

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee

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AGENDA ITEM 5

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**TYPHOON COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

(Item 5 of Provisional Agenda-The Committee's activities during 2009)

(Submitted by Typhoon Committee Secretariat)

Summary and Purpose of Document:

This document reviews the principal activities of Typhoon Committee Secretariat during 2009.

Action Proposed

The Committee is invited to:

Take note of the major activities of the Typhoon Committee Secretariat during 2009

SUMMARY REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF TCS SINCE THE 41ST SESSION

1. PARTICIPATION OF TCS IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Since the 41st Session of TC, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 19-24 January 2009, the Typhoon Committee Secretariat was represented at the in the following events:

- **2009 Annual Workshop of the Working Group on Typhoon and Marine Meteorology of CMA - Guangzhou, China, 23-25 February 2009**

The Hydrologist Mr. Jinping LIU was invited to participate in the 2009 annual workshop of the Working Group on Typhoon and Marine Meteorology of CMA held in Guangzhou, China from 23 to 25 February 2009. At the workshop, Mr. Liu had opportunity to discuss with vice Administrator Ms. JIAO Meiyang and other CMA key persons about the cooperation between CMA and TC/TCS.

- **5th IFNet General Meeting - Istanbul, Turkey, 19 March 2009**

Mr. Liu Jinping was invited by IFNet Secretariat of Japan to take part in the 5th IFNet General Meeting held in Kozç Haliç, 19 March 2009, during the 5th World Water Forum held in Istanbul, Turkey, 16-22 March, 2009. Mr. Liu took the opportunity to participate in a series of WWF5 sessions. His participation was supported by IFNet.

- **First meeting of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) – Bangkok, 25-27 March 2009**

The Secretary of TC, Mr. Olavo Rasquinho, was invited by Mr Xuan Zengpei, Director of the Information, Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), to attend the First meeting of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction that was held in Bangkok, 25-27 March 2009, in which a report of the activities of TC in 2008 was presented under the Item 6 of the Agenda "Report of ESCAP-affiliated Regional Institutions".

- **China National Hydrological Information and Forecasting Conference (Guangzhou, China ,1-2 April 2009)**

Mr. Jinping Liu was invited by the Bureau of Hydrology (BoH) of Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) of China to participate in the China National Hydrological Information and Forecasting Conference held in Guangzhou, China, 1-2 April 2009. This participation was supported by Bureau of Hydrology.

- **Forth Typhoon Committee Working Group on DPP Meeting - Seoul, Republic of Korea - 28-29 April 2009**

The TC Secretary, Mr. Olavo Rasquinho, and the Senior Administrative Secretary of TCS, Ms Denise Lau, participated at the 4th TC Working Group Meeting, which was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on April 27 and 28, following an invitation from the Korean National

Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and National Institute for Disaster Prevention (NIDP). The expenses were supported by Republic of Korea.

- **First Training and Research Coordination Group Technical Forum - Jeju, Republic of Korea, 12 - 15 May 2009**

Due to the impossibility of Mr. Leong Kai Hong, meteorologist TCS, to attend the First Training and Research Coordination Group Technical Forum, the Secretary participated in part of this meeting and addressed a message at its opening ceremony.

- **Expert Group Meeting on Innovative Strategies towards Flood Resilient Cities in Asia-Pacific - Bangkok, Thailand, 21-23 July 2009.**

The Secretary of TC and the hydrologist of TCS attended the Expert Group Meeting on Innovative Strategies towards Flood Resilient Cities in Asia-Pacific, held in Bangkok, Thailand, 21-23 July 2009. The Secretary addressed a message in the Opening Ceremony and Mr. Jinping Liu gave the presentation "Innovative Strategies for Effective Flood Management Focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction in TC Area".

- **Support to Macao bid for hosting AOGS 2011 Annual Meeting (Singapore, 15 August 2009)**

As a member of AOGS (Asia Oceania Geosciences Society) and ADGEO-HS (Advances in Geosciences-Hydrology Science) and editor, Mr. Jinping Liu was invited by AOGS Secretariat to represent Typhoon Committee Secretariat to support Macao to bid for hosting the AOGS2011 Annual Session, at AOGS 2009 6th Annual Meeting held in Singapore from 11 to 15 August, 2009. This meeting was attended by 1,100 scientists from 54 countries. Mr. Liu and representatives of Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) and the Venetian Macao made a presentation on Saturday, August 15, during the AOGS2009 General Assembly. The Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) also expressed its support to the proposal. This activity was considered helpful to promote the visibility of TC in the region. The participation of Mr. Jinping Liu was made without financial support from TCTF.

