**APPENDIX IIc**

**Opening Remarks at 48th Session ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee**

By Mr. YU Jixin

Secretary of Typhoon Committee

(**22- 25 February 2016 Honolulu, Hawaii, USA**)

**Mr. Taoyong Peng,** Chief of Tropical Cyclone Programme Division, WMO.

**Mr. Peter Hirai,** Deputy Director of Department of Emergency Managementof the City and County of Honolulu.

**Mr. Raymond Tanabe**, Pacific Region Director, NOAA National Weather Service and Vice-chairperson of the Typhoon Committee

Dear participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Aloha and Good Morning!

It is my great pleasure honour to address you on the occasion of the opening of the the 48th Session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee.

First of all, I would like, on behalf of Typhoon Committee Secretariat and myself, to express my sincere appreciation to the US government through National Weather Service of NOAA for organizing and hosting this important annual session, and to extend a warm welcome to all the participants at this session.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, tropical cyclone is the most destructive weather system in our atmosphere. The Asia and Pacific is one of the regions over the world that is prone to tropical cyclones. The goal of Typhoon Committee is to promoting and co-coordinating efforts to minimize typhoon damages in the region. Furthermore, it illustrates the contribution of Members in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the desired outcomes of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Even it was a relatively “peaceful” year in 2015 in terms of typhoon hazards and impacts in the region. But there were still some major typhoons which had significant impacts to the Members. You may lean more details in the reports by RSMC Tokyo and TC Members. The typhoon community has always attached great importance in improving the monitoring and forecasting of tropical cyclones, and highlighted the importance of the coordination of the activities in meteorology, hydrology, and disaster prevention and preparedness in mitigating natural disaster caused by tropical cyclones.

In the past year, under the guidance, contribution, cooperation and support of all TC Members, Chairpersons, AWG, working groups, ESCAP and WMO, the Typhoon Committee Secretariat was successfully in achieving the decisions made by TC-47. The related issues will be dealt with under the relevant agenda items.

Taken this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for your continuous support, guidance which has been given to TCS.

Finally, I wish the annual session a complete success and may you have an enjoyable stay in the beautiful island - Honolulu.

Thank you!