

Speech on 50th Session of ESCAP Typhoon Committee 28 February 2018 in Hanoi

By Ms. Peou Phalla

Your Excellency, Secretary-General of WMO, Secretary of Typhoon Committee, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to be able to participate in such the important event of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee today in Hanoi.

First of all, I would like to express our sincere appreciation on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia to the great effort and kind assistance of the Vietnam Government on the hosting of the 50th anniversary and Session of Typhoon Committee.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank to the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee for organizing this special event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to share about our history with the Typhoon Committee. Cambodia has been a member of the Typhoon Committee since 1968. We have been striving in participating the Committees and playing important role to improve the mutual cooperative relationships among the members. But unfortunately in 1975 to 1978, Cambodia was in the political instable, during this period the meteorological and Hydrological Service was stopped. And after the changes of regime in 1979 the meteorological and hydrological service re-established by receiving the technical support from Soviet Union and Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

We could learn about various experiences and the lessons from serious disaster or damages caused by Typhoons or Cyclones hit to the regions in Asia and Pacific.

In this regard, our country, Cambodia, recognizes the particular importance of participations to the Typhoon Committee as a member and intends to continue to improve our abilities with pursuing the sustainable cooperative relationship to aim the realization of risk reductions against the natural disaster by Typhoon and/or Tropical Storm.

We will continue to pursue our effort to make contribution to the development of the countries in the regions to commit as far as we can.

During this decade, we have learned from the fact of the disasters caused by Typhoon and other natural phenomena that could make a million people force back to poverty.

We particularly remember the year 2009 that, several provinces in Cambodia had got affected by the big Typhoon Ket Sana to the large areas including Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, Stung Treng, Monduliri, Rattanak Kiri and so on.

There were 20 people dead, 48 injured, 702 houses were lost, 211 houses were damaged and 5,693 people must have been evacuated by the Typhoon.

The Cambodian Red Cross national headquarters has received reports from the community leaders and Red Cross volunteers collected in provincial and district levels as the regular situation. But the actual damages were enormous.

Responses to the urgent needs by those affected disasters have been immediately organized by the national society, using its own methods, material, financial and human resources.

While, in the year 2012, the Super Typhoon Bopha which was occurred in the area of the Philippines Sea caused a large number of deaths as over 1,900 people.

The other tropical cyclones made landfall globally in the same year 2012 and brought huge damages to very wide areas not only in Cambodia but also some areas in Asia, Europe and Oceania that impacted much floods.

However, in Cambodia the major types of flash flood and flood from the tributaries and Mekong River might be usually occurred due to heavy rains caused by Typhoons and Tropical Cyclones from the Monsoon Trough.

It is estimated that about 100 people may be dead annually each year and economic losses will exceed about 100 to 170 million USD.

Through such the past painful experiences in our country, the Cambodia Government has performed an important role to aim risk reduction against natural disaster trying to implement and make modernization of the early warning system in the country.

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services aim to play a greater part than that they have already done in improving preparedness and encouraging governments as well as the roles for the private sectors and civil society groups to address underlying risks which compound the impact of severe events by weather.

Currently, weather forecasting information in Cambodia could be remarkably improved and having better accuracies according to an intensive support and well understanding from the government.

It was also the result of remarkable achievement thanks to a kind assistance by WMO, Typhoon Committee, Japan Government, other non government organization and also kind contribution on the valuable numerical weather predicting products provided by other countries such as, ECMWF, SWFDP, JMA, GFS, KMA, TMD and CMA.

I hope that Hydrological and Meteorological Services will be able to have further success and developments in future with important contributions of continuous and strong support by WMO and the remarkable leadership of Typhoon Committee.

I would like to conclude my speech today by wishing all the member countries success and prosperity, specially for WMO and the Typhoon Committee.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.