

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee
Fiftieth Session
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Hanoi, Viet Nam

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY
WRD/TC.50/7.1
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ENGLISH ONLY

Report on TC's Key Activities and Main Events in the Region, 2017

(Submitted by TC Chair Dr. Toshihiko Hashida)

ACTION REQUIRED:

The Committee is invited:

- a) To take note of the key events in 2017
- b) To consider the ideas and proposals of the TC Chair in formulating the future AOPs, initiatives and recommendations

APPENDICES:

- 1) DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION AT SESSION REPORT
- 2) TC's Key Activities and Main Events in the Region, 2017

APPENDIX A:
DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE SESSION REPORT

7.1 Report on TC's Key Activities and Main Events in the Region, 2017 (agenda item 7.1)

7.1.1 The Committee took note of the report of the Typhoon Committee Chairperson on the TC's Key Activities and Main Events in the Region, 2017.

7.1.2 The Committee expressed appreciation to the contributions of Dr. Toshihiko Hashida and Prof. TRAN Hong Thai as the chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

7.1.3 The Committee dealt with related issues under the relevant agenda items.

(Additional text to be added in the light of discussion on this item)

APPENDIX B:

Report on TC's Key Activities and Main Events in the Region, 2017

In the past year, under the contribution, cooperation and support of all TC Members, AWG, working groups, and TCS, the Typhoon Committee was successfully in achieving our goals and implement of the decisions of TC-49. The related issues will be dealt with under the relevant agenda items. Some key activities and events are as follows.

1. Typhoons in the Region

- 1.1 In 2017, 27 named tropical cyclones of tropical storm intensity or above were formed over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea. This number was above the climatological average of 25.6. While more details can be found in the reports of RSMC Tokyo and TC Members, the following paragraphs highlight the major storms which had significant impacts to the Members.
- 1.2 There were 8 tropical cyclones which made landfall over China in the year, namely Merbok (1702), Roke (1707), Nesat (1709), Haitang (1710), Hato (1713), Pakhar (1714), Mawar (1716) and Khanun (1720). Among these 8 tropical cyclones, Nesat (1709) and Haitang (1710) made landfall at the same place (Fuqing, Fujian) within 24 hours in July which was an unusual event.
- 1.3 Hato (1713) was the most intense typhoon which affected China in the year. Maximum gusts recorded were close to 300 km/h and caused severe damage in southern Guangdong. Hato underwent rapid intensification (RI) over the northern part of South China Sea and reached Super Typhoon intensity before making landfall near Zhuhai on 23 August 2017. It brought severe storm surge over the Pearl River Estuary including Zhuhai, Macao and Hong Kong. According to CMA, 32 people were dead and direct economic loss was over 280 hundred million RMB.
- 1.4 Japan was hit by 4 tropical cyclones in the year, including Nanmadol (1703), Noru (1705), Talim (1718) and Lan (1721). Noru maintained its intensity of tropical storm or above for 19 days between 21 July to 8 August 2017 which was the second longest period in record. It brought heavy rain to southwest Japan leaving 2 people dead and more than 50 injured. Lan, one of the most intense typhoons in 2017, made landfall near Honshu on 23 October 2017 and caused 8 people dead and more than 200 injured.
- 1.5 Viet Nam was affected by 4 tropical cyclones in the year. Talas (1704) and Sonca (1708) made landfall in July followed by Doksuri (1719) in September and Damrey (1723) in November. Damrey made landfall over southern Viet Nam on 4 November as a typhoon and caused severe damage and flooding. More than 100 people were dead.
- 1.6 Philippines was hit by 2 tropical cyclones in December: Kai-tak (1726) and Tembin (1727), causing serious flooding and landslides. More than 200 people died.

2. Improvement of TC Activities

- 2.1. SSOP-II: Implementation of Achievement of Project of SSOP for Coastal Multi-hazard Early

Warning System

The proposal of SSOP-II: Implementation of Synergized Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) for Coastal Multi-Hazard Early Warning System, was formally approved by ESCAP after the 49th Session, and the Letter of Agreement (No. 2016-0031) was signed between TC and ESCAP on 24 April 2017. To effectively implement this project, the Typhoon Committee (TC) set up a Steering Committee (SC) for SSOP-II, composed of the Advisory Working Group (AWG) Chair, TC Secretary and Panel of Tropical Cyclones (PTC) Secretary. With very strong support from TCS, SSOP-II has been fulfilled the scheduled activities including:

- Mr. Tom EVANS, Deputy Director of Pacific Region of NOAA's National Weather Service, was selected as project manager, and the LETTER OF SERVICE AGREEMENT was signed between project manager and TC Secretary;
- A series of communication and coordination with PTC Secretariat, RSMC-Tokyo, RIMES, WMO Regional Training Center (RTC) Nanjing (also ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Training Center) and 10 beneficiary countries were made for the SSOP-II activities implementation and arrangement;
- The Activity 1 of SSOP-II: The Training Workshop on Synergized Standard Operating Procedures for Coastal Multi-Hazards Early Warning System was held in the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST), Nanjing, China from 24 to 26 October 2017;
- The first progress report was submitted to ESCAP on 15 November 2017.

2.2. EXOTICCA

The Second Organizing Committee Meeting of Experiment of Typhoon Intensity Change in Coastal Area (EXOTICCA) was held in Shanghai, China from 7 to 8 September 2017. Participants from China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Viet Nam as well as USA reported progress of the project, and delivered lectures in instrumentation, surveillance strategy and observation techniques. Future plans for the project were also discussed. In conjunction with the project, a Research Fellowship for the study and analysis of data collected during EXOTICCA period was held in Shanghai from 1 to 30 September 2017 with experts from Viet Nam and Thailand.

3. Strategic Development

The strategic plan of Typhoon Committee from 2017 to 2021 has been approved by 49th Session of the Committee. It was requested WGs review the priorities in the Strategic Plan and submit updates ever year, as appropriate for approval as Session, and requested the WGs to align future activities including AOP's with the Strategic Plan.

4. Preparation 50th Anniversary of the Typhoon Committee and TECO

As approved at the 49th Session of the Committee, held in Yokohama, Japan, the Committee approved the activities for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Typhoon Committee. A back-to-back organization of the 3rd TRCG Forum in a Technical Conference (TECO) format was approved with the 2-days event on Monday and Tuesday (26-27 February 2018), with the TC50 Session to follow from Wednesday to Saturday (28 February-03 March 2018).

Two Task Teams were setup for TECO and TC50, respectively composed the 3 secretariats (ESCAP, WMO and TCS), TRCG Chair, Viet Nam representative and other Members from TRCG; and TC50 composed by the 3 secretariats (ESCAP, WMO and TCS), AWG Chair, Viet Nam representative and other interested Members.

The ideas on the celebration activities, commemorative items, gifts and souvenirs to be organized or produced for TC50 were approved such as: TC50 Logo, Photo Book, Photo Contest, Gifts and a special issue of Typhoon Committee's Journal "Tropical Cyclone Research and Review" with the TECO presentations.

In order to make this event more significant, the Committee also approve the invitation of the TC Old Friends guests who have made a great contribution to the Typhoon Committee to join the TC50 Celebration as well a display area for Member's to display their country milestones historical items and materials.

TECO main theme is "Embracing new technologies and knowledge to meet the challenges in the new era of tropical cyclone forecasting" and will include both invited keynote presentations and submitted technical presentations for the three topics under the main theme.