

## PHILIPPINES:

Mr. Chairman, my dear colleagues in the Typhoon Committee, our Typhoon Committee's Old Friends who are in attendance today, Ladies and Gentlemen

A very pleasant greetings for every one and all!

First of all, allow me to congratulate the Typhoon Committee for its Golden Anniversary. For the information of the body, the Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS) was based in the Philippines for about 35 years. That was from 1971 to 2006 under the able leadership of Dr. Roman Kintanar before it was transferred to its present location in Macao. During that time, a full-time Meteorologist and administrative support staff were assigned by PAGASA to the TCS, later on joined by a full time hydrologist from Japan.

Typhoon Committee meetings were held in the Philippines in 1969, 1981, 1984, 1991, 1993, 1998, 2006 and 2009.

Our National Meteorological and Hydrological Service, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), has benefited so much from the Typhoon Committee during the past 50 years in terms of the tremendous improvement of its Weather and Flood Forecasting and Warning Services, through its various programs, projects and activities. I will not be enumerating them all because it is numerous and will eat-up our very precious time.

With this, on behalf of Dr. Vicente Malano, Administrator of PAGASA and the Permanent Representative to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the people of the Republic of the Philippines, I would like to thank the Typhoon Committee for its support and assistance. I would also like to thank the Viet Nam Government for hosting this very memorable event and my congratulations to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for a job very well done.

To our Malaysian colleague who earlier said that they only have two (2) Tropical Cyclones a year, don't worry, the Philippines will export tropical cyclones to your country, free of charge. The Philippines is visited by 20 tropical cyclones on the average, a year.

Again, congratulations to the Typhoon Committee for its Golden Anniversary!