

TC STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2016

WITH INPUTS FROM THE MEMBERS FOR ITS MIDTERM REVIEW

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(Based on the APPENDIX XXIII to the 44th Session Report)

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Executive Summary

Countries in Asia and the Pacific are more prone to natural disasters than those in other parts of the world, which involves the urgent need to develop effective, end-to-end early warning systems that lead to an effective response by emergency managers and people at risk. It is clear that the Millennium Development Goals cannot be attained in the region if the development gains already achieved are not protected from the risks and impacts of disasters. For less developed countries, in addition to the tragic personal loss of life and property, natural disasters, especially typhoons, severely threaten and impact their sustainability, capacity building, debt repayments, poverty reduction and even the basic necessities of life - clean drinking water, food, and shelter.

Founded in 1968 under the original auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and Far East, the Typhoon Committee (TC) has evolved into a collaboration of 14 Members involving both the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Since then, The Typhoon Committee has been repeatedly recognized as an outstanding regional body who has integrated the actions and plans of the meteorological, hydrological, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) components to produce meaningful results.

The development of the Strategic Plan has been based on various international and regional frameworks, protocols, and action and strategic plans pertaining to tropical cyclone activities within the region. The purpose of this Strategic Plan is for the Typhoon Committee to identify regional key results areas, strategic goals, and associated activities which the Committee wants to achieve in 2012-2016 to save lives, mitigating damage, and decreasing social and economic effects from typhoon-related events. The impact of climate change is thought to influence all of the key result areas and strategic goals and thus is viewed as a crosscutting theme for this strategic plan.

Typhoon Committee's Vision: The Typhoon Committee is the world's best intergovernmental, regional organization for improving the quality of life of the Members' populations through integrated cooperation to mitigate impacts and risks of typhoon-related disasters and to enhance beneficial typhoon-related effects.

Typhoon Committee's Mission: To integrate and enhance regional (meteorological, hydrological, and disaster risk reduction) activities of Members within international frameworks to reduce the loss of lives and minimize social, economical, and environmental impacts by typhoon-related disasters.

The Typhoon Committee has identified seven Key Results Areas (KRAs) for special emphasis in the ~~next five years~~ **5-year plan** (2012-2016). These KRAs are defined as the critical, overarching, priority areas of special interest for the Typhoon Committee. In addition, the Typhoon Committee believes the impacts of climate change will influence all of the key result areas and strategic goals and thus is viewed as a crosscutting theme for this strategic plan. The Committee must complete the Strategic Goals associated with these KRAs to achieve its vision and mission through regional, integrated actions. The seven KRAs are:

KRA 1: Reduced Loss of Life from Typhoon-related Disasters.

KRA 2: Minimized Typhoon-related Social and Economic Impacts.

- KRA 3: Enhanced beneficial typhoon-related effects for the betterment of quality of life.**
- KRA 4: Improved Typhoon-related Disaster Risk Management in Various Sectors.**
- KRA 5: Strengthened Resilience of Communities to Typhoon-related Disaster.**
- KRA 6: Improved capacity to generate and provide accurate, timely and understandable information on typhoon-related threats.**
- KRA 7: Enhanced Typhoon Committee's Effectiveness, Efficiency and International Collaboration.**

It should be noted that the Typhoon Committee along with its working groups are making major contributions in accomplishing these KRAs, but there are many other factors and influences which are not under the direct control of the Typhoon Committee. Therefore the Committee will need the assistance and support of other international organizations and funding sources.

The most important functions and responsibilities of Members' governments are to protect the lives of their citizens and to improve their quality of life. Through this Strategic Plan, the Typhoon Committee's 14 Members are meeting these important government functions and responsibilities through regional cooperation and collaboration. Since 1968 the Typhoon Committee has shown how successful the Committee has been in the area of in typhoon-related matters in improving the protection of people's lives and in improving their quality of life. Building on this legacy of the past, the Strategic Plan provides the roadmap into the future. The Committee has currently fourteen Members: Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore; Thailand; United States of America and Viet Nam.

