

Third Joint Session
Panel on Tropical Cyclones | Typhoon Committee
(42nd Session of PTC and 47th Session of TC)
9- 13 February 2015
ESCAP - UN Conference Center
Bangkok, Thailand

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY
INF/TC.47/8.1
28 January 2015
ENGLISH ONLY

**COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO THE REPORT BY TC CHAIR ON THE
NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF THE TC SECRETARY
(Item 8 of Provisional Agenda)**

(Submitted by TCS)

ACTION REQUIRED:

This Committee is invited to:

Take note of the this document as a Complementary Information to the Report by TC Chair on the Nomination and Selection of the TC Secretary, submitted by the TC Chair(WRD/TC.47/8.1)

APPENDIX:

Complementary Information to the Report by Typhoon Committee Chair on the Nomination and Selection of the TC Secretary

APPENDIX
Complementary Information to the Report by Typhoon Committee
Chair on the Nomination and Selection of the TC Secretary for the
period 2015-2018

I. Background information

The Committee, at its the 46th Session, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 10-13 February 2014, noted that Mr. Olavo Rasquinho, TC Secretary, has expressed his wish to retire in early 2015 after the TC-47 Session. According to Rules of Procedure of the Committee, Rule 10, *“In implementing Article 3 of the Statute of the Typhoon Committee, the Typhoon Committee shall review regularly the appointment of the TC Secretary and any issues related to TCS hosting arrangement”*, and Terms of Reference of the Typhoon Committee, paragraph 14, *“The Committee shall appoint the TC Secretary.”*

Still at the TC 46th Session, the Committee was informed through the TC Secretary, that the Government of Macao, China submitted an official letter to nominate Mr. YUJixin from CMA as a candidate for TC Secretary for the period 2015 – 2018.

II. Nomination and Selection of the New TC Secretary

According to the decision of the 46th TC Session(Part I, Paragraph o. of the Report), in which it is stated *“to request the TC Secretary to circulate the nomination by Macao, China of Mr. YUJixin as candidate for TC Secretary to all Members for comments and other alternative nominations, if any, within one month of the letter”*, the Typhoon Committee Secretariat sent a Circular Letter¹ on 24 February 2014, requesting the Permanent Representatives of the Members with WMO *“to coordinate the positions of their governments regarding the support for the nomination as proposed by Macao, China or comments as well as other suggestions, if any”*.

Within the established deadline, 24 March 2014, TCS received letters from six Members (Thailand, China, Singapore, Hong Kong-China, USA and Japan), signed by the respective Permanent Representatives with WMO. It was also received a letter from the Philippines dated 25 March, one day after the deadline, in which Mr. Leong Kai Hong (Derek) was nominated to succeed Mr Olavo Rasquinho as Secretary of the Typhoon Committee. At this stage five Members (including Macao, China) expressed their support to the nomination of Mr.YUJixin, and one Member (Thailand) expressed support *“if there is no further nomination from other Members”*. Due to problems of communication, a letter from Republic of Korea dated 24 March, still within the deadline, supporting the nomination made by Macao SAR, was received only on 28th April. Two Members (Japan and USA) requested an extension of the deadline to ensure due coordination with their Governments. The remaining Members of TC have not expressed their opinion.

As there was no unanimity about the extension of the deadline for other alternative nominations, TCS was advised to request the Members to confirm or reaffirm either the support or non-support of the nomination proposed by Macao, China, until 30 April 2014. Meanwhile, the TC Chair sent a letter dated 30 April² stating *“We urge TCS and AWG to seek consultation with Japan, U.S. and the Philippines to find solutions or alternatives for Members to agree upon before proceeding to the nomination”*. Following this letter a great number of email messages were exchanged between TCS, AWG members and the Members that had requested extension of the deadline, without reaching consensus on how to proceed.

