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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**REPORTS OF REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES**

(Item 10 of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE**

*Note by the secretariat*

The secretariat transmits to the Commission the report submitted by the Typhoon Committee for information.<sup>1</sup>

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\* The late submission of the present document is due to processing delays in the clearance systems of the Typhoon Committee.

<sup>1</sup> The report of the Typhoon Committee is reproduced as submitted, in English only. Any queries concerning the report should be directed to the Typhoon Committee secretariat.

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

**I. Overview**

The Typhoon Committee (TC) discussed in detail the activities carried out by its members in 2006, including important achievements, major issues and future directions by each member related to the Meteorological, Hydrological, and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (DPP) 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 decided to change the name of “Typhoon Research Coordination Group” to “Training & Research Coordination Group” (with the same acronym TRCG) and to update the TRCG Terms of Reference to reflect its extended scope of activities towards knowledge transfer and capacity building aspects, and towards a more integrated approach in the incorporation of hydrological and DPP applications;

The Committee also re-established the Working Group on Resource Mobilization with the new designation of Resources Mobilization Group (RMG).

The Committee adopted the Typhoon Committee Strategic Plan, which replaces the Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan (RCPIP) and discussed the various features, especially the Key Results Areas (KRAs), the Strategic Goals, and the Associated Activities.

**II. Main Activities of TC members**

**A. Meteorological Component**

The Committee was informed by the representative of China that during the typhoon season in 2006, China Meteorological Administration (CMA) switched the FengYun (FY) Polar Orbiting Meteorological Satellite FY-2C intensive observation mode to every half an hour. CMA also has developed a microwave Tropical Cyclones analysis system in 2006.

The Committee noted with appreciation that China successfully launched the stationary meteorological satellite FY-2D on 8 December 2006, which is expected to be operational in 2007. FY-2D and FY-2C will contribute together to better data support for members during the typhoon season in 2007 and onward.

The Committee expressed its gratitude to JMA, to the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) of Tokyo in particular, for the continued provision of tropical cyclone advisories and warnings as well as maintenance of the Numerical Typhoon Prediction Website.

The Committee noted that the latest information on Multi-Functional Transport Satellite (MTSAT) series is available on JMA’s website and that Japan, through JMA, plans

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<sup>1</sup> Extracted from the Report of the Thirty-Ninth Session of the Typhoon Committee (04-09 December 2006; Manila, Philippines)

to start providing satellite imagery of all the channels for registered users through the Internet in March 2007.

The Committee was informed by the representative of Hong Kong, China that the number of visits to the Severe Weather Information Centre (SWIC) website operated by the Hong Kong Observatory on behalf of WMO amounted to 13 million in the last 12 months, representing a 50% growth compared with the year before.

The Committee was informed by the representative of Republic of Korea that the Training Course on Information and Communication Technologies for Meteorological Services was conducted by the KMA sponsored by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) from 2 to 29 April 2006.

The Committee was informed by the representative of United States of America that in 2006 two students from members (Philippines and Viet Nam) had training in the WMO Regional Association V Pacific Desk Internship Programme, together with other students from four countries in the Pacific.

## **B. Hydrological Component**

The Committee reviewed the activities of the members during 2006, and considered that priority activities within the hydrological component among the members are included in three groups:

- Activities that have been addressed by most of members, which are given high priority continuously;
- Activities that have been taken by some of members and will need to be taken by more members;
- Activities that several members have expressed interest in undertaking in the coming years.

The Committee also noted the importance of the following activities in some members:

- China continued to take active part in the cooperation with the international hydrology organizations, bordering countries and members of TC. China has been exchanging and sharing the hydrologic data with other countries and organizations including Russia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, Kazakhstan and Mekong River Commission in 2006.
- Viet Nam continued its cooperation through its existing agreements with China and the Mekong River Commission for exchanging the hydrological data with the neighbouring countries.

The Committee also expressed its deep appreciation to the Governments of China, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines and Republic of Korea for the active support in the implementation of the nine ongoing projects and the financial contribution of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) of Japan and the Ministry of Construction and Transportation of Republic of Korea for the implementation of these projects by WGH:

- Project on Flood Hazard Mapping

- Project on Flash Flood Warning including Debris Flow and Landslides
- Project on Evaluation and Improvement of Operational Flood Forecasting System focusing on Model Performance
- Project on the Development of Guidelines for Reservoir Operation
- Project on Extension of Flood Forecasting Systems to Selected River Basins
- Project on Evaluation and Improvement of Hydrological Instruments and Telecommunication Equipment
- Project on the Establishment of Community-based Flood Forecasting System
- Project on Improvement of Hydrological Products in response to User's Needs
- On-the-job Training on Flood Forecasting between TC members.

