



ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee 7th Integrated Workshop

“EFFECTIVE WARNINGS”.

26-30 November 2012, Nanjing, China

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I- Introduction

The ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee (TC), at its 44th Annual Session held in Hangzhou, China, on 06-11 February 2012, decided to convene an Integrated Workshop in 2012. Following consultation with the Advisory Working Group and with the Members, it was decided for the title of the workshop and its main theme **“Effective Warnings”** and, as subtheme, it was adopted **“Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)”**.

The TC called on its Members in cooperation with the Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to assist in the organization of the Workshop. In response to this request, the Government of China, through the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) and the WMO Regional Training Centre Nanjing (University of Information Science and Technology, NUIST), agreed to host the 7th Integrated Workshop from 26 to 30 November 2012.

The Opening Ceremony will be held at 09:30 on 26th November 2012 in WMO Regional Training Centre Nanjing, and the other sessions at Suning Venice Hotel, tentatively from 08:30 to 12:00 and 13:30 to 17:30.

II- Background Information and Objectives

- **Background Information**

Since 2006, the Committee has been conducting integrated workshops which have demonstrably contributed to the consolidation of cooperation among Members at its main components. Holding these meetings has also facilitated the work in subsequent annual sessions of the TC. The 7th Integrated Workshop is intended to provide the opportunity not only for the exchange of ideas among experts from the various areas covered by the Committee, but also to assess progress in the various activities endorsed by the Committee at its 44th Annual Session, always taking into consideration the main objective of the Committee: *to integrate and enhance regional activities (meteorological, hydrological, and disaster risk reduction - DRR) of Members within international frameworks to reduce the loss of lives and minimize social, economic and environmental impacts by typhoon-related disasters.*

- **Objectives**

The Workshop is aimed mainly to discuss the following issues:

1. Effective Warnings

Effective Warnings are an important tool for saving lives. Every year thousands of people die due to hydro-meteorological hazards, and accurate and timely forecasts and warnings greatly contribute for diminishing the death toll. The exchange of information on early warning systems can contribute for the less developed Members of TC to improve their own systems. This workshop provides an excellent opportunity for members to exchange experiences in this area.

The TC, at its 44th Session considered that effective warnings are a key issue which needs to be discussed in depth at this IWS.

2. Common Alerting Protocol

In the recent years, some Members of TC have been looking into the feasibility of providing local weather and flood warnings in the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) format as promoted by WMO. This protocol provides a simple and general format for emergency alerting for wide range of hazards and fits various communication media including the Internet.

It is intended that this workshop is an opportunity to WMO inform Members on the demarches already made and those that shall come to be held with a view to future adoption by members of common practices towards exchanging hydro-meteorological hazard emergency alerts and public warnings over all kinds of networks.

Close collaboration among the WGs, particularly between WGM and WGDRR, should be pursued for the implementation of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) in the area covered by TC.

Representatives of media will be invited to participate in the workshop to highlight the important linkage between early warnings and effective users' responses.

3. Annual Operating Plan (AOP) 2012

Review the progress in the implementation of the AOP for 2012 endorsed by the Committee at its 44th Session in relation to the Committee's strategic goals with special emphasis to the crosscutting projects.

4. Draft Annual Operating Plan (AOP) 2013

The participants will discuss the activities for 2013 with particular emphasis to the projects involving the three components simultaneously, and prepare a draft AOP 2013 to be submitted and approved by the Committee at its 45th annual session, to be held in Hong Kong, China, from 28 January to 1 February 2013.

5. Members' Reports

Following on the advice of AWG, the Member Reports will be presented at IWS, instead of at the annual session as has been previous practice, given that the TC at its 44th session considered a priority to minimizing the duration of the annual session.

The Members' Reports should be submitted to TCS on or before **15 November, 2012**, to be posted on the website of TC. There is no need to provide printed copies.

