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COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE ET SOCIALE POUR L'ASIE ET LE PACIFIQUE

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**RAPPORTS DES ORGANISMES INTERGOUVERNEMENTAUX RÉGIONAUX**

(Point 9 de l'ordre du jour provisoire)

**RAPPORT DU COMITÉ DES TYPHONS**

*Note du secrétariat*

Le secrétariat transmet tel quel à la Commission, pour information, le rapport du Comité des typhons<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Le rapport du Comité des typhons est publié en anglais dans sa version originale. Toute question concernant ce rapport doit être adressée au secrétariat du Comité des typhons.

# **Annual Report<sup>1</sup> of the Typhoon Committee to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Sixty-Second Session**

## **I. Overview**

The Typhoon Committee (TC) discussed in detail the activities carried out by its members in 2005, including important achievements, major issues and future directions by each member related to the Meteorological, Hydrological, and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness components. It also reviewed the activities undertaken on Training and Research.

The Committee also discussed the information provided by the members and the findings of the parallel sessions of the Working Group on Meteorology (WGM), Working Group on Hydrology (WGH) and Working Group on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (WGDPP). The Committee re-established the WGM, WGH, WGDPP and the Advisory Working Group (AWG).

The Committee also re-established the Typhoon Committee Research Coordination Group (TRCG) to continue overseeing implementation of research and training activities such as the Typhoon Committee fellowship scheme and roving seminar in 2006.

The Committee also established the Working Group on Resource Mobilization (WGRM) to be responsible on the development of the Resource Mobilization Database.

## **II. Main Activities of TC Members**

### **A. *Meteorological Component***

The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center (RSMC) Tokyo-Typhoon Center for providing the members tropical cyclone advisories, warnings and information at its Numerical Typhoon Prediction Website.

Japan informed the Committee of the successful launching of the MTSAT-1R (Multi-functional Transport Satellite 1 Replacement) in February 2005 taking over the meteorological communication function from GMS-5 (Geostationary Meteorological Satellite-5) in April 2005.

RSMC Tokyo started dissemination of SAREP (synoptic interpretation of cloud data obtained from a meteorological satellite) report in BUFR format (Binary Universal Form for the Representation of meteorological data) or TDCFs (Table-Driven Code Forms) in November 2005 and will stop disseminating SAREP in the present TACs (traditional alphanumeric codes) in November 2006.

RSMC Tokyo has received observational data from eight members for inclusion in the production of the Expanded Best Tract Data (EBT) of 1996-2004.

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<sup>1</sup> Extracted from the Report of the Thirty-Eighth Session of the Typhoon Committee (14-19 November 2005; Hanoi, Vietnam)

The Committee requested JMA to continue to provide the services of the rapporteur for the Typhoon Operational Manual (TOM). The TOM for 2006 will be distributed to TC members by WMO by March 2006.

The Committee noted the progress made in the implementation of projects of the Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan (RCPIP) under meteorology and agreed to amend and incorporate the changes in the RCPIP.

The Committee approved the organization of the Fourth Storm Surge and Wave Forecasting Workshop, in coordination with WMO-TCP (Tropical Cyclones Programme), to be held in Manila in July 2006; and the Workshop on Inter-comparison of Typhoon Monitoring, Forecasting and Information Systems in the Typhoon Committee Region, including discussion on Ensemble Prediction Systems (EPS), set for 2007. The Committee requested all Working Groups in cooperation with ESCAP, WMO and ISDR to facilitate the participation of interested TC experts in the Third International Conference on early Warning in Germany in March 2006.

## ***B. Hydrological Component***

The Committee noted the progress in various RCPIP projects under hydrology, especially flood hazard mapping, sediment disaster forecasting and warning, evaluation and improvement of operational flood forecasting system focusing on model performance, development of guidelines for reservoir operation related to flood forecasting, and extension of flood forecasting systems to selected river basins of WGH.

