**APPENDIX II**

**D) Opening Remarks at 54th Session ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee**

By Mr. YU Jixin

**Mr. OBAYASHI Masanor,**  Director-General of the Atmosphere and Ocean Department, JMA

**Mr Cyrille Honoré,** Director of Disaster Risk Reduction and Public Services Branch, Services Department, WMO

**Mr. Sanjay Srivastava,** Chief, Information and Communications Technology

Disaster Risk Reduction, UNESCAP

**Madam Outhone PHETLUANGSY,** Director-General of Department of

Meteorology & Hydrology, Lao PDR

Dear participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

Welcome to the 54th Session of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee via Video Conference.

It is my great pleasure to address you on the opening of the Session online in this special period. I would like to extend my sincere greetings to you and wish you well. I would like, on behalf of Typhoon Committee Secretariat and myself, to express my sincere appreciation to LAO PDR for hosting and the 54th Session of the Committee online.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Natural disasters including virus are the major issues we must face in the world today, and it has become an important challenge for global economic development and social progress in the twenty-first Century.

Typhoon is one of the world’s most severe weather system causing significant casualties and properties damage. To mitigate the damage caused by typhoon, ESCAP in cooperation with the WMO established the Typhoon Committee as a regional intergovernmental body in 1968.

In the past years, The Committee has been developed into the world’s preeminent regional inter-governmental organization for improving the quality of people’s life through integrated international cooperation and played a unique role in mitigating impacts and risks of typhoon-related disasters. The Committee achieved its mission to integrate and enhance regional activities of Members within international frameworks to reduce the loss of lives and minimize social, economic, and environmental impacts by typhoon-related disasters.

However, the statistic shows that the estimated damages caused by typhoon related disasters has been increasing in the past years. It has required us to make further efforts to face the challenges and move toward our goals.

As you are aware, the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic around the world has impacted the actives of our committee in the past few years. However, under the efforts of all Members, AWG, Working Groups, and TCS, the Committee has implemented of the decisions of TC-53 smoothly and achieved our mission to integrate and enhance regional activities of Members within international frameworks to reduce the loss of lives and minimize social, economic, and environmental impacts by typhoon-related disasters.

In 54th session of Typhoon Committee, we will make decision on many important administrative issues such as the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and AP-TCRC etc. The session will review the activities of 2021 and initiate the new AOPs of 2022 also. I wish the Session a complete success.

Thank you!

**E) Opening remarks and declaration**

**Ms. Outhone PHETLUANGSY, Director General DMH of Lao PDR**

**Mr. OBAYASHI Masanori**– Director-General of the Atmosphere and Ocean Department, JMA, on behalf of Mr. HASEGAWA Naoyuki, the Chairperson of the 53rd Session of the Typhoon Committee

**Mr. YU Jixin** - Typhoon Committee Secretary

**Mr. Cyrille Honore ,** Director of Disaster Risk Reduction and Publi Services Branch, Service Department World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**Mr. Sanjay SRIVASTAVA,**  Disaster Risk Reduction (IDD), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and good afternoon, everyone.

It is my great pleasure and honor to be among all of you today. The 54th Session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee is to be held online, hosted by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, I am very pleased and honored to welcome you all to the 54th Annual Session and very happy to see you all on the screen, doing well amid this COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, we could not make it to Vientiane Capital~~.~~ It is a pity because we cannot see each other face to face this time.

As we all have learnt that every year in the Northwestern Pacific region is repeatedly suffered from adverse weather phenomena which are increasingly abnormal year by year, such as: heavy rain, flash flooding, riverine devastating flooding, local storm, landslides and typhoons which are the main causes of damages and loss of life and people’s properties. Meanwhile, these meteorological and hydrological disasters are key destroying factors which hampered and back drawn the national socio-economic development.

The Typhoon Committee has contributed a lot to disaster risk reduction against tropical cyclones over the northwestern Pacific region for more than 50 years. Lao PDR is landlock country but the typhoon is one of the most prominent sources of natural disasters, and therefore, under the activities from Typhoon Committee, Lao PDR receives the benefit of the international cooperation to reduce the disasters caused by typhoons. And this time, we are also really honored to host this session. I look forward to working with all of you during the three days session. The session is online, nonetheless, through the discussion, I believe we can build, maintain and strengthen our friendship, and we will do our best as the host country to make the session as comfortable as possible.

Now with your permission, I the declare the 54th Session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee officially open.

Thank you very much.