

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee
Fifty-first Session
26 February to 1st March 2019
Guang Zhou, Guangdong
China

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY
WRD/TC.51/7.1
18 January 2018
ENGLISH ONLY

Report on TC's Key Activities and Main Events in the Region, 2018

(Submitted by TC Chair Dr. Le Cong THANH)

ACTION REQUIRED:

The Committee is invited:

- a) To take note of the key events in 2018
- 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, 2018 (agenda item X.X)

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, 2018.

7.1.2 The Committee expressed appreciation to the contributions of Dr. THANH Le Cong and Mr. YU Yong 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, 2018

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 50th Session of the Committee. 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 2018, 28 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. In addition, tropical cyclone Hector from eastern North Pacific crossed the International Date Line and moved into western Pacific. It was one of the most long-lived tropical cyclones which crossed the three basins of Pacific in recent years. The last one was tropical cyclone Genevieve in 2014.
- 1.2. There were 10 tropical cyclones which made landfall over China in the year, namely Ewiniar (1804), Maria (1808), Son-Tinh (1809), Ampil (1810), Jongdari (1812), Yagi (1814), Bebinca (1816), Rumbia (1818), Mangkhut (1822) and Barijat (1823). In particular, three tropical cyclones (Ampil, Jongdari and Rumbia) made landfall over Shanghai which made the largest number of landfall over the region since 1949.
- 1.3. Mangkhut (1822) was the most powerful tropical cyclone (45 m/s and 955 hPa) which made landfall over China in 2018. Storm surges of 1-2 metres were reported along the coastal areas of Guangdong Province with a height of up to 3.4 metres near Pearl River Estuary. Extensive damage was reported in Hong Kong where more than 55,000 trees were fallen with serious flooding in many costal and low-lying areas. More than 450 people were injured and interruptions of water and power supply was also reported.
- 1.4. Japan was hit by 5 tropical cyclones in the year, including Jongdari (1812), Leepi (1815), Cimaron (1820), Jebi (1821) and Trami (1824). Jebi made landfall over Tokushima Prefecture on September 4 and brought high winds, heavy rain and storm surge in western Japan. The Kansai International Airport and port facilities were serious damaged due to storm surge. 14 people were dead and more than 900 were injured.
- 1.5. 6 tropical cyclones affected or made landfall over Philippines in 2018. Mangkhut made landfall over the remote area of Baggao, Cagayan on September 15 and caused widespread damages across northern and central Luzon due to its large size. 82 people were dead, 138 injured and 2 missing and the total cost of damages was P33.6B.
- 1.6. There were 4 tropical cyclone which made landfall over Viet Nam in the year. They were Son-Tinh (1809), Bebinca (1816), Mangkhut (1822) and Usagi (1829). Bebinca (1816) formed over South China Sea on August 9 and took an erratic and looping track. It made three landfalls over south China and the fourth landfall over northern Viet Nam on August 17. Heavy rain caused serious flooding in Ha Noi.

2. Improvement of TC Activities

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

With very strong support from Steering Committee (SC) and Advisory Working Group (AWG), the Project Manager Mr. Tom EVANS, in close cooperation with the Secretariats of the Typhoon Committee (TC) and the Panel of Tropical Cyclones (PTC), made great efforts on coordination with TC and PTC Members for conducting SSOP-II implementation activities, including:

- Implemented the second part of Activity 3: five (5) participants from SSOP-II beneficiary countries (Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand) were sent to the Attachment Training in RSMC New Delhi, India which was held from 2 to 13 July 2018.
- Conducted the In-country Consultation Workshop in Myanmar (PTC Member) which was held on 1-2 November 2018, attended by 34 participants, 1 local consultant, 3 SSOP experts and Project Manager.
- Communicated with Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) for the In-country Consultation Workshop in Thailand.
- Drafted the 2nd and 3rd Progress Reports which were submitted to ESCAP as schedule.

Considering the communication with RIMES has been a challenge for the SSOP-II Project Manager, based on several communication with ESCAP and the comparison of various action programs by the project manager, TCS sent a letter to ESCAP requesting a No Cost Extension of the project of SSOP-II until 30 November 2019 in order to allow sufficient time to arrange the workshops with the beneficiary countries. The current proposal of SSOP-II ended on 31 October 2018.

