

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee

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FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

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AGENDA ITEM 7

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**TYPHOON COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

(Item 7 of Provisional Agenda)

(Submitted by Typhoon Committee Secretariat)

Summary and Purpose of Document:

**This document reviews the principal activities of Typhoon
Committee Secretariat (TCS) during 2011**

Action Proposed

The Committee is invited to:

Take note of the major activities of the Typhoon Committee Secretariat during 2011

SUMMARY REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF TCS IN 2011

In 2011, Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS), as the executive body of the Committee, made great efforts on maintaining the Committee mechanism running properly and fulfilling the decisions of 43rd Session of the Committee which was held in Jeju, Republic of Korea from 17 to 22 January 2011. TCS issued 317 letters for coordinating the activities of Committee in 2011. With the strong support and kind cooperation from all Members, Working Groups, ESCAP and WMO, TCS has got the obviously achievements and progresses since 43rd Session in 2011 on following five aspects:

- (1) Executing the decisions of the Committee;
- (2) Coordinating the activities of Annual Operation Plan (AOP) implementation;
- (3) Enhancing the visibility of Committee in the International community;
- (4) Improving the resource mobilization for Committee;
- (5) Promoting the internal capacity building of TCS.

Part 1 Execution of the Decisions of the Committee

In 2011, TCS provided the strong and fundamental support to AWG with high effectiveness and efficiency for executing and achieving the general decisions of the Committee made at its 43rd Annual Session.

- **TCTF Management.** Based on the Committee's decision of budget allocation for AOPs, TCS kept the close communication with WMO on the TCTF management. The Work Plan of 2011 was adjusted timely according to the changes of AOPs' implementation plan made by work groups to meet the need of WMO financial rules. Consequently, the AOPs have been ensured to be implemented favourably and successfully.
- **Strategic Plan 2012-2016.** Following decision of the Committee (as referred at the Paragraph 148 of the Report of the 43rd TC Session), TCS requested the AWG and Members to propose eventual changes to the draft presented by the former AWG Vice-Chair so that the potential changes could be discussed at the IWS and prepared a final draft to be discussed and approved at the 44th TC Session.
- **TC 6th Integrated Workshop.** In cooperation with Members, ESCAP and WMO, TCS assisted and supported the National Hydro-Meteorological Service (NHMS) of Vietnam to have organized the 6th Integrated Workshop with the title of "Damage Assessment Methodology and Pre-assessment of Typhoon Landfall Impacts" held in Nha Trang, Vietnam from 7 to 11 November 2011. TCS prepared the Summary Report after workshop.
- **TC 44th Annual Session.** In kind cooperation with the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), TCS involved deeply and roundly in the preparatory of TC 44th Annual Session to be

held in Hangzhou, China from 6 to 11 February 2012, including information note, participants' registration, programme and documentation.

- **Kintanar Award.** Following the recommendation of the TC at its 43rd Session (Paragraph 152 c), TCS requested all Members for the appointment of a representative for the Kintanar Award Selection Working Group (KASWG). Currently KASWG is composed of 8 members. TCS coordinated the selection of the winners of the Kintanar Award-2011, whose delivery will be held at the opening ceremony of the 44th Session.
- **Rules of Procedure of the Typhoon Committee.** Considering the matters appeared in the regular running of the Committee, TCS proposed the revision of the Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of TC so that it was envisaged to replace the Chairperson in case of impediment to perform the functions due to retirement or other reasons not considered in the Rules. With the approval of AWG, the Rule 6 has been modified to “the Committee shall, at each Session, elect from its representatives a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election. In the event of the Chairperson is impeded for any reason of performing his duties, the Chairperson successor in his/her organization will assume the role of Typhoon Committee’s Chair”.
- **Document Publication.** In 2011, TCS edited and/or coordinated several publications for the Committee since the 43rd Annual Session as follows:
 - (1) Typhoon Committee Annual Review (TCAR) —2010
 - (2) Typhoon Committee Newsletter—2011
 - (3) Typhoon Committee Journal—Tropical Cyclone Research and Review (TCRR)
 - (4) DRR Expert Mission – 2011, prepared by the WGDRR
 - (5) Designed flyer for Strategic Plan 2012-2016

Part 2 Coordination of the Activities of AOPs Implementation

At the 43rd Session, the Committee approved 24 AOPs totally. TCS provided strong, all-around, effective and well-knit service and coordination for AWG, WGM, WGH, WGDRR and TRCG to implement their AOPs successfully in 2011. The main activities, which TCS has been involved in deeply and coordinated closely, were described as below:

- Implementation of TC Cross-cutting project on Urban Flood Risk Management (UFRM), including
 - UFRM working meeting, held in Beijing, China from 4 to 5 April, 2011;
 - UFRM consultancy;
 - UFRM Guidelines Drafting;
 - UFRM Pilot Study;
 - Study Visiting of UFRM Good Practice Cities in Shanghai, China from 18 to 20 May 2011;
 - Study Visiting of UFRM Good Practice Cities in Ansong Stream, Korea on 24 May 2011;

