**APPENDIX II**

**Opening remark TC54 Chairperson**

**Viengxai MANIVONG, Deputy Director General  
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of Lao PDR**

**Mr. Ben Churchill,** Director of WMO Regional Office for Asia and South-West Pacific (RAP)

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

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

**Mr. LEONG Weng Kun**, Director-General of Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), Macao, China

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and good afternoon, everyone.

I am Viengxai Manivong, Deputy Director General of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of Lao PDR.

Due to the unavailability of Madam Outhone PHETLUANGSY Director General and the Chairperson of the 54th Session of Typhoon Committee, today she could not join this session, we really apology for her missing this important session. Therefore, she appointed me to deliver the welcome remarks on behalf of the Chairperson of the 54th Session of Typhoon Committee.

Due to the still ongoing COVID-19 situation around the world and some restriction of travelling in some country members, therefore TC54 Chair and Vice-Chairperson approved the 55th Annual Session of the Typhoon Committee conduct Virtually host by Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) of Macao, China.

On behalf of TC54 Chair, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) of Macao, China for hosting this important Session.

The 55th Session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee this year, the Committee will review the progress made in its programme of work in 2022 and plan for activities to be undertaken in 2023 and beyond. The Session will also cover the new Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and development issues

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.

Throughout the 3-day meeting, I would like to request the delegates to attend the meeting continuously and at the same time focus on their wisdom to discuss and make various comments and reach consensus on many aspects. Finally, I wish this meeting a great success

Thank you very much.

**OPENING REMARKS**

AT THE 55th session of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee

(7 March 2023, Hosted by Government of Macao China via Videoconference)

Mr Ben Churchill

Director, Regional Office for Asia and South-West Pacific,

World Meteorological Organization

Madam Outhone PHETLUANGSY, Chairperson of the Typhoon Committee,

Mr Sanjay SRIVASTAVA, Chief Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Mr YU Jixin, Secretary of Typhoon Committee,

Mr LEONG Weng Kun, Director-General of Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau,

Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

* It is my pleasure and privilege to express, on behalf of the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization, Professor Petteri Taalas, our warm welcome to you all to the 55th session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee held virtually. At the same time, I also wish to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Macao, China, in particular the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau to host the session online.
* I wish to express special thanks to all the Members of the Committee, thank you for your commitment, contribution and hard work to reduce the impact of typhoons on the people in the region. Your success is our overall success in WMO.
* Last year, in the Committee region, 25 tropical cyclones were named, majority formed in August, September and October, which is on climatological average both in number (between 25- 28 depending period of time in averaging) and in seasons. However, some of tropical cyclones had peculiar behaviours, which are major cause of forecast deviation. This obviously constitute significant challenges for our services to society.
* As you are aware, UN Early Warnings for All Initiative is WMO strategic priority for the next five years. It is the flagship effort of WMO and United Nations as a whole to serve humanity and sustainable developments. This initiative will enable the early warning systems to cover everyone within 5 years. An Expert Team was just established under the decision of 76th session of the WMO Executive Council held last week, to support Members to develop early warning systems.
* In addition, the 19th Meteorological Congress will address several key issues, which are of high relevance to our Committee, among others:
* Proposed Approaches to the Business Continuity and Contingency Planning to make sure uninterrupted provision of services under hazardous conditions.
* WMO Guide for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Support of National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Procedures, Coordination Mechanisms, Systems and Services - Guide No. 1 – Tropical Cyclones. This Guide will promote and support WMO Members prone to tropical cyclones to develop/establish their effective national disaster risk management and response coordination mechanisms, protocols and procedures.
* Tropical Cyclone Forecasting Competency Framework – that decides to add the five regional Tropical Cyclone Forecaster Competencies to the Compendium of WMO Competency Frameworks.
* WMO Coordination Mechanism Implementation Plan – that is facilitating the access to meteorological, hydrological, climate information and data for UN & humanitarian organisations.
* I noticed that the Committee’s Strategic Plan for the period 2022 to 2026 has a great consistence in terms of services in weather, water and DRR, and capacity development. This consistence and alignment lay a solid foundation for us to work in close collaboration and toward our common destination to save people and to strengthen resilience in our societies. We are all for people and for all people.
* The on-going WMO regional reform and the location of the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific in Singapore presents an excellent opportunity for WMO to strengthen its regional presence and inter-regional collaboration, and I look forward to further elevating our cooperation with Typhoon Committee, whom we regard as a valuable regional partner.
* Before I conclude, I would like to express my appreciation to Mr LEONG Weng Kun and his team, to Typhoon Committee Secretariat, to ESCAP for the excellent coordination in organizing this online session. I wish you all an excellent session and thank you all for your kind attention.

