

Speech for High Level Session on 50th Anniversary of TC (1968-2018)

on Wednesday, 28th February 2018, 10:50-12:30 hrs.

by Dr. Songkran Agsorn

Deputy Director-General, Thai Meteorological Department (TMD)

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very pleased to have an opportunity to address in this important session of the 50th Anniversary of Typhoon Committee. As a representative of the Royal Thai Government and an executive of the Thai Meteorological Department, I would like to convey our joys and appreciation of the cooperation among Members which leads to the 50th Anniversary of Typhoon Committee. When we look back to the year 1968 when Typhoon Committee was formed, Thailand was one of seven founder members. At that year, the 1st TC Session was held in Bangkok from 17 to 20 December 1968 by then Vice-Admiral Sanit Vesarajananda, the former Director-General of Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) who presided as the first TC Chair at the Session. Let us also remind that in the year 1960, 8 years before the forming of TC, the first meteorological satellite, NASA- Tiros-1, was launched and followed by the operational NOAA Tiros-N in 1978, leading to tropical storm observations from space that leapfrog how we followed the tropical storms in the vast oceans. The learning curve is further improved with contribution from geostationary satellites, such as GMS, Himawari, and FY series. That remarkable development in technology has pushed more impacts to how we predict the tropical storm's track and intensities. Training in Dvorak's techniques and other satellite interpretations have been offered by more advanced Members through the Typhoon Committee. Apart from such technologies, numerical prediction and basic typhoon physics are also part of technology transfer which many members benefit well. Besides, participating in technology transfers via training and seminars, Thailand also play a crucial role in hosting many of Typhoon Committee's Annual Sessions meetings, or could have said the most frequent host of the TC session. Thailand also hosted joint TC/PTC meetings in 1992 and 1997. Thailand pursues the cooperation in many projects under Typhoon Committee, for example, the SSOP, the regional weather radar composite, and seconded forecasters attached to RSMC-Tokyo.

In the next 50 years, Thailand would like to see the closer cooperation among Members in managing the typhoon's forecast, disaster managements, and the use of the internet or digital technologies to the way we manage in information of the tropical storms reflecting the changing world and climate. Let us be sure that Thailand is willing to cooperate with all TC Members and other international organizations concerned to strengthen our network and collaboration under WMO umbrella for achieving the TC mission "to mitigate the consequences of the impacts of typhoon-related disasters".

As a little special note, I would like also to mention that we are very pleased to know that one of the activities celebrating the 50th years anniversary of TC is the Old Friends invitation. Since many of TMD former executives had strongly contributed themselves to the TC activities, and one of us here, Dr. Patipat Patvivatsiri, the former Deputy Director-General who had been involved in TC activities for more than 10 years before the retirement. Our Old Friends who joined the TC in the past, are the crucial power forming the Committee and made the TC as we are today. I would like to thank all Old Friends of TC who are here with us and also the ones who can't. We sincerely thank you your utmost dedication.

At the end I would like thank the Government of Vietnam and local organizer committee for hosting this important 50th anniversary of Typhoon Committee and wish all representatives of the Typhoon Committee's Member, WMO and UNESCAP well!