The Committee also expressed its deep appreciation to MLIT for the intention to extend the first two projects till 2009 and also to the Government of China and Malaysia for the plan to provide in-kind contribution to enable training of experts from other TC members in their countries.

The Committee also endorsed the proposal of WGH to undertake the following two new projects and encouraged members to support in their implementation:

- Project on Socio-economic Impact Assessment of Typhoon-related Disasters (to be launched and led by the Philippines)
- Project on the Management of Floods in Urban Areas (to be launched and led by China)

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

The Committee considered that priority activities within the DPP component in 2006, especially with respect to the plan to set up a database for the Committee and the preparation of the Committee's first Strategic Plan, 2007-2011.

The Committee noted with interest that the Hong Kong Observatory conducted several courses on weather and geophysics for the public. The Committee also noted that the year-long public education campaign "Safer Living - Reducing Natural Disasters" held in Hong Kong, China and requested Hong Kong, China to share its experience with other members.

The Committee endorsed the proposal for the "database setup" to be selected as the first DPP project, with the final objective was to establish disaster-related database and data sharing system among the members and in the region.

The Committee was informed that the first DPP meeting was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from May 25 to 26, 2006. Sixteen experts from 10 members and 4 delegates from international and regional organizations (WMO; UNESCAP; UN/ISDR and ADRC) discussed about the database project and future activities of DPP. The Committee noted with appreciation the enhanced coordination and interaction among all the Working Groups during the past year especially in the Macao Workshop. During the Macao Workshop, the WGDPP discussed contents of database and strategic plans of DPP.

The Committee named the database as Typhoon Committee Disaster Information System (TCDIS) and reviewed respective draft formats.

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

The latest roving seminar, in which more than 70 participants took part, was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 4 - 7 September 2006, on tropical cyclone intensification, movement, and associated heavy rainfall and/or other local impacts.

Two research fellowships were awarded in 2006 by the Hong Kong Observatory (to Shanghai Typhoon Institute, China) and by the Korea Meteorological Administration (to Viet Nam Hydrometeorological Service).

The Committee noted the proposal for the roving seminar in 2007, with focus on topics as proposed from the Hanoi roving seminar. It was also noted that the research fellowship scheme would continue in the current format.

The Committee was informed by the representative of the USA on potential training opportunities in connection with the International Pacific Desk Training Internship, and possibilities for future training initiatives for Typhoon Committee members in this program.

The Committee encouraged members to participate in the roving seminars and to promote research under the research fellowship scheme.

The Committee encouraged TRCG to initiate surveys to measure performance or effectiveness of workshops or seminars supported by the Committee.

#### ***E. Publication***

The Committee took note that the TCS published the 18<sup>th</sup> issue of the Typhoon Committee Newsletter in October 2006 and the 2005 Typhoon Committee Annual Review (TCAR) in October 2006 which were disseminated to the members, ESCAP and WMO in electronic (CD-ROM) format. The Committee appointed the Typhoon Committee Secretary as the Chief Editor.

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

The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Government of the Philippines for hosting the TCS and for providing a full-time meteorologist, a part time hydrologist as well as office space with office facilities and supplies. The Committee also expressed its gratefulness for the dedication and continuous services extended by Dr. Roman L. Kintanar in his capacity as the Interim Secretary of the Committee for the intersession between the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> sessions.

Representatives of Macao, China and the staff of the current TCS met twice, in Macao and Manila, respectively in March and June 2006, in order to ensure a smooth transition of the TC Secretariat. Quarterly reports were submitted to the TC Chairman.

The representative of Macao, China made a presentation on the new premises of the TCS in Macao. He also explained the different steps to reach an agreement between the host country, People's Republic of China and the Typhoon Committee.

The signing ceremony of the "Host Country Agreement Between the Government of People's Republic of China and the Typhoon Committee Regarding the Typhoon Committee Secretariat" took place in the Manila Hotel, Manila, at 10:30 of 7 December 2006. The

Agreement was signed by Excellency Ambassador of People's Republic of China to the Philippines, Ambassador Li Jinjun, and by the Chairman of the Typhoon Committee Dr Prisco D. Nilo, Officer-in-Charge, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

The representative of Macao, China nominated Mr. Olavo Rasquinho, former director of the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau of Macao, China, for Secretary of the Typhoon Committee. Mr Olavo Rasquinho was confirmed by the Committee as Secretary of the TC for four years, from 2007 up to 2010.

Mr Olavo Rasquinho also informed the TC that the collaboration of a full time meteorologist to integrate the TCS staff had already been assured by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau of Macao, China, and that a local administrative secretary was also being recruited. In his address, the new Secretary expressed his will of having the collaboration of a seconded hydrologist.