**Opening Remarks ESCAP**

*Greetings*

Madame Outhone Phetluangsy, DG of department of meteorology & hydrology, Lao PDR

Mr. Cyrille Honore, Director of Disaster Risk Reduction and Public Services Branch

Mr. Yu Jixin, Secregary of Typhoon Committee

Mr. Leong Weng Kun, Director General of Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau of Macao, China

Distinguished collleagues and friends,

*Intro*

It is my privilege and honour to be a part of the 55th session of the Typhoon Committee.

2022 has been another productive year for the Typhoon Committee, despite the COVID disruptions that have mostly continued until the end of the year, we have successfully had the 54th Typhoon committee session and the 17th Integrated Workshop. With the easing of movement relaxed in most, if not in all the member countries this year, we very much look forward to seeing you face to face once again on many occasions, and certainly at the 18th Integrated workshop later this year.

*Update from ESCAP*

Allow me to share some reflection on last year from the Asia and the Pacific perspective. In many aspects, 2022 was a year where the disasters compounded and cascaded marked by underlying socio-economic vulnerabilities, exposure, complex major disasters and global geopolitical events. In 2022 in the Asia Pacific region, there were a total of 140 disaster events, of which 14 were storm events, which caused over 500 deaths, affected over 6 million people and caused an estimated economic damage of over 75 million dollars. In view of the ongoing challenges, regional intergovernmental and inter departmental platforms, such as the Typhoon Committee with its focus on reducing loss of life and minimizing socioeconomic impact through regional collaboration, are critical.

From the ESCAP side, we are excited to share with you a number of initiatives and publications which may be of particular interest to the Typhoon Committee members.

To start, during the last week of March (27-30), ESCAP will be hosting the 10th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) where governments, civil societies and other stakeholders will come together to review the regional implementation of the SDGs. On day one of APFSD, there will be a side event, jointly organized by the UNDRR and ESCAP on the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework on DRR, which may be of interest to Typhoon Committee members.

Also this year, Asia Pacific Disaster Report on targeting transformative adaptation will be launched at the end of July. This report will use the latest projections from the sixth generation of CIMP6 climate models and the Shared Socioeconomic Pathway Scenarios to highlight expanding and emerging risk hotspots in the region and the subregions from the changing riskscape under the 1.5- and 2-degree warming scenario. The report will also have a dedicated chapter on understanding the human, economic and environmental necessity of a universal early warning system which saves lives, livelihoods and economies. We are very excited to share this with you once the report is finalized.

The Asia Pacific Disaster Report will be launched at the 8th session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will take place on July 25-27. This will be preceded by a regional learning platform on July 23-24 where varieties of expert discussions around DRR will take place, including multi-hazard early warning systems, climate change adaptation, and regional strategy for disaster and health resilience. It would be our pleasure to welcome you to join the discussions at the regional learning platform where we will bring together the experts in weather and climate together with key policymakers of planning, finance, DRR etc. for a constructive discussion and collaboration needed on a regional level.

Lastly, we are very happy to share with you that ESCAP has been invited to contribute to the newly established working group on DRR at G20 this year. As one of the five priority areas of this working group is on strengthening the national and global disaster response system to address the consequences of increasing frequency and intensity of disasters, we believe that deliberations and outcome documents of this working group may especially be of interest to the Typhoon Committee members.

