

Work Together to Promote Regional Cooperation in Typhoon
Speech at the High Level Session of the 50th Session of the
UNESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee
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Dear delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

I am very pleased to be here with you today to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Typhoon Committee. First of all, on behalf of China, I wish to pay tribute to and congratulate on the fantastic job and the achievements that the Typhoon Committee and its Members made over the past half century! I would like to express my appreciations to WMO, UNESCAP and the Typhoon Committee Members for their long-term cooperativeness! I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam for hosting this important event!

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends!

As you know, our region is among the most typhoon prone areas in the world. In the past 30 years, about seven typhoons landed in China on average each year, leading to more than 10,000 deaths or disappearances and a direct economic loss of 1,150 billion RMB.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the work related to typhoon and other natural disasters. In order to closely watch an evolving typhoon, we have so far launched 16 FENGYUN meteorological satellites. We boast an integrated observation system including 198 weather radars. By continuously stepping up the typhoon research, we have steadily improved our performance in its prediction and forecasting, with the error of 24-h typhoon track forecast being reduced by about 70% in the past 30 years. We have maden great efforts in enhancing typhoon readiness, popularizing typhoon knowledge to the public, and, in particular, devising a typhoon warning and emergency response mechanism that features ‘ government leadership, inter-sector coordination and social engagement’.

There has been a significant drop in the number of deaths or disappearances and in the share of direct economic losses in the total GDP due to typhoons in China over the past 30 years.

Ladies and gentlemen!

China is a founding Member of the Typhoon Committee. For 50 years, it has been actively involved in the activities of the Committee. In 1985, China hosted a Typhoon

Committee session in Beijing for the first time. Subsequently, it hosted other three sessions in the cities of Zhuhai, Shanghai and Hangzhou.

China is an active participant in the Committee's working groups. It has launched such rewarding projects as the EXOTICCA, urban flood risk management, Tropical Cyclone Research and Review (TCRR), typhoon forecast performance assessment, etc.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Years ago, China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, the vision of which is consistent with the goal of this Committee, i.e. to promote and strengthen cooperation and exchanges at international and regional levels. I hope that in our big family of the Typhoon Committee, the regional cooperation be discussed by all whilst the results shared by all.

At present, China hosts such global or regional facilities as World Meteorological Centre (WMC) and Typhoon Committee Training Centre. On the strength of these centres plus the meteorological instruments and equipment, technical support, fellowships, and international training that we offer, we have made active contributions to the work of the Typhoon Committee, in particular, as evidenced by nearly 60 international training workshops on typhoon for more than 800 trainees.

Looking ahead, we will continuously support the work of this Committee. We hope to work with all its Members to further enhance the committee's role of coordination and communication, and further contribute to capacity development of its Members.

To this end, China will honor its commitment by enabling free and open access to FENGYUN meteorological satellite data and planning donations of the FY-4 meteorological satellite receiving system, to jointly develop and apply meteorological satellite products in the region. China will further strengthen and expand its international education and training components. In response to the needs of the Members, there will be an increase in the number of typhoon forecasters for on-the-job training, the number of typhoon training courses and extensive support for fellowship programme provided by the WMO Regional Training Centre that hosts the Typhoon Committee Training Centre.

In conclusion, I wish this session a complete success. Let's work together to usher in another 50 years of brilliance for the Typhoon Committee! Welcome to China next year. Thank you!