¹ Circular Letter TCS/029-2014, 24 February

² Letter No. 0406/063/2014 – 30 April

In summary, the Members of TC were informed by TCS³ on 9 May 2014 that the situation was shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Situation in 30 April 2014

Members that supported the nomination of Mr. Yu Jixin, by Macao, China	Member that proposed an alternative candidate, (Mr. Leong Kai Hong – Derek)	Members that requested to reanalyze the process	Members that have not replied to both letters
Cambodia China Hong Kong, China Malaysia Republic of Korea Singapore	Philippines	Japan Thailand USA	DPR Korea Lao PDR Viet Nam
Total: 7 (including Macao, China)	Total: 1	Total: 3	Total: 3

After the established deadline, DPR Korea informed by email message dated 22 May, that “*fully agrees with the proposal by Macao, China*”.

As there was no unanimity on how to proceed, it was raised the possibility to have an AWG meeting to analyse the situation and seek a solution. During May, June and part of July efforts were made for conducting this meeting possibly in August for discussing the possibility of holding an extraordinary session to overcome the deadlock.

In the interim the Chair of the Advisory Working Group has sent to AWG members and TCS an email message⁴ on 14th July mentioning that the Director of Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), had expressed his grave concern as the situation became critical in that there was not the guarantee of renewing the Agreement between Macao SAR of China and the TC, which could imply the non-assignment of the budget for TCS operate in the next term. In his message the AWG Chair also stated that “*...it should be noted the nomination has not been accepted by the nominee's affiliated organization and Member government (in this case, SMG and Macao, China respectively)*”. Facing this, the Secretary of TC informed the TC Chair of the situation on 15 July⁵ and requested him to give directives on how to overcome the deadlock situation. As reply the TC Chair sent a letter to the TC Secretary on 16 July⁶ proposing TCS to issue a formal request for additional nomination for interim TC Secretary by Members, considering that at the moment the nomination from Macao was the only standing candidate. In principle the term of the interim Secretary would be only two years. He also suggested that TCS and the AWG formulate a procedure for Members to consider next Session. If this or other alternatives could not be found he also recommended TCS call for an extraordinary session and asked to convey his suggestions to all Members and AWG to sort out opinions.

Following this request from TC Chair, a great number of email messages were exchanged among the TC Chair, TC Secretary, AWG Chair, AWG members and the Director of SMG. In one of the messages⁷, dated 12 August, from the Director of SMG to TC Chair and members of the AWG, it was expressed

³Circular Letter (TCS/144-2014, 09 May)

⁴Monday, July 14, 2014 7:14 PM

⁵ Email message Tuesday, July 15, 2014 10:15 AM

⁶Letter No. 0406/091/2014 - 16 July

⁷Message Thu 8/14/2014 5:18 PM

his serious concern on how this process was developing, being in danger the renewal of the Agreement between Macao SAR and the TC.

Following the directives of TC Chairperson, a letter was drafted and revised by him and the AWG. The letter⁸, signed by TC Chair, was sent on 22 August to all Permanent Representatives of the TC Members with WMO through diplomatic channels, whose one of the annexes consisted of “Procedure for nomination and selection of the next TC Secretary”. It was also requested to complete an attached form for alternative nominations and opinions on the realization of an extraordinary session or voting by correspondence. The form should be sent to TCS by 25 September 2014. The summary of the responses is shown in Table 2.

Still following directives of the TC Chairperson the summary of the responses was communicated to Dr Fong through a letter sent on 26 September⁹, in which it was also asked (according to the “Procedure for nomination and selection of the next TC Secretary”, established by the Chair of TC) if there were “*Potential administrative issues associated with additional candidate for Secretary of TC on 2015-2018*”.

In response the Director of SMG, on behalf of Macao SAR Government, sent a letter¹⁰ to TCS and the Chair of TC, on 30 September, informing that Macao, China would not accept the candidate proposed by the Philippines. He also stated that the nomination of Mr YUJixin as candidate has previously been agreed by his affiliated organization, China Meteorological Administration and by the Chief Executive of Macao SAR. Following this letter, TCS issued a circular letter¹¹ to the PRs of Members with WMO, reporting the result of the survey to the Members and the position of Macao SAR regarding administrative issues related to the nomination made by the Philippines.

