergency management on the prevention and preparation of the crisis. But in the international cooperation, international rescue after the events is the main task and few prevention and preparation are involved, which is related to the lack of long-term and stable international cooperative mechanism.

3.4. The lack of valid informational transmission mechanism

The complete transmission mechanism plays a vital role that helps identify and define public crisis, cope with crisis decision, coordinate participant to confront the crisis and so on. However, the current emergency among the cooperation in the international management has some problems. For one thing, there some countries or international organizations are averse to opening their own grasped information, especially in the confidential information. For another thing, there are also some governments averse to trusting and accepting the external information. Moreover, during the process of governing the emergency, the phenomenon that the delivery of information fails due to the lack of the coordinate mechanism and the message delivery is not smooth owing to the poor communications is not rare.

4. Set up the ideas the management international cooperation of the regional system on the public crisis

To make better use of superiority on the public crisis international resource and overcome its existent shortcomings, constructing the management international cooperation of the regional system on the public crisis should have some aspects to be taken into consideration as following:

4.1. Reach the common ground on the basis of the joint interests, deal with the crisis in coordination

At the age of globalization, public crisis have more and more the nature of superstate and globalization, which demands our government should have the sense of globalization and liberality. When our countries happen public crisis, we should hold initiative and liberal attitudes to accept the rational international assistance. When other countries happen public crisis, we should help them initiatively, and offer work force, fund and technological information to them, which is possible and other countries are badly in need of, which will not only save the lives of more victims, but also is good for relieve for a while of economic life and have positive effect on rebuilding of stricken-area. At the same time, when we are striving for international resource, we should also promote information communication with other countries and international organization. We should look and deal with public crisis from the point of strategic coordination. Both sides respect each other, treat equally each other, seek for beneficial common points common points, reach the common ground on the basis of the joint interests to benefit each other. Promote communication and cooperation, take the effective measures jointly, eliminate misunderstanding and divergence each

other and eliminate disastrous result.

4.2. Defining the unified order and coordination organization

The participants in the regional public crisis management system include governments of the state, the UN organizations, the Red Cross International, and international and regional NGO, the latter three of which constitute the “humanitarian society” whose interest and organizational objects are different from each other. But the coordination and cooperation is the key to the success of crisis emergency and the mutual respect and understanding among the organizations are the precondition of the international cooperation of the crisis emergency management. Firstly, the chances of UN’s reform should seized to call for the respect to the UN and the communicating channels and coordination mechanisms of the UN with the governments, other international organizations and NGO should be used to give the full play to the leading role of the UN in the global public crisis emergency management. Secondly, the post and role of the participants in the emergency management should be defined. The UN should be the center; the governments of the state where the crisis occurs should be the applicants for the emergency assistance and the main body of the participants of the emergency management; the NGO should be the raiser of the emergency resources and implementor of the emergency management. Thirdly, the temporary headquarter of emergency management under the UN can be built up and participated by delegates to consult and deal with the emergency issues. It can be dismissed when the crisis is over.

4.3. The working process of dynamic emergency management in the whole course should be built up

The emergency management course includes the

prevention, preparation, addressing, rebuild and relief. Prevention is to stop the happening of the emergency events when the potential danger is discovered; preparation is to promote the ability of the governments and individuals to deal with the emergency events; addressing is to deal with the crisis in emergency; relief is to reduce the loss caused by the emergency events after the crisis; rebuild is to recover the social stability, infrastructure construction and public confidence. The dynamic management of the crisis should be made in the whole course and relevant work process should be formulated. The success of the public crisis management largely depends on the perfect crisis prevention and precaution mechanisms. The regional precaution mechanism can be built according to the reality and regional relationship. The communication and association can be strengthened through the existing precaution mechanisms. When the fund and opportunity is permitted, the crisis emergency management organization of UN can initiate the international precaution mechanism. The crisis precaution international cooperative mechanism entails not only large amount of money, but also relevant techniques and professional talents. As the developing countries are restricted in this regards, the developed countries should bear more responsibilities in the long-term to help the developing countries to overcome the bottle-neck of crisis cooperation.

4.4. The emergency support mechanism of the public crisis should be constructed

International cooperation of the public crisis emergency management should be a system of multi-functions, which includes four aspects as information sharing, technology communication, resources aid and personnel support.

To safeguard the full play of the functions, the emergency support mechanism should be

constructed to achieve the combination of “daily life” and “emergency crisis”.

With regard to the information security, the emergency communicating network between the United Nations and each country and between international organization and Non-governmental organization should be built, guaranteeing the smooth communication of relative informality when public crisis occurs; and the information platform of crisis information should be built, which should manage, collect, gather and observe all the relative information and data about public crisis, at the same time, gather the information relating with the past crisis event and monitor the instability factors arousing public crisis; what’s more, all the information should be smoothly transmitted, opened and feed backed. As to the technology security, the advanced technology and management methods, such as the Internet, satellite monitor, GPS and remote control, should be introduced into the public crisis management. For the recourse security, management system about the storage, distribution and arrangement of emergency materials should be set up, and different material channels should be integrated, which guarantees the support of materials after crisis, and improve and make good use of current CAP of the United Nations, and emphasize the functions of Non-governmental organization in crisis management, coordinating and managing the resources among different organization, avoiding waste as much as possible. With the human resource security, the professional emergency managers should be divided into relief group, medicine group and scholar group, which can perform their own functions.

4.5. Improve the international management system of public crisis

The international management system of public

crisis consists of international treaty, administrative agreements, other international laws, regulations and decisions, aiming to constraint each member country to an acceptable degree, though without the authoritative constraining forces. Facing the common intimidation, the problem, how to set up an effective international cooperation mechanism and improve human beings' survival and development, should be seriously considered. The written constitution is the necessary premise and guarantee for the international urgent cooperation, and it is especially important and urgent to establish the international regulations about the problems, such as environment protection, the prevention of the spread of unconventional diseases, the comparative research of aerospace and anti-terrorism.

5. Conclusion

In the present era, with the acceleration of globalization, the crisis event in one country often exerts an enormous effect all over the world, the effect and destructive force of a crisis event will spread to the whole world quickly instead of within a focused country, and even become a global disaster, exerting a threatening influence on global politics, economics and society. Thus, only one country can hardly effectively control the situation of a crisis, what will be more effective is to build an international crisis management network, and to establish an interactive and cooperative crisis management mechanism among countries and an international cooperation mechanism of precaution, response, solution and recovery, forming a crisis management system of mutual coordination and supervision between countries as well as country and Non-governmental organizations.

References

1. Robert Heath. (2001). *Crisis Management*. Beijing: China. CITIC Publishing House.
2. Tang Jun. (2003). Talk from the perspective of public international crisis management innovation. *Henglongjiang: China. Explore theory, 2003 (5)*.
3. Wang Xiaocheng. (2004). Globalization of Public Crisis. *Beijing: China Social Sciences, 2004 (6)*
4. Wang Mengting. (2006). Construction of public crisis management multilateral cooperation network technology. *Beijing: China Management Research, 2006 (1)*.
5. Ji Lixin. (2007). Public crisis of globalization and global governance. *Wuhan: China Hubei Social Sciences, 2007 (9)*.
6. Zhang Jin, Zuo Changsheng. (2008). Predicament and public crisis of global governance path selection. *Beijing: China . Economic and social development, 2008 (7)*