- Training for Pilot Study in Thailand, including QPE/QPF on-job training for TMD, Thailand hosted by SMB of CMA, China from 8 to 19 August 2011;
 - Training Workshop on QPE/QPF, inundation mapping, urban flood simulation model and flood disaster assessment, held in TMD, Thailand from 29 August- 2 September 2011.
- Workshop on the Assessment System of Flood Control Measures on Socio-economic Impact (ASFCM) hosted by MLTM, Korea in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 23 to 24 May 2011.
 - TRCG Roving Seminar conducted by TRCG on “Heavy Rain and Flood Hazards associated with Landfalling Tropical Cyclones”, held in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia from 20 - 23 September 2011.
 - QPE/QPF Workshop conducted by WGM and SABO field Training conducted by WGH, held in Nha Trang, Viet Nam on 6 November 2011 in conjunction with TC 6th Integrated Workshop.
 - 6th International Workshop on Typhoon Committee Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea from 25 to 26 May 2011.
 - Expert Mission on Radar Composite Map Project in Thailand conducted by WGM, held in Thailand from 7 to 9 September 2011.
 - Expert Mission on Web GIS Based Typhoon Committee Disaster Information Service, to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand, 7-13 August 2011
 - Expert Team Meeting on the “Assessment Report on the Impact of Climate Change with Focus on Tropical Cyclone Track and Impact Area”, held in Shanghai, China from 21 to 22 November 2011.
 - Web-based Typhoon Forum Meeting conducted by WGM, held in Shanghai, China on 22 November 2011.
 - Coordination of Research Fellowship Scheme. The TC received in 2011 three research fellowships offered by China Meteorological Administration (CMA), Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) and Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA). TCS has coordinated the participation of the awardees in the activities under the fellowship scheme.

Part 3 Enhancement of the Visibility of the Committee

In 2011, TCS took all opportunities to enhance the cooperation and linkage with ESCAP, WMO and other regional and international organizations in order to promote the visibility of Committee in international community.

- **5th Annual City Development Conference**, held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam from 24 to 25 February 2011. The Secretary of TC Mr. Olavo Rasquihno was invited to attend the Conference. He gave the presentation on “Climate Change and Urban Flood Risk Management”. During the meeting conversations have been held with Mr. Dato’ Ir Hj. Ahmad Husaini B. Sulaiman, Director General of Department of Irrigation and Drainage of Malaysia

and with Mr. Hiroto Arakawa, Senior Special Adviser of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), about potential collaboration in the TC crosscutting project on Urban Flood Risk Management.

- **Civil Protection Scheme Meeting on Tropical Cyclone Prevention**, held by the Government of Macao SAR of China on 20 April 2011. Mr. Leong Kai Hong, meteorologist of TCS, participated the meeting and made a presentation on Risk Assessment Methodologies at the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) headquarters, during a meeting involving SMG and the Security Forces Coordination Office of Macao.
- **67th Session of ESCAP**. The Secretary of TC, Mr. Olavo Rasquinho, attended the Senior Officials segment of the Session which was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea from 19 to 21 May 2011. The activities of Typhoon Committee in 2010 were summarized in the document E/ESCAP/67/INF/6, under the Item 3(f) of the provisional agenda Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP regional institutions.
- **Workshop on Developing Capacity for Resilience to Water-Related Disasters in Pakistan through Space Applications and Flood Risk Management**, held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 1 to 4 March 2011. Mr. Jinping LIU, as representative of Typhoon Committee, was supported by UN ESCAP to take part in the Workshop. At the Workshop, he made two presentations: “Extreme Weather Events and Reservoir Operation”, and “Regional Cooperation Mechanism and Activities in Typhoon Committee”. He introduced the TC Strategic Plan and AOPs in 2011, particularly the TC Cross-cutting Project of Urban Flood Risk Management (UFRM) and cooperation projects related to Flash Flood and Sediment disasters.
- **Expert Group Meeting on Identifying Priority Cooperation Areas for the Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought**, held from 15 to 17 March 2011 in Beijing, China. The Secretary of TC Mr. Olavo Rasquinho was funded by ESCAP to attend this meeting which exclusively discussed on priority actions of the Mechanism and reaffirmed its importance and its role towards disaster risk reduction for member states, particularly for drought, in the view that disasters are happening more frequently and with greater intensity.
- **The Seventh TCP/JCOMM Workshop on Storm Surge and Wave Forecasting**, held in Macao, China from 10 to 14 October 2011. This workshop was co-organized by World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) and TCS. The meeting arranged half-day on the future cooperation/collaboration of the SWS with the UFRM, Mr. Jinping Liu, Hydrologist of TCS convened the discussion and gave a presentation on the UFRM project.
- **The Second Expert Group Meeting on the Great East Japan Earthquake - Learning from the Mega-Tsunami Disaster**, held in Tokyo, Japan from 16 to 18 December 2011. The secretary of TC Mr. Olavo Rasquinho was funded by ESCAP to participate in the Meeting, in which he made a presentation on Public Awareness and Education in the TC Members. The organizers propitiated a visit to the cities most damaged by the 11th March tsunami, including Kamaishi and Miyako City. The participants had the opportunity to witness the

enormous effort that the Japanese people is developing towards the recovery of damaged areas.