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1. Introduction

Countries in Asia and the Pacific are more prone to natural disasters than those in other parts of the world, with people in the region four times more likely to be affected by natural catastrophe than those in Africa and 25 times more vulnerable than Europeans or North Americans.¹ During the period of 1980 to 2009, while the region generated only one quarter of the world's GDP, it accounted for a staggering 85 per cent of deaths and 38 per cent of global economic losses¹. In addition during 1980 to 2009, 45 percent of all worldwide disaster events occurred in Asia and the Pacific.¹ In 2008, disasters across the region accounted for almost 99 per cent of the world's reported victims, and from 2000-2007 more than 78 per cent of the world's reported victims of natural disasters were found in Asia.²

The two most common types of disaster in the Asia/Pacific area are floods and storms - many associated with typhoon-related impacts. From 1980 to 2009, 2444 flooding and storm events occurred and produced 513,150 deaths; affected 3340 million people; and caused USD467 billion of damage.¹

With climate change and global warming, it is generally accepted that more frequent or intense occurrences of high-impact anomalous weather are likely as atmosphere attempts to counteract or adjust to the resulting effects. As such, sustainable disaster mitigation efforts against typhoon related impacts, including too much or lack of typhoon-induced rainfall will need to address issues across the whole spectrum of climate and weather systems.

The United Nations is warning that tens of millions of people around the world are at risk of becoming new types of refugees seeking refuge from hunger, droughts, floods, and exhausted soils because of environmental breakdowns in their parts of the world.⁴

For more developed countries, typhoon related impacts cause major social and economic disruptions through loss of lives and property. For less developed countries, in addition to the tragic personal loss of life and property, natural disasters, especially typhoons, severely threaten and impact their sustainability, capacity building, debt repayments, and even the basic necessities of life – clean drinking water, food, and shelter. The Typhoon Committee, through its regional cooperation and collaboration has since 1968, been working to help the people of the region through accomplishments and actions to reduce the loss of life and property due to typhoon-related effects.

2. Vision and Mission

Typhoon Committee's Vision

¹ Protecting Development Gains : Reducing Disaster Vulnerability and Building Resilience in Asia and the Pacific – The Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2010 – ESCAP and UNISDR

² United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), 2008 Disasters in Numbers

The Typhoon Committee is the World's best intergovernmental, regional organization for improving the quality of life of the Members' populations through integrated cooperation to mitigate impacts and risks of typhoon-related disasters and to enhance beneficial typhoon-related effects.

Typhoon Committee's Mission

To integrate and enhance regional activities in the areas of meteorological, hydrological, and disaster Risk Reduction of Members within international frameworks to reduce the loss of lives and minimize social, economical, and environmental impacts by typhoon-related disasters and to enhance beneficial typhoon-related effects.

3. Climate Change Impact Crosscutting Theme

To achieve its mission, the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee believes climate change must be viewed as one of the major challenges of our time. In 2007, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly indicated in its Fourth Assessment Report that the warming in the climate system is unequivocal. In addition, it stated the increases in the atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration due to human activities are very likely responsible for most of the observed global warming since the middle of the 20th century. Climate change impacts the mean state of climate, but more importantly, it also has implications to the frequency and intensity of extreme events.. Over the years, various studies have reported changes in the frequency of occurrence and intensity of extreme weather events around the world in the 20th century, including an increase of drought conditions, extreme high temperatures, heavy precipitation events, and coastal inundation.

The Western North Pacific is the most active tropical cyclone basin in the world with an annual average of about 30 tropical cyclones. Against the background of climate change and a continuous increase in economic damage and disruption by tropical cyclones, the Typhoon Committee has a growing concern on the possible impacts of climate change on tropical cyclone activities and related effects in the region. The Committee considers it a high priority to understand the possible effects brought about by climate change, such as changes in tropical cyclone frequency and intensity and the associated extreme rainfall and coastal inundation impacts from both scientific and socio-economical viewpoints and to share relevant information among Members. Sustainable disaster mitigation efforts against tropical cyclone related impacts, including too much or too little typhoon-induced rainfall, will be needed to address issues across the whole spectrum of climate and weather systems.