The Committee noted with appreciation the proposal of Macao, China to name the Library of the new premises of the TCS as "Roman L. Kintanar Library" in recognition of the long and devoted services rendered by Dr Roman L. Kintanar to the Committee during the past 39 years.

A hand-over ceremony for the transfer of the TCS from the Philippines to Macao, China was organized and presided by Mr. Noel Servigon, Director for ESCAP Affairs of Department of Foreign Affairs, representing His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, and Mr Antonio Viseu, Head of the Delegation of Macao, China to the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Typhoon Committee at 10:00 hrs, 9 December 2006 at the Mabuhay Conference Room of the Manila Hotel. The Hand-over ceremony was also attended by all the delegates of the 11 members of the Committee, representatives of UNESCAP, WMO, TCS and observers from Indonesia, UN-ISDR, ADPC and ADRC. Mr. Olavo Rasquinho received the archives on behalf of the new TCS from the outgoing Interim Secretary, Dr Roman L. Kintanar.

At the request of the Committee, the Hong Kong Observatory agreed to host the documents for the 40<sup>th</sup> Session.

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

In 2006, ESCAP and WMO 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 Committee was pleased to note the increase of interest of the members in the application of the findings of the project of ESCAP on assessment of socio-economic impacts of flood-related disasters, especially on the application of the ESCAP Disaster Impact Calculator for routine assessment. It encouraged ESCAP to further support TC members in this respect.

#### **V. Highlights and Recommendations of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of TC**

The Committee requested the WGM to develop three project-concepts, "Improvement of Information Processing System among members", "Improvement of Precipitation Forecasting related to Interaction between Monsoon and Tropical Cyclone" and "GTS and DVBS Data Sharing".

The Committee encouraged the participation of Committee members in THE Observing-system Research and Predictability EXperiment (THORPEX) of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme, especially on the issues of ensemble prediction services/numerical weather prediction (EPS/NWP) and enhanced observation, and to join the Asian THORPEX Regional Committee (ARC).

The Committee reconfirmed the organization of the workshop, “Inter-comparison of Typhoon Monitoring, Forecasting and Information System in the Typhoon Committee Region” in 2007, with an aim to exchange good practice among members and improve the members’ typhoon forecaster platforms.

The Committee authorized to allocate, from the Typhoon Committee Trust Fund, US\$ 45,000 to support for an integrated TC Workshop on “Social-economic impacts of extreme typhoon-related events”; US\$5,000 to support international travel of 6 experts to participate in the “Operational flood forecasting system and its application” in China; US\$2,000 for international travel of two experts for on-the-job training on flood forecasting in Malaysia; US\$ 14,000 to support for the Roving seminar; and US\$ 5,000 to support for attachment of two women forecasters to RSMC Tokyo, Typhoon Center.

The Committee authorized the WGH in cooperation with UNESCAP, WMO and TCS to mobilize resources to enable TC experts to participate in the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) in preparation for the Asia-Pacific Water Summit, scheduled to be held in Japan in 2007.

The Committee encouraged the International Centre for Water Hazards and Risk Management (ICHARM) of UNESCO in association with UNESCAP, WMO and TCS to mobilize participation of TC experts in the implementation of the Theme B (Disaster Management) of APWF Summit on Disaster Management.

The Committee noted with appreciation the enhanced coordination and interaction among all the Working Groups during 2006, especially in the “Workshop on Integrating Activities of the Hydrology, Meteorology and DPP Components of the Typhoon Committee into the Related International Frameworks for Disaster Management for Better Impacts and Visibility”, which was hosted by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau of Macao, China, from 04-09 September 2006.

The Committee adopted the Typhoon Committee Strategic Plan 2007-2011, which replaces the RCPIP, and discussed the various features, especially the Key Results Areas (KRAs), the Strategic Goals, and the Associated Activities. The Key Results Areas, which were considered by the Committee as the critical, overarching, priority areas of special interest for the Typhoon Committee, are as follows:

**KRA 1: Reduced Loss of Life from Typhoon-related Disasters.**

**KRA 2: Minimized Typhoon-related Social and Economic Impacts.**

**KRA 3: Enhanced beneficial typhoon-related effects for the betterment of quality of life.**

**KRA 4: Improved Typhoon-related Disaster Risk Management in Various Sectors.**

**KRA 5: Strengthened Resilience of Communities to Typhoon-related Disaster.**

**KRA 6: Improved capacity to generate and provide accurate, timely and understandable information on typhoon-related threats.**

**KRA 7: Enhanced Typhoon Committee's Effectiveness and International Collaboration.**

The thirty-ninth session elected Dr Prisco D. Nilo (Philippines) and Dr. Yap Kok Seng (Malaysia) as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, respectively.

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