Table 2. Summary of Responses from Members on TC-Secretary Nomination - 26 OCT 2014

Member	Nomination	Extraordinary Session (ES)				If ES cannot be held	
		Prepared to attend the ES	Support hold ES, but not prepared to attend the ES	Do not support holding the ES	Other opinions	To postpone the selection process to the 47 th Session	To support the voting by correspondence through TCS
1	Cambodia	no	X				X
2	China	no	X				X
3	DPR Korea (*)						
4	Hong Kong, China	no	X				X
5	Japan	no	X			X	

⁸ Letter TCS/271-2014, dated 22 August

⁹ Letter TCS/359-2014, dated 26 September

¹⁰ Letter DDR06-01/1037-30 September

¹¹ Letter TCS/371-02 October

6	Lao PDR (**)							
7	Macao, China	Mr. Jixin YU	X					X
8	Malaysia	no			X			X
9	Philippines	Mr. Derek LEONG		X				X
10	Republic of Korea	no	X					X
11	Singapore	no		X			X	
12	Thailand	no	X					X
13	SR Viet Nam	no			X		X	
14	USA	no	X					X
SUM	12	2	7	3	2		3	9

(*) - Response after the deadline (email message:Wed, October 01, 2014 2:48 PM).

(**) – No reply

Taking into consideration Paragraph 6 of the Terms of Reference of Chairperson of the Typhoon Committee (“Decide on behalf of the Typhoon Committee, after consultation with the Vice Chairperson, TCS and concerned parties, in accordance with the Statute of the Typhoon Committee and Rules of Procedure of the Typhoon Committee, on any recommendations, when the Chairperson considers that such actions, in the interest of the Committee, cannot be deferred until the next session of the Typhoon Committee”), the Secretary requested the necessary instructions to the TC Chair through a letter¹² dated 6 October, in which the Secretary stated “As you know, despite Macao SAR Government has informed in the referred letter that will not accept the candidate proposed by the Philippines as candidate nominated for the next TC Secretary you, on behalf of the TC Chairperson, kindly replied to a question asked by the TC Secretary, through email message, expressing the opinion that we would rather go with the option of voting through correspondence due to limited time remained”. The Secretary also wrote “I would kindly request you to formally communicate your recommendation to the TC Secretary proceed to the process of voting by correspondence or, alternatively take any other action that you consider advisable”. In immediate response to this letter the Chair of TC, in his letter dated 7 October¹³, stated “According to paragraph 6 of TOR of TC, and if there are no other objection, I would like request that official voting by correspondence through TCS be held as soon as possible”. Following this directive, TCS issued a circular letter¹⁴ on 08 October requesting the PRs of the TC Members with WMO for voting by correspondence on or before 24th October 2014. For that purpose, the letter (DDR06-01/1037) from SMG, a voting slip and the CVs of the two candidates were appended to the letter.

TCS waited approximately 3 weeks for the delivery of the letters with the voting slips and proceeded to the counting of votes on 17th November 2014, made by TC Secretary and administrative staff of TCS in witness of the Chair of AWG. TCS received 14 letters, one of which was not opened because the day of submission was after the deadline. The result of the counting was as follows:

- a) Mr. Yu Jixin, CMA, China, nominated by Macao, China – 9 votes

¹² TCS/374-2014 – 6 October 2014

¹³ No. 0406/132/2014 – 7 October 2014

¹⁴ TCS/379-2014 – 8 October 2014

- b) Mr. Leong Kai Hong (Derek), nominated by the Philippines – 2 votes
- c) Blank - 2 votes

TCS issued a letter¹⁵ dated 17 November 2014 to informing the Members the result of the counting of votes and that Mr. YU Jixin was selected as new TC Secretary for the period 2015-2018/early 2019. The letter also reported that, according to the *“Procedure for nomination and selection of the next TC Secretary”*, the final endorsement of the new TC Secretary will be done officially at the TC 47th Session (9-13 February 2015, Bangkok, Thailand). ”.

III. Conclusion

Given the absence of rules that regulate the nomination and selection the TC Secretary, the Secretary asked frequently the members of AWG to advise on how to proceed in critical situations. Despite their efforts it was not possible to get a consensual guidance in certain cases. Facing this difficulty the Secretary tried to proceed strictly in accordance with the Statute of the TC, Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Secretariat and ToR of the Secretary of TC.