In view of the impact of climate changes and its resultant effects on the patterns and occurrences of typhoons, the Committee will keep abreast of the latest climate change assessment and establish linkage with major international initiatives to maximum information sharing as well as to facilitate optimal resource leverage in support of studies and efforts to cope with any future trends in typhoon behaviour, particularly with respect to disaster risk reduction and water resource implications.**(INPUT BY HONG KONG; CHAIR OF AWG/TRCG)**

4. Development of the Strategic Plan

The Typhoon Committee at its 37th Session held in Shanghai, China and at its 38th Session held in Hanoi, Vietnam decided to restructure the Committee's Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan (RCPIP) to better reflect Key Results Areas and the required Strategic Goals and Activities needed to achieve these Key Results Areas.

In September 2006, a historical "International Workshop on Integrating Activities of Meteorology, Hydrology, and Disaster Risk Reduction Components of the Typhoon Committee into the related International Framework for Disaster Risk Management for Better Impacts and Visibility" was held in Macao, China. For the first time, the Typhoon Committee's Working Groups on Meteorology, Hydrology, and Disaster Risk Reduction along with the Advisory Working Group (AWG) met jointly to define high priority regional actions required to reduce the loss of life and social and economic impacts from tropical cyclones. An initial Strategic Plan was drafted based on the inputs from the working groups. After incorporating comments from Members, the Typhoon Committee at its 39th Session held in Manila, Philippines in December 2006 approved the "Typhoon Committee Strategic Plan, 2007 – 2011, an Integrated, Regional approach to Improve the Quality of Life for Members' Population through Mitigating Typhoon-Related Impacts".

The Typhoon Committee at its 42nd Session, held in Singapore, requested the AWG and the working groups to review the Strategic Plan and present a draft with a climate impact crosscutting theme for its consideration at the 43rd Session. The finalized version of the Strategic Plan 2012-2016 was approved on Feb. 11, 2012.

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is for the Typhoon Committee to identify key results areas, strategic goals, and activities which the Committee wants to achieve in 2012-2016 to continue to produce meaningful results for saving lives and mitigation of damage from typhoon-related events. The impact of climate change is thought to influence all of the key result areas and strategic goals and thus is viewed as a crosscutting theme for this strategic plan.

5. Scope of the Typhoon Committee's Strategic Plan

- The results will be achieved through the Members' regional and integrated activities with support and monitoring of the TCS, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- The critical part of this plan is the required regional cooperation and collaboration among Members and the integration of the meteorological, hydrological, and DRR components.
- This strategic plan directly supports the functions of the Committee as described in the Statute of the Typhoon Committee:
 1. Review regularly the progress made in the various fields of typhoon damage prevention;
 2. Recommend to the participating Governments concerned plans and measures for the improvement of meteorological and hydrological facilities needed for typhoon damage prevention;

3. Recommend to the participating Governments concerned plans and measures for the improvement of community preparedness and disaster prevention;
4. Promote the establishment of programmes and facilities for training personnel from countries of the region in typhoon forecasting and warning, hydrology and flood control within the region and arrange for training outside the region, as necessary; and
5. Promote, prepare and submit to participating Governments and other interested organizations plans for coordination of research programmes and activities concerning typhoons.

6. Key Results Areas (KRAs), Strategic Goals (SGs)

KRAs are defined as the critical, overarching, priority areas of special interest for the Typhoon Committee. The Committee must complete the strategic goals associated with these KRAs for it to achieve its vision and mission through regional, integrated actions. The Committee has identified seven KRAs and one crosscutting theme for special emphasis in the next five years in the 5-year plan. **(CHANGE PROPOSED BY HONG KONG/CHAIR OF AWG/TRCG)**

~~It should be noted that the Typhoon Committee along with its working groups can make major contributions in these KRAs, but there are many other factors and influences which are not under the direct control of the Typhoon Committee. Therefore the Committee will need the assistance and support of other international organizations and funding sources. The followings are the KRAs, Strategic Goals (SGs) to be pursued among the working groups (detailed integrated associated activities and associated activities specific to the respective working groups are given in the Appendix):~~

KRA 1: Reduced Loss of Life from Typhoon-related Disasters

Strategic Goal 1: To enhance cooperation among TC Members to reduce the number of deaths by typhoon-related disasters by half in the ten years of 2006 – 2015 (using the ten years of 1990 - 1999 as the base line).

