

Time to Help our Colleagues “Down Under” in Queensland

By David Dodd, DADCO Consulting

Australia has long been a friend to the world, providing billions of dollars in assistance to other countries in time of need – in response to the earthquake in Haiti, the tsunami in southeast Asia, hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the United States, and many other disasters.

Australia is now undergoing a major crisis of its own. The recent flooding of Queensland and its capital, Brisbane – Australia’s third-largest city, with a population of 2 million – rivals the impacts of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in terms of destruction and economic loss, not to mention lives (at least 20 have died, with many more still missing). Damage is estimated in the billions, and the disruption of agriculture and mining, Queensland’s two major exports, has rocked international markets.

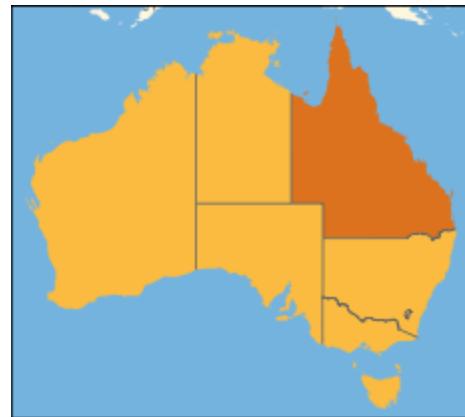


Image: Wikipedia

You can help. The Premier (governor) of Queensland has established a fund to help the rebuilding process, for which the American-Australian Association is accepting tax-deductible donations of \$50 or more (via major credit cards; receipts provided for checks of \$200 or more). [Click here to download the donation form](#) (PDF), or [access more information on the flood relief appeal here](#).

IEDC has had ties to the Australian economic development community for many years, and was a vital part of the establishment of their national professional organization, Economic Development Australia, in 2006. Several Australians have been active in IEDC, and IEDC currently is hosting three interns from the University of Sydney for 10 weeks.

As an individual with close ties to Queensland – first visiting at the invitation of John Dean, then the executive director of the Cairns (Queensland) EDC, and subsequently spending a good deal of time there – I am also working with my Australian mates to explore possible teleconferences or other means to help as they rebuild. Lessons learned from the IEDC co-sponsored Gulf Reinvestment Forum, and experiences in the rebuilding process, would be invaluable to economic development professionals and governmental leaders in Queensland.

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If you are interested in helping, please contact me at david@dadconsult.com. Australia has always been a true friend to the rest of the world in times of need. Now it's our turn to help them. Please donate or volunteer now.

Learn more about the flooding

[Australia Flooding Spreads South, Threatens Victoria](#): "It looks like this is possibly going to be, in economic terms, the largest natural disaster in our history" – AOL News, Jan. 17.

[Australia Says Flood Cost to Top Other Disasters](#): "The estimated cost of rebuilding the worst hit Queensland state alone stood at A\$10 billion (US\$9.8 billion)" – Taipei Times, Jan. 18.

Visit [RestoreYourEconomy.org](#)

This week, IEDC launches a new web portal, [RestoreYourEconomy.org](#), a one-stop-shop of information and resources for economic developers and other stakeholders seeking to prepare in advance to mitigate a disaster's economic consequences and to rebuild their local economies after a disaster strikes. [Read more about the site's launch](#) in today's *ED Now*.