

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007
June 25-27, 2007

Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

**UNESCAP/WMO TYPHOON COMMITTEE
AND ITS STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2011**

Kai Hong Leong

TYPHOON COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

FIVE REGIONAL BODIES OF TCP PROGRAMMES

- ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee
- WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones
- RA I Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South-West Indian Ocean
- RA IV Hurricane Committee
- RA V Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Ocean

The regional bodies perform currently a very important role to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the tropical cyclones, through the improvement of strategies for coordinated actions to upgrade tropical cyclone forecasts and warning systems.

COMPONENTS OF THE REGIONAL BODIES

The Regional Bodies have essentially three main fields of activities:

- Operational Meteorology
- Hydrology
- Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Training and research are also included in these components

CREATION OF THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE

- The statutes of the TC were signed in Bangkok in 1968
 - Typhoon Committee was created under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
(at that time UNESCAP was designated as Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East – ECAFE)
 - This important step for the progress of the regional cooperation worked as the “starter” in the creation of more four similar bodies around the world.
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MEMBERS OF TYPHOON COMMITTEE

1. Cambodia
 2. China
 3. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 4. Hong Kong, China
 5. Japan
 6. Lao People's Democratic Republic
 7. Macao, China
 8. Malaysia
 9. Philippines
 10. Republic of Korea
 11. Singapore
 12. Thailand
 13. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
 14. United States of America
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TRANSFER OF TYPHOON COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT (TCS) FROM MANILA TO MACAO

- TCS was in Manila since 1971 up to 2006
 - TC decided to transfer TCS to other Members for periods of at least four years (maximum eight) at the 37th Session of TC – Shanghai 2004
 - Government of Macao SAR, through Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (MMGB), with the support of PR of China, proposed Macao as Host Member at the 38th TC Session – Hanoi, 2005
 - TCS transfer from Philippines to Macao was decided in 38th TC Session
 - Hand-over ceremony for transfer: 39th TC Session, Manila 2006 – 9 December 2006
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Typhoon Committee carries out its Activities through the following SPECIALIZED GROUPS

Working Groups

- Working Group on Meteorology (WGM)
- Working Group on Hydrology (WGH)
- Working Group on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (DPP)

Other Groups:

- Advisory Working group (AWG)
 - Training and Research Coordinating Group (TRCG)
 - Resources Mobilization Group (RMG)
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Main Activities of Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Component in 2006

- Hong Kong Observatory conducted several courses on weather and geophysics for the public. The year-long public education campaign "Safer Living - Reducing Natural Disasters" was held in Hong Kong, China and TC 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 to establish a disaster-related database and data sharing system among the members and in the region.
 - The Committee named the database as Typhoon Committee Disaster Information System (TCDIS) and reviewed respective draft formats.
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Main Activities Of Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Component in 2006

- **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.**
 - **Enhanced coordination and interaction among all the Working Groups was established during the past year especially in the Macao Workshop.**
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Development of Strategic Plan 2007-2011

- **The Typhoon Committee at its 37th Session held in Shanghai, China and at its 38th Session held in Hanoi, Vietnam decided to restructure the Committee's Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan (RCPIP) to better reflect Key Results Areas and the required Strategic Goals and Activities needed to achieve these Key Results Areas.**
 - **The Strategic Plan was adopted by the Committee at the 39th Session of the Typhoon Committee held in Dec. 2007 in Manila, Philippines.**
 - **The purpose of this Strategic Plan is for the Typhoon Committee to identify areas, goals, and activities which the Committee wants to achieve in 2007-2011 to continue to produce meaningful results for saving lives and mitigation of damage from typhoon-related events.**
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KEY RESULTS AREAS

(CRITICAL, OVERARCHING, PRIORITY AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST)

- **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**

Strategic Goals and Associated Activities.

Strategy Goal 5b: To promote education, training and public awareness of typhoon-related disasters among the Members

Associated Activities:

Integrated:

- Promote lectures in primary, secondary and high schools in order to sensitize students to typhoon-related social and economical impacts and to encourage them to choose earth sciences as a future field of study and work.
- Identify and distributed material (including photographs) on typhoons and related hazards and make available to Members' teachers and professors.
- Promote media and public campaigns to enhance awareness of tropical cyclone impacts and on preparedness activities the public should take to protect their lives and mitigate losses to property.

Strategic Goals and Associated Activities

- Develop and implement a multi-hazard information web site to raise the level of public awareness of natural hazards and their impacts. Encourage users' participation in the development.
 - Develop a library of outreach/education material based upon users' needs for Members to use during their outreach/educational activities.
 - Establish protocols and agreements with the radio and TV broadcast stations in order to quickly disseminate typhoon-related information directly from NMHSs and DPP centres to the media outlets.
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Strategic Goals and Associated Activities

- **Meteorological Related:**
Provision of on-the-job training on typhoon forecasting systems. (Also applicable to SG 1 and SG 2)
 - **Hydrological Related:**
Provision of on-the-job training on flood forecasting systems. (Also applicable to SG 1 and SG 2)
 - **Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Related:**
Provide training and outreach activities to and face-to-face meetings with the people at the last kilometre/mile and the local first responders.
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

