

WELCOMING REMARKS
AT
50TH ESCAP/WMO TYPHOON COMMITTEE SESSION
28 FEBRUARY 2018
HA NOI, VIET NAM

TC Chair, TC Secretary, TC Members, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum and good morning.

1. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Viet Nam for hosting the 50th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the World Meteorological Organization (ESCAP/WMO) Typhoon Committee and the excellent arrangements.

2. I am indeed glad to be here today in this important and special meeting of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee as the Committee celebrates its 50th year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Over the past five decades, Malaysia was struck by two tropical cyclones namely Tropical Storm Greg that hit State of Sabah in December 1996 and Typhoon Vamei that hit State of Johor in December 2001.

4. The Tropical Storm Greg reported had claimed 230 lives while 70 people were missing and more than 25,000 people left homeless. The associated economic losses was amounting to RM150 million. As for Typhoon Vamei, five lives were lost and RM7 million was estimated for the economic losses.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. Over the past 50 years, the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD) has taken continuous efforts in order to further improve its capability in the provision of weather services for wellbeing of the people and nation of Malaysia. The efforts taken include development of the High Performance Computing (HPC) System and Radar Integrated Nowcasting System (RaINS).

6. MMD has successfully developed and commissioned the HPC System in June 2017. Through HPC, the operation of MMD weather modelling, MMD-WRF (Weather Research and Forecasting) has been improved with higher resolution, that is, from four (4) kilometres to one (1) kilometre and longer forecast period, that is, from three (3) days to seven (7) days.

7. MMD also has successfully customised the Short-range Warning of Intense Rainstorms in Localized Systems (SWIRLS) developed by Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) for Malaysia, following the attachment training of MMD officers at HKO in 2012 and 2015, and thank you to HKO. In addition, with the guidance from HKO, MMD has been able to develop RaINS in 2017. The RaINS provides the combination of radar and NWP

nowcast up to three hours in advance with 10 minutes interval. This product can be assessed by public through mobile application. Today, further development is being carried out by MMD to improve the performance of RaINS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. To end my remarks, I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the Local Organising Committee and the Secretariat for their kind assistance in organising this 50th Session of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee. I am confident of a successful and fruitful meeting with the excellent facilities provided by the host country, Viet Nam and the enthusiasm as well as commitments of all the delegates.

Thank you for your attention.

MR. ALUI BAHARI

DIRECTOR GENERAL

MALAYSIAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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MALAYSIA