**APPENDIX IIa**

Opening Remarks - Ray Tanabe

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee 48th Annual Session

Honolulu, HI 22-25 February 2016

Aloha, Good Morning, and Welcome to Hawaii. I see a few familiar faces, and for those I haven’t had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name of Raymond Tanabe and I am the Director for the Pacific Region of the US National Weather Service.

On behalf of Laura Furgione, US Permanent Representative to the WMO, and Courtney Draggon, International Activities Director for the NOAA National Weather Service. It has been a long since the US last hosted a Typhoon Committee meeting, 2001, and we are honored to be able to host the 48th Annual Session here in Honolulu.

Courtney very much apologizes she could not be here in person. She got sick on her way back from Geneva last week and was unable to make this trip. It would have been the first time for Courtney to attend a Typhoon Committee event and she is disappointed. More than ever, Courtney hopes she will be able to attend the next annual session hosted by Japan.

The NWS is being guided by the principle of building a Weather Ready Nation. Under this principle, we are focusing our efforts on providing the best science AND the best service. The best science means maintaining observational systems, next generation satellites, and supercomputers, conducting groundbreaking research and bringing this research into operations. The best service means developing a full suite of Impact Based Decision Support to all our customers and users and delivering to the last mile. We are gathered here in the Pacific Region, and in many cases, we are the last mile.

On Tuesday night, we will host an evening reception at the Waikiki Aquarium. The Aquarium will be open at night for us and you will be able to walk around and enjoy the exhibits. A bus is available to take participants to and from the hotel.

Once again, we are honored to host, we are thankful everyone could join us and we look forward to a successful meeting. Thank You!