2.2. WGM&TRCG

- **First WGM Annual Meeting**
The first meeting of Working Group on Meteorology (WGM) was successfully held in Shanghai on July 9, 2018. 18 experts from 8 Members including China, Hong Kong, Macao, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Thailand attended the meeting. Review of the progress of the working group in the past 10 years was reported by Dr. Lei Xiaotu, Chair of WGM. Annual operating plans and proposal for new plans were also discussed in the meeting.
- **Reappointment of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons**
The chairperson and vice-chairpersons of WGM were reappointed according to the TC regulations, with Dr. Lei Xiaotu from China to continue to serve as chairperson in next two years.

2.3. WGH

- **Executing Decisions of TC 50th Session**
With strong support and close collaboration of TC Members, working group Chair/Vice-chairs and AWG members, under effective coordination of TCS, the decisions related to hydrological component made at TC 50th Session were successfully executed, and reached the expected achievement in 2018.

- Implementing WG's AOPs of 2018

Working Groups on Hydrology (WGH) actively and cooperatively conducted a series of activities for implementing its Annual Operation Plans (AOPs) of 2018 as planned schedule and achieved the success indicators. The WGH also proposed their AOPs for 2019, including two new proposals from Japan.

- Chairmanship of WGH

Under the guidance of AGW, WGH got consensus on its chairmanship based on full communication among Members and deep discussion at WGH 7th working meeting and TC 13th IWS.

2.4. WGDRR

- Annual Operating Projects (AOPs)

With support and coordination from the Members and Projects' coordinator, The AOPs 2018 have been successfully implemented according to the plan including training workshops, fellowship and DRR forum etc. In addition, WGDRR has submitted the AOPs 2019 to Committee for approval at TC51.

- Cooperation with PTC

WGDRR planned to touch PTC to discuss the future cooperation with PTC Member on DRR through inviting Oman to participate in annual DRR meeting to be held in Ulsan, Republic of Korea, but it was not successful. However, WGDRR has decided to touch PTC again in 2019.

- Reappointment of Chairpersons of Working Group

According to the TC regulation for the Working Group Chairperson, WGDRR has reappointed the Chair and Vice Chairs for the new term from 2019 to 2021 and submit to Committee for approval at TC51 Session.

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. 50th Anniversary of the Typhoon Committee

The 50th Session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee (TC) was held at the Ha Noi Daewoo Hotel, Ha Noi, Viet Nam, from 28 February to 03 March 2018.

The Session was attended by 153 participants from 13 of 14 Members of the Typhoon Committee, namely: Cambodia; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR); Macao, China; Malaysia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Thailand; United States of America (USA); and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Representatives of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS) also attended the Session.

The Session was attended by observers from Indonesia, Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC),

International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Mekong River Commission (MRC), International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and Tohoku University of Japan.

For celebrating the 50th years of Typhoon Committee, the High-Level Session was conducted. Thirteen PRs (or Heads of Delegation) delivered speeches and presentations related to Member Achievements on mitigating the casualties and properties damage caused by typhoon in the past 50th years. Meanwhile, Prof. PETTERI Taalas, Secretary General of WMO and Mr. ZAHEDI Kaveh, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered remarks on the Opening Ceremony of 50th Session.

The Old Friends shared their history/experience on the past key events and development of the Typhoon Committee. In particular, the many changes in TC down through the years were recognized and it was important that a progressive mindset be maintained by the leadership such as AWG for improvement and development to continue in the future. ESCAP and WMO Secretariats were also encouraged to help raise TC profile and link up TC's regional effort with relevant institutional initiatives.

On a side event a Display Area for Members was set-up with exhibits by the Members showing their historical material.

As part of the celebrations, 50th anniversary photography competition themed "Weather and climate in Typhoon Committee Region" has conducted. The judge panel composed by AWG Members only, had selected a shortlist of top 10 photos submitted by the Members and during the TC51, Members will vote for winner photos.