6. Synergized Standard Operating Procedures for Coastal Multi-Hazards Early Warning

Discussions are expected to be held on the implementation of the project *Synergized Standard Operating Procedures for Coastal Multi-Hazards Early Warning System*, which was submitted by TCS to the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries. The implementation of this project will be an excellent opportunity to strengthening the cooperation between the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) and TC, considering that the beneficiary countries are Members of both regional bodies of the WMO Tropical Cyclone Programme, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

7. Effective Governance of TC

The Typhoon Committee, at its 44th Session, noted that there was a need to further review the existing legal documents of the Typhoon Committee and decided to request the AWG and TCS to examine ways to improve the governance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee. For this purpose it was held an AWG meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 28-29 May 2012, at kind invitation of KMA.

The participants at the IWS will discuss the proposed changes to the main legal documents, namely the Statute of TC; Rules of Procedure of TC; Terms of Reference of TC, Chair and Vice-Chair of TC, Secretary, Secretariat, Working Groups, etc.

To facilitate this discussion TCS sent to Members the outcome of discussions which took place within the AWG.

III- Participants

The participants are expected to be the members of the TC Working Groups or senior staff members responsible for related activities of the meteorological, hydrological and disaster risk reduction (DRR) components or senior officials responsible for activities related to Training and Research Coordinating Group (TRCG) and Adviser Working Group (AWG). In addition, selected Committee officials are expected to participate in the Workshop, as may be decided by the respective Chairs and Vice Chairs of the corresponding Working Groups in consultation with the Secretary of TC on the basis of budget allocations to them by the Committee at the 44th Session. In connection with the use of the budget allocations from the Typhoon Committee Trust Fund (TCTF), all the Chairs and Vice Chairs are requested to ensure that these allocations are used to cover as many Members as possible and this implies that the allocation should not be used to sponsor more than one participant from each Working Group, including Chair or Vice-Chair.

On the above basis, one participant from each Member of the Typhoon Committee for each of the three main components will be sponsored by the TCTF, upon request by the respective Committee Member focal points and on approval by WMO.

The Trust Fund will cover the most economic direct airfare of economy class between the nearest international airport and Nanjing and the daily subsistence allowance (DSA) at the rate of **US\$107** (maximum 5 days for those who will not participate in the AWG meeting on 30th November).

The Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs of Republic of Korea (MLTM) generously expressed to provide funding to support additional several hydrologists from selected TC Members which are involved in the project "Assessment System of Flood Control Measures on Socio-economic Impacts (ASFCM)" led by Republic of Korea, with the same conditions of financial support as that provided by TCTF.

The Member Governments may wish to sponsor other participants at their own costs. Experts from other countries, international organizations, agencies and training institutions concerned with the promotion of regional cooperation in areas related to the themes of the workshop may also be invited to attend the Workshop.

IV- Documentation

The Members are invited to prepare the Member Reports and submit to TCS on or before **15 November 2012**.

Background documents of the Workshop prepared by all the above-mentioned Working Groups, RSMC-Tokyo, ESCAP and WMO, and papers of invited experts will be made available to the participants at the TC Website.

Participants invited from the TC Members are requested to prepare papers on their respective Member's experience in Early Warnings, Common Alerting Protocol or other issues related to the themes of the workshop. In addition, participants of the Working Groups are expected to prepare their respective papers on the development of priority projects identified at the 2011 Workshop. The participants are invited to send in advance electronic copies of their papers for TCS so they can be timely posted on the TC Website.

V- Nomination, Attendance, Acceptance, Visa and Hotel Reservation Forms

Participants who are officially nominated by their Governments and need financial assistance from TCTF, are requested to complete the corresponding nomination form and submit it to TCS. All participants are requested to complete the attendance form and submit it to TCS (info@typhooncommittee.org). Both forms together with Visa Form should be submitted not later than **26 October 2012**. Regarding the Hotel Reservation, participants are required to submit the Hotel Reservation Form not later than **10 November 2012**.