The Committee approved the organization of the Workshop on Integrating Activities of Hydrology, Meteorology and DPP Components of the Typhoon Committee into the related International Frameworks on Disaster Risk Management for better Impacts and Visibility in August/September 2006; and also agreed to support the participation of its experts at the Sixth International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones in Costa Rica, in September 2006. The Committee also authorized WGH in cooperation with ESCAP, WMO and TCS to mobilize resources for TC experts' participation at the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006.

## ***C. Disaster Prevention and Preparedness***

The Committee allocated resources for WGDPP and invited DPP experts to actively participate in the integrated workshop of WGH in 2006. It also invited the UN-ISDR, ADRC, ADPC and other interested organizations to provide support to WGDPP. A back-to-back meeting of AWG and WGM with the WGH workshop is also supported by the Committee.

## ***D. Research and Training***

Based on the recommendations by the Typhoon Research Coordination Group (TRCG), the Committee urged its members to promote research under the Fellowship Scheme in 2006, with possible extension to hydrology and DPP components. It also encouraged the members to participate in the Roving Seminars in Vietnam in 2006.

## ***E. Publication***

The Committee noted the publication of the Typhoon Committee Annual Review 2004 and the Typhoon Committee Newsletter 2005 by the Typhoon Committee Secretariat which were

distributed at the session in CD-ROM. The Committee reappointed the current chief editor from TCS.

The Committee also noted the publication of the Annual Report on Activities of the RSMC Tokyo-Typhoon Center in 2004 by RSMC Tokyo in CD-ROM and printed form.

### **III. Activities of the Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS)**

The Committee noted the activities of the Typhoon Committee Secretariat undertaken in 2005, as follows:

- TCS meteorologist and hydrologist attended the Workshop on Risk Management towards Millennium Development Goals and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Typhoon-related Disasters held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 5-9 September 2005;
- TCS published and distributed the Typhoon Committee Newsletter 2005;
- TCS published and distributed the Typhoon Committee Annual Review 2004;
- TCS continued its management of the Typhoon Committee Foundation, Inc. (TCFI). TCFI presented the Typhoon Committee Natural Disaster Prevention Award 2005 to the National Hydro-meteorological Service of Viet Nam. TCFI co-organized the launching of Typhoon and Flood Awareness Week, held in Quezon City, Philippines on 17 June 2005;
- TC Interim Secretary attended the consultation meeting on Tropical Cyclone Warning System, held in Cebu City on 13-14 April 2005;
- TC Interim Secretary met with Dr. Tokiyoshi Toya, Senior Programme Manager, VCP, WMO (4 April); and Dr. Gianni Crema, Consultant, Italian-TC Cooperation Programme (1-3 October) in Quezon City, Philippines.

The TCS, on behalf of TC, expressed gratitude to Mr. Sampan Thaikruawan, Director of Research and Development Division, for representing the Committee at the 61<sup>st</sup> session of ESCAP in Bangkok, on 12-18 May 2005.

### **IV. Activities of ESCAP in support of TC**

In 2005, ESCAP continued to extend its technical support to the Committee's activities in several areas of its work, apart from its regular activities related to water resources management. The additional activities included those implemented in support of the participation of TC experts at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe in January 2005 and those related to the regional workshop on "Socio-economic Impact Assessment of Typhoon-related Disasters and Risk Management towards Millennium Development Goals", in Kuala Lumpur in September 2005. ESCAP made preparation in collaboration with several organizations of TC members, WMO and the International Flood Network (IFNet) to organize a thematic session at the Fourth World Water Forum to be held in Mexico City in March 2006 to discuss experiences on risk management of typhoon-related disasters.