- **Workshop on Climate Change and Action – Macao, China, 24 September 2009**

TC secretary Mr. Olavo Rasquinho, TCS meteorologist Mr. Derek Leong and TCS hydrologist Mr. Jinping Liu were invited to attend the one-day Workshop on Climate Change and Action held in Macao University on September 24, 2009, which was organized jointly by Guangzhou Meteorology Department, Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) and Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG). Seven experts from the above mentioned departments, City University of Hong Kong and Macao University addressed presentations on aspects of climate change at present and its trends in 21st century, the impact of climate change to extreme precipitation, storm surge and water resource in the region and global warming and tropical cyclone activities in Western North Pacific. About 50 participants took part in the workshop.

- **ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Integrated Workshop "Building Sustainability and Resilience in High Risk Areas of the Typhoon Committee: Assessment and Action" (Cebu, Philippines, 14-18 September 2009)**

The Secretary of TC, Mr. Olavo Rasquinho, Mr. Leong Kai Hong (Meteorologist), Mr. Jinping Liu (Hydrologist) and Ms Denise Lau (Senior Administrative Secretary) participated at the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Integrated Workshop “Building Sustainability and Resilience in High Risk Areas of the Typhoon Committee: Assessment and Action” that was held in Cebu, Philippines, 14-18 September 2009. The expenses were supported by TCTF budget – 2009, Item 1 - Support to TCS for resource mobilization, representation at international meetings.

- **Vietnam National Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, Hanoi, Vietnam, 7 October 2009.**

The Secretary of TC was invited by the Organizer Committee of the “Vietnam National Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation”, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government, to attend this meeting, which was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 7th October 2009. The main goal of this forum was to discuss issues related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, risk management strategies, and how to harmonize and maximize synergies for an efficient coordination of different institutions in Viet Nam in order the Vietnamese Government could create a roadmap for a national platform for disaster risk reduction. This meeting was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam, and sponsored by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of United Nations and the Australian Agency for International Development. The expenses referred to this participation were supported by the organizer committee and partially through the TCS endowment fund.

- **Visit to the NHMS of Vietnam**

Given the fact of being in Hanoi to attend the National Forum of Vietnam on Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change, the Secretary of TC visited the National Hydro-Meteorological Service (NHMS) of Viet Nam, where he had the opportunity to have a meeting with the leadership of the Service and visit the various departments. At the meeting the Director - General Dr. Bui Van Duc reiterated the desire to have a visit of an AWG expert mission to help to develop a plan to modernize the NHMS of Vietnam.

- **Second WMO International Workshop on Tropical Cyclone Landfall Processes (IWTCLP-II) - Shanghai, China, 19-23 October 2009**

As hydrologist of TCS, Mr. LIU Jinping was invited by the Tropical Meteorology Research Program (TMRP) of the WMO World Weather Research Program (WWRP) as a keynote speaker to participate in the Second WMO International Workshop on Tropical Cyclone Landfall Processes (IWTCLP-II) which was held in Shanghai, China from 19 to 23 October 2009. He gave a presentation on “Hydrological Perspective on Tropical Cyclone Forecasts” at the Workshop. He is also invited to be a member of the Expert Panel on Tropical Cyclone Landfall Processes with a four-year term.

- **First International Conference on Policy and Research for Global Disaster Management - Seoul, Republic of Korea, 11-13 November 2009**

The Secretary of TC was invited by National Emergency Management Agency of Republic of Korea (NEMA) to address a congratulatory speech at the opening ceremony of the “First International Conference on Policy and Research for Global Disaster Management –

PR4GDM”, which was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 11-13 November 2009. He also gave the presentation “International Organizations - Role on Disaster Management”. The Conference was organized by NEMA and was attended by about 300 invitees from different countries of Asia (China, Hong Kong – China, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Thailand), Belarus, Canada, Norway and USA. At the end of the Conference was approved a resolution on the future development of these type of conferences.

- **Seminar on “Circulation in Pearl River Estuary and its Linkages with Adjacent Coastal Waters: Modeling Study” – Macao, China – 16 November 2009**

Mr. Liu Jinping was invited by SMG of Macao to take part in the seminar “circulation in Pearl River Estuary and its linkages with adjacent coastal waters: modeling study”, which was presented by Prof. Jianping GAN of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on November 16, 2009. After seminar, Prof. Gan visited TCS in the afternoon. The Secretary of TC Mr. Olavo Rasquinho and his staffs had a meeting with Prof. Gan. Both sides exchanged information and discussed the possibility of application of modeling linking the operation with his research.