- **The Cooperation between Thailand and China on QPE/QPF training and real time flood forecasting modeling.** TCS involved in the coordination of the cooperation activities through the year.
- **Cooperation with PTC and WMO RA II.** As the recommendation of Committee, TCS, with support and cooperation of WMO and ESCAP, has taken the efforts as many as possible to enhance the cooperation with WMO RA II and PTC.
- **Macao application of AGOS Session hosting.** TCS assisted Macao University of Science and technology (MUST) and the Venetian Macao-Resort-Hotel in cooperation with SMG of Macao to prepare the proposal of application to host the Asia Oceania and Geosciences Society (AOGS) Session of 2013.
- **Public awareness on the media of Macao.** the English-language newspaper “Macau Daily Times” published an extensive interview with the secretary of the TC Mr. Olavo Rasquinho on the 24th March 2011 which was focused on aspects related to the activities of the Typhoon Committee, and other more specific issues such as the vulnerability of Macao to typhoon-related hazards such as storm surges and flooding in low lying areas of the territory.
- **Visits to TCS headquarters.** In 2011, TCS received a number of visitors including technical specialists, students and tourists. The main visit events are mentioned as below:
 - **Visit of representatives of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.** On 18 February 2011, Mr. Manuel Amante da Rosa and Mr. Francisco Mendes, Deputy Secretary-General and delegate of Cape Vert, respectively visited the TCS headquarters with a view to collect information about how TCS is organized and also about the relationship between the Secretariat and the Government of Macao and the People’s Republic of China. The Secretary of TC Mr. Olavo Rasquinho and TCS staff provided the required information and made a brief summary of the activities of TC.
 - **Visit of Mr. Caifang WANG-Executive Deputy Director, WMO Regional Training Center (RTC) in Nanjing.** On 24 Mar, 2011. Mr. WANG visited TCS office with the main purpose to engage to establish cooperation between the Committee and the RTC of Nanjing. Mr. Wang has made a comprehensive explanation on the activities of that RTC and raised the possibility the RTC Nanjing to collaborate in education and training with Committee.
 - **Visit of Dr. Tokiyoshi TOYA, Regional Director for Asia and the South-West Pacific, WMO.** Dr. Tokiyoshi TOYA, in mission to Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) to attend the official launch ceremony of the RA II Pilot Project on City-specific forecasts, made also a visit to TCS, on 8 July 2011. On that occasion, Dr. Toya and TCS staff had discussions on some Typhoon Committee-related issues.
 - **Participants of the 7th TCP/JCOMM Workshop on Storm Surge and Wave Forecasting.** Mr. Olavo Rasquinho gave a brief introduction to Committee and TCS for the about 20 visitors from different regions as TC, PTC and Europe.

Part 4 Improvement of the Resource Mobilization

TCS has tried its best to seek more funds and improve the resource mobilization situation for the Committee in 2011. The main achievements and progresses were briefly described as following:

- **Macao Endowment Fund.** With very strong support from SMG, Macao Government increased the Endowment Fund for TCS regular running and staffs' payment considering the practical situation so that TCS could have possibility to be involved in more activities of the Committee and international Community.
- **In-kind Contribution from Members.** In 2011, TCS coordinated the in-kind contribution from Members including expertise and funding to support AOPs implementation. According to incomplete information collected by TCS the in-kind contribution reached the amount USD 291,038.75.
- **Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (MSTDF).** TCS, in cooperation with SMG, submitted a proposal to MSTDF to seek funding support for Developing the Operational System for Urban Flood Forecasting and Inundation Mapping (OSUFFIM) for the Committee.
- **Macao Foundation.** TCS, in cooperation with SMG of Macao, applied funding from Macao Foundation for supporting the participants and lectures of the Seventh TCP/JCOMM Workshop on Storm Surge and Wave Forecasting, some of them from TC Members.
- **ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness.** TCS, with strong support from Dr. Yuichi ONO, submitted a project proposal of Synergized Standard Operational Procedure for Coastal Multi-Hazards Early Warning System to the Trust Fund. The Committee proposed, in cooperation with WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclone (PTC) and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), to conduct this project by studying good practices of more advanced countries in this regard. Based on the analysis and synergizing of the existing Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for coastal multi-hazard early warning system (EWS), and is going to develop a Manual/Handbook based on the study.
- **World Bank (WB).** TCS had communication with staff in WB to seek the possibility to involve the Committee in the programmes of WB.

Part 5 Promoting the internal capacity building of TCS

TCS has taken the necessary measures on promoting the internal capacity building of TCS in order to further improve and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Committee. Concretely, the progresses and achievements that TCS has been taking on this aspect could be described as below:

- enhancing the communication with Chair/vice-chairpersons and focal points of working groups in Members;.
- enhancing TCS internal meetings, regularly or irregularly;
- updating the contact information of Leaderships and Focal Points in Members;
- re-establishing the webpage of the Committee with more rich information and regular updating.