According to the Article 3 of the Statute of TC, the Secretary *“will serve as its executive body”*. Also according to the ToR of the TCS, Paragraph 2, one of the specific functions of the Secretariat shall be *“to implement the TC decisions”*. On the other hand, in accordance with the ToR of the Secretary of TC, *“In carrying out the duties specified in these Terms of Reference, the TC Secretary shall comply with any directives issued by the Typhoon Committee or guidance by the Chairperson of the Typhoon Committee”*.

Based on the experience in relation to the procedure for nomination and selection of the TC Secretary, it was recognized that it is very important to establish a long-term appointment mechanism. For this purpose, a proposal was submitted for discussion at AWG meeting on 24 October 2014, in Bangkok. Based on the views and discussion, the AWG Chair finalized the document (INF/TC.47/9.1) to inform the TC at its 47th Session and for further discussion with a view to take a decision at the 48th Session.

¹⁵TCS/425-2014 – 17 November 2014

ANNEX I
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTING OF VOTES



Typhoon Committee Secretariat

**Voting by Correspondence for
Selection of the TC Secretary for the period 2015-2018
Opening of letters with the voting slips
Minutes of the proceedings**

Time, date and venue:

At 15:00 on 17 November 2014

Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS), Coloane, Macao, China

Attendance:

Mr. Olavo Rasquinho, Secretary of TC

Ms. Lisa Kou, Senior Finance Officer of TC

Ms. Denise Lau, Senior Adm. Secretary of TC (video recording of process)

Mr. Edwin S. T. Lai, Chair of AWG of TC (in witness)

1. Registered letters sent by Members and received in TCS:

a) Letters sent by the deadline

Thirteen (13) TC Members have sent letters by the deadline (24 October 2014), which were received in TCS office (Annex 1 - Registered Mails from Members).

b) Letter sent after the deadline

One (1) Member, Lao PDR has sent a registered letter on 4 November, after the established deadline (24 October 2014). This letter was not opened and shall be kept in the file "TC Secretary Selection Process".

2. The thirteen outer envelopes were opened and the voting slips as received inside the inner blank envelopes were marked with the TCS chop, signed by Mr. Olavo Rasquinho and Mr. Edwin S.T. Lai. It was verified that the cover letters were signed by the respective Permanent Representatives of the Members with WMO or other designated government officials of the TC Members.



ESCAP/WMO
Typhoon Committee

3. The result of the counting of votes was as follows:
 - a) Mr. Yu Jixin – 9 Votes
 - b) Mr. Leong Kai Hong (Derek) – 2 Votes
 - c) Blank Votes – 2 Votes

4. The final result will be announced to all Members through a TCS Circular Letter and the decision formally endorsed at the TC 47th Session.

The meeting ended at 15:25 on November 17, 2014 in Macao, China, and the minutes are signed by all participants:

Mr. Olavo Rasquinho, TC Secretary

Ms. Lisa Kou, Senior Finance Officer

Ms. Denise Lau, Senior Admin Secretary

IN THE WITNESS OF:

Mr. Edwin S. T. Lai, AWG Chair



TCS Chop



REGISTERED MAILES FROM MEMBERS

MEMBER	DATE OF CHOP	DATE OF ARRIVED	
Cambodia	13 OCT 2014	30 OCT 2014	✓
China	16 OCT 2014	20 OCT 2014	✓
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	18 OCT 2014	17 NOV 2014	✓
Hong Kong, China	24 OCT 2014	29 OCT 2014	✓
Japan	22 OCT 2014	04 NOV 2014	✓
Lao People's Democratic Republic	04 NOV 2014	05 NOV 2014	
Macao, China	24 OCT 2014	24 OCT 2014	✓
Malaysia	22 OCT 2014	27 OCT 2014	✓
Philippines	16 OCT 2014	27 OCT 2014	✓
Republic of Korea	20 OCT 2014	21 OCT 2014	✓
Singapore	17 OCT 2014	21 OCT 2014	✓
Thailand	16 OCT 2014	20 OCT 2014	✓
United States of America	24 OCT 2014	31 OCT 2014	✓
Viet Nam, Socialist Republic of	24 OCT 2014	28 OCT 2014	✓