*Concluding remarks*

On behalf of ESCAP, I would like to conclude by thanking the TCS team for a successful organization of the 55th session of the Typhoon Committee. As always, ESCAP stands ready to provide support to the Typhoon Committee and its members.

Thank you.

**Opening Remarks at 55th Session ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee**

By Mr. YU Jixin

Secretary of Typhoon Committee

(7 – 9 March, Video Conference – Macao, China)

**Mr. Viengxai MANIVONG,** Deputy Director-General of Department of Meteorology & Hydrology, Lao PDR, on behalf of the Chairperson of the 54th Session of the Typhoon Committee

**Mr. Ben Churchill**, Director of WMO Regional Office for Asia and South-West Pacific (RAP), on behalf of Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**Mr. Sanjay Srivastava,** Chief, Information and Communications Technology Disaster Risk Reduction, UNESCAP

**Mr. LEONG Weng Kun,** Director-General of Macao Meteorological and

(梁永权) Geophysical Bureau (SMG), Macao, China

Dear participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and good afternoon!

Warmly Welcome to the 55th Session of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee via Video Conference.

It is my great pleasure to address you on the opening of the Session online again and hopeful it should be the last time in this special period.

Taking this opportunity. I would like, on behalf of Typhoon Committee Secretariat and myself, to express my sincere appreciation to Macao, China for hosting the 55th Session of the Committee online.

As you are aware, due to impact of the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the committee re-scheduled the TC 55th session through a video conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Currently the natural disasters including Typhoon are one of 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.

As you are aware, the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic around the world has impacted the actives of our committee in the past 3 years.

However, all Members overcome difficulties cussed by COVID-19 on providing typhoon related DRR services and contribute to the social safety and development and making all activities of the Committee were carried out smoothly for reducing the loss of lives and minimize social, economic, and environmental impacts by typhoon-related disasters.

In 55th session of Typhoon Committee, we will make decision on many important administrative issues. The session will review the activities of 2022 and initiate the new AOPs of 2023 also. I wish the Session a complete success.

Thank you!

**Welcome Message-**

**Mr. Leong Weng Kun,**

**PR of Macao, China with WMO and Director of Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau**

Mr. Viengxai MANIVONG, Deputy Director-General of Department of Meteorology & Hydrology, Lao PDR, on behalf of the Chairperson of TC54;

Mr. Ben Churchill, Director of WMO Regional Office for Asia and South-West Pacific (RAP), on behalf of Secretary-General of WMO;

Mr. Sanjay SRIVASTAVA, Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction of ESCAP;

Mr. YU Jixin, Secretary of Typhoon Committee

Distinguished colleagues and participants,

It is my honor to welcome you all to participate in the 55th Session of the Typhoon Committee hosted by Macao, China. Although Macao, China has relaxed the pandemic prevention measures related to entry, due to the preparation beforehand, it is a bit pity that the Session is still conducted online. But I still very happy to meet and thank everyone for coming together virtually to facilitate discussion about disaster risk reduction and typhoon-related issues.

Throughout these years, the Typhoon Committee has made critical contributions to the development of strategies and plans to reduce the risk posed by tropical cyclones. In addition, the international collaborations and exchanges also strengthen technical enhancement and be best prepared for future occurrences of natural disasters.

Macao, China has been suffering from increasingly frequent weather disasters. It is important for all members to come together to find solutions for risk deduction and to minimize the damage caused by typhoons. In recent years, effective actions taken by the Macao SAR Government have resulted in a remarkable reduction in damages caused by typhoons. These measures range from implementation of early warning systems to evacuation programs and various forms of risk mitigation plans that helped ensure safety during times of tropical cyclones.

I believe that the information and knowledge shared throughout this Session will further enhance our understanding of the challenge posed by typhoon activities. This Session also provides a platform for exploring potential solutions for better preparedness, management and recovery in light of increasingly frequent weather disasters.

I look forward to working with you during these three days session. I hereby declare The 55th Session of the Typhoon Committee open. Thank you.