

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventy-third session

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Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda^{*}

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of
the Commission, including the work of the regional
institutions: disaster risk reduction**

Report of the Typhoon Committee^{}**

I. Introduction

1. The ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee (TC) is an inter-governmental body organized under the joint auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1968 in order to promote and coordinate the planning and implementation of measures required for minimizing the loss of life and material damage caused by typhoons in Asia and the Pacific. The Typhoon Committee develops activities under three substantive components: meteorology, hydrology, and disaster risk reduction (DRR), as well as in training and research. The mission of the TC is to reduce the loss of lives and minimize social, economic and environmental impacts caused by typhoon-related disasters through integrated and enhanced regional collaboration.

II. Forty Ninth Session of the Typhoon Committee

2. The forty-ninth session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee was held in Yokohama, Japan, from 21 to 24 February 2017. The Session was attended by 98 participants from 13 of the 14 Members of the Typhoon Committee, namely: Cambodia; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR); Macao, China; Malaysia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Thailand; United States of America (USA); and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Representatives of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS) also attended the Session.

^{*} E/ESCAP/73/L.1

^{**} The present report is being issued without formal editing.

The Session was attended by observers from Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Tohoku University of Japan, University of the Ryukyus, Japan and Yokohama National University, Japan.

III. Adoption of the new TC Strategic Plan 2017-2021

3. The Typhoon Committee, at its 48th Session held in Honolulu, Hawaii, requested the Advisory Working Group and the working groups to review the Strategic Plan and present a draft, for adoption at the 49th Session.

4. The finalized version of the Strategic Plan 2017-2021 was approved on Friday, February 24, 2017. The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to present clear Priorities, Targets, and Key Results Areas (KRA).

5. The development of the Strategic Plan was based on various international and regional frameworks, protocols, and action and strategic plans relevant to tropical cyclones in the region. It is aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The impact of climate change is viewed as influencing all of the KRA, Targets and Priorities and is therefore considered a crosscutting theme.

6. The TC has identified two Targets and five Key Results Areas (KRAs) for special emphasis in the next five years (2017-2021). These KRAs are defined as the critical, overarching, priority areas of special interest for the Typhoon Committee. The two Targets and five KRAs are:

- Target 1: Substantially reduce total mortality caused by typhoon-related disasters of the Members in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;
- Target 2: Reduce direct economic loss caused by typhoon-related disasters in relation to the total gross domestic product (GDP) of the Members by 2030;
- KRA 1: Enhance capacity to monitor mortality and direct economic loss caused by typhoon-related disasters;
- KRA 2: Enhance capacity to generate and provide accurate, timely and understandable information using multi-hazard impact-based forecasts and risk-based warnings;
- KRA 3: Improve typhoon-related flood control measures and integrated water resource management;
- KRA 4: Strengthen typhoon-related disaster risk reduction activities in various sectors, including increased community-based resiliency with better response, communication, and information sharing capability;
- KRA 5: Enhance TC's regional and international collaboration mechanism.

7. The TC and its working groups are making major contributions in accomplishing these KRAs, recognizing however that many factors and influences are beyond the TC's control. Therefore, the TCS will need the assistance and support of other international organizations and funding sources.

IV. Overview of selected Typhoon Committee activities

8. The replacement of tropical cyclone names was discussed and the Committee approved Koguma, Cempaka, Surigae and Saudel as the replacement names for Koppu, Melor, Mujigae and Soudelor, respectively. In addition, the Committee approved the replacement of Haima, Sarika, Nock-ten and Meranti and the replacement names will be discussed in the 50th Anniversary Session of Typhoon Committee which will be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in 2018.

9. Synergised Standard Operating Procedures for Coastal Multi-hazard Early Warning System - Phase II: Following the decision of the 48th TC Session, the TC Secretariat submitted the final version of SSOP-II based on feedback from ESCAP and RCMS-Tokyo. Subject to funding, the activities starting in March 2017 will include:

- Training courses/workshops on the mechanism for establishing and preparing SSOP for coastal multi-hazards EWS for DRR experts and warning experts from NTCWs, NDMOs, and Government sectoral agencies of 10 countries at national level (3 days in RTC, Nanjing).
- Consulting 6 workshops (2 days) at national-level for selected 3 nations from TC and Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) regions on supporting updating and improving the existing SOPs by applying the Manual of SSOPs. To the extent possible, these will be combined with the country-level Monsoon Forums supported by RIMES in April-May and October-November 2017.
- Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC) attachment training in Tokyo and New Delhi for Tropical Cyclones forecasters of 4 selected nations from TC and PTC regions (14 days in Tokyo and New Delhi).

10. Experiment on Typhoon Intensity Change in Coastal Area (EXOTICCA): The Terms of Reference and composition of the Organizing Committee were approved in the 48th Session. The development of the terms and conditions for participating Members was completed and the documents were distributed to Members for views and suggestions. A joint workshop with WMO-TLFD and UPDRAFT on typhoon intensity change forecast was held in Shanghai, China between 17 and 21 October, 2016. During the year, both the China Meteorological Agency and Hong Kong Observatory continued field campaigns by using multi-instrument including aircraft drop-sondes, mobile GPS radio-sondes and rocket drop-sondes. Collaboration among participating Members will be carried out in 2017 and a demonstration research will be planned which includes structure analysis, modelling and mechanism of target typhoon intensity change.

11. Sharing forecast products and information: At the 48th Session, TCS requested Members provide a list of links to their information, data and forecast products to be shared. TCS received inputs from China, Hong Kong-China and Japan, and a portal site (<http://www.typhooncommittee.org/member-products.html>) was created.

V. 50th Anniversary of the Typhoon Committee

12. The TC was established in 1968, under the auspices of the ESCAP and WMO. For close to 50 years, it has played a unique role in reducing the loss of life and properties and minimizing social, economic, and environmental impacts by typhoon-related disasters. In 2018, the TC will commemorate this anniversary during the 50th session hosted in Viet Nam.