Since the December 2004 tsunami, ESCAP has intensified its activities on DPP on top of its ongoing and regular activities in its regional programme on water-related disasters reduction. The activities of ESCAP which benefited TC included the following:

- a. In cooperation with ADPC, ESCAP implemented the third phase of the project on Partnership for Disaster Reduction in South-East Asia (1 Feb 2005 - 30 April 2006) to assist five developing countries in the region, including three member countries of TC, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam, in their efforts to institutionalize community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) and to promote efforts to create a conducive environment in the region. At the national level, the project has assisted respective national disaster management offices in establishing their strategic plans to institutionalize CBDRM and in developing partnership with media and the private sector. At the regional level, efforts have been made to establish a regional database on CBDRM with relevant information on the target countries, to promote the integration of CBDRM into the policies and programmes of donors on disaster risk management, and to encourage synergy among inter-governmental organizations working in the region on this subject. In this context, the Chairman of the Committee for 2005 participated in a regional consultation workshop on this subject in October 2005 along with senior officials of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, the ASEAN Task Force on Haze Monitoring and Control, and the Mekong River Commission.
- b. ESCAP, in cooperation with UNDP and ECLAC, completed the implementation of the project aiming at enhancing capacity of the countries in region on methodologies to assess socio-economic impacts of hydro-meteorological disasters. Seven countries in the region were selected to undertake case studies on application of the methodologies, including five TC members, namely, China, Lao, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The progress of work and latest developments of this project were reported to the TC at its annual sessions and the annual workshop of WGH.

## **V. Highlights and Recommendations of the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of TC**

The Committee requested WGM to continue to address the issues on the level of advancement and capacity of NMHSs as stipulated in the objectives of RCPIP. It requested ESCAP, WMO, TCS, members and development partners to provide assistance for strengthening of NMHSs of Cambodia, Lao PDR and DPR Korea.

On implementation of RCPIP in 2006, the Committee endorsed several priority areas with the WGDPP to conduct survey on existing early warning systems operated by members; WGM to conduct assessment of GTS and communication; and WGH to conduct study on standardization of methodology to assess socio-economic impacts of typhoon-related disasters. It also requested the TCS to follow up on the registration of domain names for the improvement of the TC website.

The Committee requested the Advisory Working Group (AWG) and TCS to develop an annual work plan on specific action/measures to meet the objectives of RCPIP.

The Committee requested the members to actively participate in the survey on resource mobilization in 2006 to develop a database for presentation at the next session.

The Committee welcomed the possible Italian-TC cooperation on the project proposal Improvement of Forecasting and Early Warning for the Least-developed Members of the Typhoon Committee. The Committee requested the Interim Secretary to hold further consultations with the Government of Italy and to submit a report to the chairman and AWG for consideration.

The Committee noted the invitation for its tropical cyclone researchers to participate in the First Regional Association (RA) I Workshop on Tropical Cyclone Research to be held in St. Denis, La Reunion, in August 2006.

The Committee endorsed the following four targets of the TCP Expert Meeting on Effective Early Warnings of Tropical Cyclones held in Kobe with the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (January 2005):

- All TC RSMC and TCWCs (Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres) to strive to increase the accuracy of track and intensity forecasts of tropical cyclones by 10 percent by 2015 despite its difficulty based on current research;
- All TC RSMC, TCWCs and members of tropical cyclone regional bodies to issue probabilistic forecasts of tropical cyclones up to 5 days by 2015;
- Members of tropical cyclone bodies to educate stakeholders annually on proper interpretation of tropical cyclone forecasts, advisories, warnings and other meteorological and hydrological information; and
- Members of tropical cyclone bodies to ensure dependable and effective dissemination of tropical cyclone nowcasts, forecasts, advisories, watches and warnings in real time to decision-makers including emergency managers, media, general public and other stakeholders.

The Committee noted the continuing attachment of women forecasters (1 each from Lao PDR and Vietnam) at RSMC Tokyo in July 2006.

The thirty-eighth session elected Dr. Bui Van Duc (Viet Nam) and Mr. R. Jeffrey LaDouce (USA) as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, respectively.