- **Roving Seminar – Nanjing, China, 16-19 November 2009**

Mr. Derek Leong, meteorologist of TCS attended the Roving Seminar organized by the Training and Research Coordination Group (TRCG) and delivered the opening message. With kind support from the China Meteorological Administration, WMO Public Weather Services Programme and Tropical Cyclone Programme, and Typhoon Committee Trust Fund, the Eighth Roving Seminar was successfully held in the WMO RTC Nanjing, the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology from 16 to 19 November 2009. The main topics of the Seminar focused high-impact weather associated with tropical cyclones, formulation of tropical cyclone warning messages and communication and broadcasting of warning messages. It was attended by a total of 14 participants, which included 2 from DPR Korea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam; 1 from Hong Kong-China, Macau-China, Malaysia and Singapore. The participants gave a warm appreciation to the three lecturers for their outstanding presentations, which provided the participants with new insight on the topics discussed.

2. INVITATIONS NOT ACCEPTED DUE TO BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS

While acknowledging the usefulness of attending the following meetings, we could not accept the invitations due to budgetary constraints related to the TCTF budget – 2009, Item 1 - Support to TCS for resource mobilization, representation at international meetings.

- **Ministry of Water Resources of China**

Special Session "Risk Management of Water Infrastructure Projects Related To Mega Natural Disasters" at the WWF5 - Istanbul, Turkey, 16-22 March, 2009

- **WMO:**

36th Session of WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, held in Muscat, Oman, from 2 to 6 March 2009 (Invitation from Dr. Geoffrey B. Love, Director, Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department).

31st Session of RA IV Hurricane Committee, held in Nassau, Bahamas, from 20 to 24 April 2009 (Invitation from Dr. Geoffrey B. Love, WMO).

- **ESCAP:**

65th Session of ESCAP, Bangkok, 23-29 April 2009.

As the TCS reported to the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, which in turn reports to ESCAP, and due to budget constraints, it was not considered opportune to respond positively to the invitation of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for TCS to be represented at the ESCAP 65th Session, which was held in Bangkok from 23 to 29 April 2009. The previous practice consisted of reporting directly to ESCAP.

First Editorial Committee Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report on Securing the Development in the Face of a Changing Climate, 18-19 November 2009

TCS was invited by Mr. Xuan Zengpei and Mr. German Velasquez, respectively Director of Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of ESCAP and Senior Regional Coordinator of UNISDR Secretariat for Asia and Pacific, to be represented at the First Editorial Committee Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report on Securing the Development in the Face of a Changing Climate, 18-19 November 2009.

3. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRAINING, WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS

TCS, together with the Working Groups, ESCAP and WMO, coordinated the preparation of the following events:

- Forth Typhoon Committee Working Group on DPP Meeting (Seoul, 28-29 April 2009);
- First Training and Research Coordination Group Technical Forum (Jeju, Republic of Korea, 12 - 15 May 2009);
- Training course for 4 participants of Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) on hydrological observation and forecasting (Guangzhou, China, 20-26 July 2009);
- Third On-the-job Training of Flood Forecasting (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 21-August 23, 2009);
- ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Integrated Workshop "Building Sustainability and Resilience in High Risk Areas of the Typhoon Committee: Assessment and Action" (Cebu, Philippines, 14-18 September 2009);
- TRCG Roving Seminar 2009 (Nanjing, China, 16-19 November 2009).
- Experts Meeting on the Assessment of Change of Intensity and Frequency of Tropical Cyclones – (Macao, 14-15 December 2009);
- Small Meeting of Chairs of Working Groups (Macao, 16-17 December 2009)

4. COOPERATION UNDER GFDRR - “FLOOD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE”

ESCAP and TCS prepared the Stage 1 Application for Grant Support under GFDRR South-South Cooperation Program, related to the proposed partnership “Flood Resilient Communities in a Changing Climate”. This partnership is based on the project proposed by the Hong Observatory of community weather stations to raise public awareness on climate change and on the general guidelines for the establishment of community-based flood forecasting system, which is a product of a the project of the Typhoon Committee led by the Philippines, Community Based Flood Forecasting and Warning System (CBFFWS).

5. INTERVIEWS OF TCS STAFF FOR TELEVISION OF MACAO AND CCTV (China)

The Macao Portuguese newspaper “Tribuna de Macau” interviewed the Secretary on the activities of Typhoon Committee, in March 2009.

The Portuguese Channel of Macao Television (TDM) interviewed the Secretary and the TCS hydrologist for different emissions of “Asia Global”, respectively in October and November 2009.

