

**ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee**

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

WRD/TC.46/11.3

5 February 2014

10 - 13 FEBRUARY 2014

BANGKOK, THAILAND

ENGLISH ONLY

**Retirement of Name from the List of Names of Tropical Cyclones for  
the Typhoon Committee Region**

*(submitted by TCS)*

**Action Proposed**

The Committee is invited:

- (a) To approve the retirement of the Tropical Cyclone Names as proposed by Members (Malaysia and the Philippines)

APPENDIX: Letter from Malaysian Meteorological Department regarding its request  
- JMM(A). PPP01/352/11/Jld.8 (60)

## **Retirement of Names from the List of Names of Tropical Cyclones for the Typhoon Committee Region**

In accordance with the operational procedures Members may request the retirement of a name from the name list of the tropical cyclones for the Typhoon Committee Region, particularly in case of tropical cyclones causing extensive destruction or for other reasons.

In response to the solicitation of TCS on the request of retirement of tropical cyclone name from the list, TCS has received two requests from Malaysia and the Philippines to retire SONAMU and HAIYAN respectively from the list for the following reasons:

a. SONAMU

Tropical storm SONAMU that occurred over the southern part of South China Sea in early 2013 has caused unprecedented panic among the people living along the coastal areas of the eastern part of Peninsular Malaysia. The panic was due to the similar sound (pronunciation) of the name TS SONAMU to *tsunami*.

b. HAIYAN

Typhoon HAIYAN that occurred in early November 2013 has caused catastrophic disaster in the Philippines. As informed by PAGASA, the casualties of this tragic disaster reaches 6,201 with the economic damages around USD 815,000,000 and 1785 people were reported missing.

In view of this, Malaysia and the Philippines proposed to retire SONAMU and HAIYAN from the list of names of tropical cyclones.



**MALAYSIAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT**  
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JMM(A).PPP01/352/11/Jld.8(60)  
16 December 2013

By Email: [info@typhooncommittee.org](mailto:info@typhooncommittee.org)

Mr. Olavo Rasquinho  
Secretary of the Typhoon Committee  
Typhoon Committee Secretariat  
Avenida de 5 de Outubro  
Coloane, Macau  
China

Dear Mr. Olavo Rasquinho,

**NAME OF TROPICAL CYCLONE SONAMU**

This is in reference to the above subject.

2. I would like to inform you that the Tropical Storm (TS) Sonamu that occurred over the southern part of South China Sea early this year had caused unprecedented panic among the people living along the coastal areas of the eastern part of Peninsular Malaysia. The panic was due to the similar sound (pronunciation) of the name of TS Sonamu to tsunami.

3. In view of the above, I would like to propose to the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee to remove Sonamu from the list of names for tropical cyclones adopted by the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee for the western North Pacific and the South China Sea.

Thank you and warmest regards.

Yours sincerely,

**(CHE GAYAH ISMAIL)**

Director General  
Malaysian Meteorological Department  
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia