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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 ESCAP
regional institutions: Disaster risk reduction**

Report of the Typhoon Committee^{*}

Note by the secretariat

The Typhoon Committee secretariat transmits to the Commission an executive summary of the report of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee on its forty-fourth session, held in Hangzhou, China, from 6 to 11 February 2012.

INTRODUCTION

1. The ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee (TC) is an inter-governmental body organized under the joint auspices of the United Nations 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 TC develops activities under three substantive components: meteorology, hydrology, and disaster risk reduction, as well as in training and research.

FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE ESCAP/WMO TYPHOON COMMITTEE

2. The Forty-fourth Session of the TC, held in Hangzhou, China, from 6 to 11 February 2012, was attended by 120 participants from 11 of 14 Members of the Typhoon Committee, namely: China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Macao, China; Malaysia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Thailand; the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the United States of America (USA). The

^{*} The report is reproduced in its original language, which is English. Any queries concerning the report should be directed to secretariat of the Typhoon Committee.

Session was also attended by seven observers from: Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Commission for Atmospheric Sciences of WMO, International Association for Wind Engineering (IAWE), WMO Regional Training Centre Nanjing (WMO RTC Nanjing) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Representatives of the ESCAP, WMO and TC Secretariat (TCS) also attended the session.

OPENING CEREMONY

3. The Session was opened by Dr. ZHENG Guoguang, Administrator of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA). Welcome addresses and messages were delivered by Mrs. GE Huijun, Vice Governor of Zhejiang Province; Mr. CHO Seok Joon, Chairperson of the Typhoon Committee; Mr. Yuichi ONO, representative of ESCAP and Mr. Koji KUROIWA, representative of WMO. The Roman L. Kintanar Award for Typhoon-related Disaster Mitigation 2011 was delivered to the National Meteorological Center of CMA and to the Korea Meteorological Administration.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4. Ms. JIAO Meiyun, Deputy Administrator of CMA was elected Chairperson of the Committee and Mr. SHUN Chi-Ming, Director of Hong Kong Observatory (HKO), was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Committee. Mr. Jeff LaDouce, Regional Director National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service, was elected Chairperson of Drafting Committee.

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE (TECO)

5. Following the election of the Officers, and in accordance with decision of the 43rd TC Session, it was held a technical conference that consisted of presentations on pertinent technical issues related with the activities of TC, namely scientific lectures, review of the activities of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center (RSMC) Tokyo 2011; review of the 2011 typhoon season; reports of the activities of the Members during 2011; presentation of the draft of the *Assessment Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Tropical Cyclone Track and Impact Areas in TC Region*. According to the report of RSMC Tokyo, during the 2011 western North Pacific typhoon season only 21 tropical cyclones were formed, eight of which reached typhoon intensity.

PARALLEL SESSIONS OF METEOROLOGICAL, HYDROLOGICAL AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION WORKING GROUPS

6. Parallel sessions of the Working Groups on Meteorology (WGM), Hydrology (WGH) and Disaster Risk Reduction (WGDRR) were convened on the third day of the Session to review progress of work during the 2011, identify priorities for cooperation and make recommendations to the Committee. The outcomes of the parallel sessions were reported to the plenary session.

REPORTS OF THE WGM, WGH AND WGD RR

7. The Chairs of the three working groups (WGs) presented their reports mainly focusing the activities, top priority projects and relevant findings based on the recommendations of the Integrated Workshop “Damage Assessment Methodology and Pre-assessment of Typhoon Landfall Impacts”, which was held in Nha Trang, Viet Nam, 07-11 November 2011. The chairs also reported to the Committee how to enhance the interaction among the three WGs by promoting crosscutting projects. The reports also focused the significant progress made by Members in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2007-2011 and the Annual Operating Plan (AOP)-2011. The WGs have also established the AOP 2012, which was approved by the Committee.

Meteorological Component – Conclusions and decisions

8. The report of the WGM focused the 2011 activities, particularly the study “*Assessment Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Tropical Cyclone Track and Impact Areas in TC region*”; development of the storm surge watch scheme for the crosscutting project on *Urban Flood Risk Management* (UFRM); the web-based typhoon forum; ensemble prediction products; exchange of radar data among TC Members; improvement of the capability for Quantitative Precipitation Estimation and Quantitative Precipitation Estimation Forecast (QPE and QPF). The launch of the TC journal *Tropical Cyclone Research and Review* was considered an important and effective way to exchange knowledge and latest progresses in tropical cyclone sciences, forecast techniques and warning systems. Based on the conclusions of the WGM the TC approved 27 decisions.

Hydrological Component – Conclusions and decisions

9. The report of the WGH focused the significant progress made by Members, particularly in what refers to the collaboration of 3 working groups regarding the UFRM project, enhancement of cooperation on QPE/QPF application, enhancement of the close collaboration with the WMO RA II Working Group on Hydrological Forecasts and Assessments and RA V Working Group on Hydrological Services. Based on the conclusions of the WGH the TC approved 15 decisions. One of the main decisions consisted of the continuation of the UFRM project as crosscutting project involving the three WGs and the Training and Research Coordinating Group (TRCG).

Disaster Risk Reduction Component

10. The report of the WGD RR focused particularly the activities related to the TC Web GIS based Typhoon Committee Disaster Information System (WGTCDIS) and the establishment of a database for disaster information; economic impacts assessment considering climate change; preparation of the 7th WGD RR Workshop; identification of appropriate sites and local recipient organizations in interested Members for the *Pilot project for Community Weather Stations*. Based on the conclusions of the WGD RR the TC has approved 13 decisions.

ACTIVITIES OF THE TRAINING AND RESEARCH COORDINATING GROUP (TRCG)

11. The 4-year work plan formulated in the 1st TRCG Planning Meeting in 2009 continued to provide a sound basis for implementing training and research activities of the Committee. The AOP 2012, which was approved by the TC, was established in accordance with that planning meeting. Based on the conclusions of the TRCG, the Committee approved 9 decisions.

ACTIVITIES OF TYPHOON COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

12. The Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS) with the support from the Members, the three WGs, TRCG, the Advisory Working Group (AWG), ESCAP and WMO, continued to perform its role of executive organ of TC, mainly in what refers to the following aspects: enhancing the visibility of Committee in the International community; coordinating the activities of Annual Operation Plan (AOP); coordinating the discussions on the Strategic Plan 2012-2016; conducting the process of assigning the Dr. Kintanar Award 2011, coordinating the realization of training activities and other meetings.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP (AWG)

13. The Committee, at its 43rd TC Session, appointed Dr. CHO Seok Joon (Administrator of KMA) as Chairperson of the AWG and reappointed Ms. Genevieve Miller (USA) as Vice-Chairperson. The AWG provided guidance in planning and implementing the decisions of the 43rd TC Session, particularly as regards the discussions on the Strategic Plan 2012-2016; Annual Operating Plan-2012; Typhoon Committee Trust Fund -2012; selection and development of the themes for the *Integrated Workshop on Damage Assessment Methodology and Pre-assessment of Typhoon Landfall Impact*; revision of Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of Typhoon Committee.

RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

14. The TCS, in cooperation with the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), submitted a proposal to Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (MSTDF) to seek funding for developing the project “*Operational System for Urban Flood Forecasting and Inundation Mapping (OSUFFIM)*”. TCS also submitted the project proposal “*Synergized Standard Operational Procedure for Coastal Multi-Hazards Early Warning System*” to the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness, and successfully applied funding to Macao Foundation for supporting participants and lecturers for the “*Seventh TCP/JCOMM Workshop on Storm Surge and Wave Forecasting*”, which was held in Macao, China, on 10-14 October 2011.

PROGRAMME FOR 2012 AND BEYOND (agenda item 8)

15. The Committee was requested to provide guidance to the global agenda related to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, including the post Hyogo Framework for Action and Post UN Millennium Development

Goals to emphasize the importance of implementation of tropical cyclone disaster risk reduction. The Committee suggested “*Effective Warnings*”, “*Saving lives through Effective Warnings*” for main themes for the 2012 integrated workshop, which will be held in Nanjing, and proposed Common Alert Protocol (CAP) as possible sub-theme. The Committee also took note of the information from WMO on the realization of a joint session Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC)/Typhoon Committee, which was still considered premature.

PUBLICATIONS

16. The following publications were issued by the Typhoon Committee in 2011: first issue of the Tropical Cyclone Research & Review; Report of the Expert Mission on the WEB GIS-based Typhoon Committee Disaster Information System (WGTCDIS); Typhoon Committee Annual Review (TCAR); Typhoon Committee Newsletter 2011.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE WMO TROPICAL CYCLONE PROGRAMME

17. The Committee was informed by the WMO representative on the priority issues discussed at the WMO 16th Congress (Cg-XVI), particularly on Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), WMO Information System (WIS), Disaster Risk Reduction and Aeronautical Meteorology. It was also referred the guidance given by the Cg-XVI on the implementation of the Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP).

SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR THE COMMITTEE

18. (a) Technical Cooperation -The Committee was informed of the technical cooperation activities of WMO and ESCAP in support of the programmes of the Typhoon Committee carried out in 2011, including the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP), Emergency Assistance Fund scheme and South-South Cooperation activities, and expressed its appreciation to WMO, ESCAP and collaborating partners for providing assistance to Members of the Typhoon Committee.

19. (b) In-kind Contributions - The Committee expressed appreciation for the in-kind contributions from some Members, namely China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Macao, China; Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Thailand. The Committee also invited the other Members to report their in-kind contributions, quantifying the corresponding values assigned that have expended in actions related to TCTF projects.

20. (c) Typhoon Committee Trust Fund (TCTF) by WMO - The Committee discussed harmonizing the documents of income and expenditures presented by WMO and TCS.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE GOVERNANCE AND EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF TC

21. The Committee noted that there is an increasing need for a comprehensive review of its governance with a view to achieving the Committee's objectives in a more efficient and effective manner. It therefore requested the AWG to review the governance of the Committee, with the assistance of TCS, and submit a report to the next session. The Committee also noted there was a need to further review the existing legal documents of the Typhoon Committee.

MAIN DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

22. In addition to decisions relating to the three TC components, training and research, the Committee took the following major decisions; approve the Strategic Plan 2012-2016 and request the AWG to continue to refine the plan as situation warrants; accept the offer of Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (WMO Regional Training Centre – Nanjing) to serve as a training center for the Committee; request AWG and TCS to examine ways to improve the governance, efficiency and effectiveness of the TC; request AWG, with the assistance of TCS as well as ESCAP and WMO, to review its overall legal documents and report back to the next session; accept the replacement tropical cyclone name for FANAPI by RAI; : request Japan submit in the next Session the replacement tropical cyclone name for WASHI.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION (agenda item 14)

23. The Committee noted and appreciated the offer of Hong Kong, China to host the Forty Fifth Session, provisionally on the week of 28 January, 2013.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

24. The Session was closed by the Chairperson at 10:10 am, 11 February 2012.