The China Central Television (CCTV) has made reportage at the TCS headquarters and interviewed the Secretary for an emission on the ten years of Macao integration in the People’s Republic of China, in December 2009.

6. OTHER MAIN ACTIVITIES OF TCS

- **Submission of candidatures to host the TCS in 2011-2014**

TCS sent a letter (TCS/147–2009, 12 June 2009) to all Members recalling the decision of the Typhoon Committee at its thirty-eight Session (Hanoi, Vietnam, 14-19 November 2005) in which it was established that the TCS would be hosted by the Special Administrative Region of Macao-China, for a period of at least four years from the 39th Session of the Typhoon Committee. Considering that the term of the four-years period will be reached at the end of 2010/beginning of 2011, the Members interested in hosting the TCS were invited to submit their candidatures in order that TC could take a decision at the 42nd TC Annual Session, which will be held in Singapore, 25-29 January 2010.

Up to now only Thailand requested TCS to provide the criteria for hosting TCS.

- **Dr. Roman L. Kintanar Award for Typhoon-Related Disaster Mitigation**

TCS sent a letter (TCS/202–2009, 1 September 2009) to the Directors and Focal Points of the three main components of TC recalling that the Members that are interested to submit proposals should do it up to 14 November 2009 (two months before the 42nd Session of TC, which will be held from 14 to 18 January 2010).

- **TC Publications**

TCS elaborated a proposal for the publication of technical documents. Considering that the already issued technical documents were published following the numbering and graphical aspect of WMO, TCS based its proposal on the WMO guidelines.

- **Memorandum of Understanding between WMO and TCS**

WMO and TCS, with contributions from AWG, prepared a draft of the “Memorandum of Understanding between the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS) Regarding Typhoon Committee Trust Fund (TCTF) Budget Arrangement”.

7. OTHER ISSUES

- **Auditing procedure**

TCS made available all documents to the international firm KPMG, which prepared the “Independent auditor’s report to the management of Typhoon Committee Secretariat”, which includes the annual financial statements showing income, expenditures, assets and liabilities as of 31 December 2008, related to the Endowment Fund provided by Macao SAR Government. In the report it is stated: “In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Secretariat as of 31 December, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Report Standards”.

TCS sent one original of the Report to the Government of Macao and copies ESCAP, WMO and to Mr. Thosakdi Vanichkajorn, Chairman of TC.

- **Damage caused by typhoon Hagupit at TCS headquarters**

The storm surge associated to the typhoon Hagupit, on September 23, 2008, damaged partially the building and equipment and hampered the smooth operation of the TCS. The estimated sum of the total damage was about USD117, 597.00, and the compensation from insurance company was USD 72,511. The Government of Macao covered the expenses related to the restoration of the building and provided temporary facilities during the restoration period. The premises were reoccupied by TCS staff in June 2009.

- **Visits to TCS Headquarters**

- Mr. ZHENG Yunjie, former meteorologist of CMA, advisor to the Management Board Member of the Academic Supervision and Arbitration Committee of Macao Polytechnic Institute, visited TCS headquarters on 1st July 2009, in order to get information on Typhoon Committee Activities. The Secretary of TC introduced the background information of TC, the recent activities and the projects on-going among Working Groups.

- Prof. Wen CHEN, Director of Center for Monsoon System Research under the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP) of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Dr. Gang HUANG, professor of Key Laboratory of Regional-Environment Research for Temperate East Asia (RCE-TEA) under IAP of CAS, visited TCS on 18 August 2009. Both sides exchanged information.

- Mr. WU Jingyuan, a resident of Macao, visited TCS on 28 August, 2009. He submitted a letter and suggested TC should remove the typhoon Morakot from the list of typhoon names because it has caused severe disaster in Taiwan.
- Prof. Jianping Gan, Department of Mathematics & Atmospheric Marine and Coastal Environment (AMCE) program, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, visited TCS on 16 November, 2009. Information on University of Science and Technology programs related to atmospheric interaction with ocean and TC activities was exchanged.
- Mr. Xuan Zengpei and Mr. Yuichi Ono, respectively Chief of Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (ICT DRR) and Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction Section, ESCAP, visited TCS headquarters on 17 December 2009. During this visit an interesting conversation was held about the role to TC in the context of ESCAP.
- Ms. Zhang Yunfei, Deputy Director-General, Counselor, and Ms Shen Yuan, of Department of International Organizations & Legal Affairs – Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Macao SAR of People’s Republic of China, visited TCS on 21 January 2009, for getting information on the activities of TC.