

HIGH LEVEL SESSION

By. Mr. Tran Hong Thai, Deputy Director General

In the 50th Annual Session of Typhoon Committee

February 28th, 2018

Excellency Mr. Tran Hong Ha, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Excellency Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Excellency Mr. Zahedi Kaveh, Deputy Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Distinguished Mr. Toshihiko Hashida, Chair of Typhoon Committee.

Distinguished Mr. Yu Jixin, Secretary of Typhoon Committee

Distinguished Heads of delegations and our old Friends

Ladies and gentlemen

First of all, May I congratulate on the achievement of Typhoon Committee during 50 years. Typhoon Committee - from the technical organization - became the Inter-Governmental Organization. It can be said that this is the historic milestone of Typhoon Committee as well as member countries. With the role of the Governmental Organization, there were many more active and effective actions to the Asia and Pacific region in the natural disaster prevention and preparedness.

Participating in the Typhoon Committee from 1979, the Hydro-Meteorological Sector of Viet Nam has taken many opportunities to participate into international cooperation and to improve our capacity in providing hydro-meteorological related supports to the development of the socio-economic development.

Distinguished Guest,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Facing the global climate change, the weather is increasingly complicated and unpredictable. In order to take the initiative in the prevention of natural disasters, Congress has approved the Law on Disaster Prevention dated 19, June 2013.

This Law prescribes the activities of natural disaster prevention, the rights and obligations of agencies, organizations, households and individuals participating in activities of natural disaster prevention and state management and resources to ensure work safety.

With the objective "By 2020, Hydro-Meteorological Sector will have the advanced science and technology in the Asia Region, having capacities of conducting basic surveys, hydro-meteorological forecast serving the requirement of prevention and risk mitigation caused by natural calamities for socio-economic development, national defense, exploitation and use of natural resources and environmental protection in the period of industrial development". Up to now, we have successfully implemented cooperation programs and projects. Gradually, we have fulfilled our observation station network and improved the capacities in forecasting severe phenomena especially tropical cyclones.

And our most successful year was the Law of Hydrology and Meteorology was issued in 2015 and was on act in July 2016. It creates important changes for the state management of meteorology, ensures conditions for hydro-meteorological activities to develop, supply and use hydro-meteorological information in socio-economic sectors, creates a legal corridor for hydro-meteorological activities in the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, response to climate change, protection of life and property and the sustainable development of the socio-economy, national defense and security. The level of risk was regulated in the Law creating the clear collaboration mechanism with other sectors and understanding for the community. It must be a very effective approach to the impact-based forecasting and risk-based warnings of the World Meteorological Organization.

The Decision No. 03/2018/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister dated January 23th 2018 has brought to us a function and responsibility of the Viet Nam Meteorological and Hydrological Administration. It does not only give us a great opportunity to work in the sectors of meteorology, hydrology, climate change and natural disaster prevention and risk management, but also a big challenge in providing services to support to the socio-economic development.

Distinguished Guest,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Viet Nam is willing with Typhoon Committee and other country members to write historic pages in the natural disaster preparedness and prevention mission.

Wish the 50th Typhoon Committee Session successful.

Thank you for your attention.