KRA 2: Minimized Typhoon-related Social and Economic Impacts

Strategic Goal 2: To reduce the socio-economic impacts of typhoon-related disasters per GDP per capita by 20 per cent in the ten years of 2006- 2015 (using the ten years of 1990 - 1999 as the base line).

KRA 3: Enhanced beneficial typhoon-related effects for the betterment of quality of life

Strategic Goal 3a: To identify and explore the beneficial use of resources such as rainfall brought by typhoon.

Strategic Goal 3b: To study and promote the increasing use of typhoon-related beneficial effects among the Members.

KRA 4: Improved Typhoon-related Disaster Risk Management in Various Sectors

Strategic Goal 4a: To provide reliable typhoon-related disaster information for effective decision making in risk management in various sectors.

Strategic Goal 4b: To strengthen capacity of the Members in typhoon-related disaster risk management in various sectors.

Strategic Goal 4c: To enhance international and regional cooperation and assistance in the field of disaster risk reduction.

KRA 5: Strengthened Resilience of Communities to Typhoon-related Disaster

Strategic Goal 5a: To promote and enhance culture of community-based disaster risk management among the Members.

Strategic Goal 5b: To promote education, training and public awareness of typhoon-related disasters among the Members.

KRA 6: Improved capacity to generate and provide accurate, timely and understandable information on typhoon-related threats

Strategic Goal 6a: To facilitate RSMC capability to respond to the needs of the Members in forecasting and capacity building.

Strategic Goal 6b: To improve capacity of Members to provide timely and accurate user-oriented and friendly tropical cyclone products and information.

Strategic Goal 6c: To enhance capacity of Members' typhoon-related observation, monitoring, forecasting and warning.

KRA 7: Enhanced Typhoon Committee's Effectiveness, Efficiency and International Collaboration

Strategic Goal 7a: To strengthen the capacity of Typhoon Committee to effectively discharge its responsibilities and functions described in this Strategic Plan and completed its stated mission in accordance with the Typhoon Committee's Statute.

Strategic Goal 7b: ~~To mobilize available resources and engage collaborators for the implementation of the strategic goals.~~ **To mobilize available resources, engage collaborators and link up with other major international initiatives to further the strategic goals and their implementation. (CHANGE PROPOSED BY HONG KONG/CHAIR OF AWG/TRCG)**

7. Annual Operating Plan and Budget

Each year during the 5 year period of this Strategic Plan, the AWG with input from the working groups and TCS will prepare a proposed draft Annual Operating Plan (AOP) to be approved at the next Typhoon Committee Session. The AOP will contain detailed actions and success indicators to be conducted in that year as steps towards meeting the KRAs Strategic Goals and Crosscutting Theme. Thus, through the completion of the five AOPs, the Committee and its Members should accomplish all of the KRA Strategic Goals and Activities contained in this plan.

It should be noted that the Typhoon Committee along with its working groups can make major contributions in these KRAs, but there are many other factors and influences which are not under the direct control of the Typhoon Committee. Therefore the Committee will need the assistance and support of other international organizations and funding sources. (THIS PARAGRAPH WAS TRANSFERRED FROM SECTION 6 UNDER PROPOSAL OF HONG KONG/CHAIR OF AWG/TRCG)

The AWG will prepare a proposed draft budget (TC Trust Funds) for each year based upon the priority actions contained in the AOP and the successes achieved in the previous year's AOP. Activities and objectives which are successfully accomplishing Strategic Plan

objectives and AOP actions and are producing positive results in accomplishing the vision and mission of the Typhoon Committee will be given due consideration when preparing the budget.

8. Conclusion

The most important functions and responsibilities of Members' Governments are to protect their people's lives and to improve their people's quality of life. World-wide, the Asia/Pacific region is the most heavily impacted by natural disasters such as typhoons. Regional coordination and collaboration is essential to reduce these tragic losses and resulting socio-economic impacts. Therefore through this Strategic Plan, the Typhoon Committee's 14 Members are building on the great legacies of the past and laying a path to meet the challenges of the future. With a focus on accomplishments in the seven identified KRAs and Crosscutting Theme, the Members have a plan to improve their abilities during typhoon situations to protect their people's lives and to improve their quality of life through regional coordination and cooperation.