

COPING WITH RISK: OVERVIEW OF EXPERIENCES OF THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE

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Abstract

Recent surveys showed a rapid increase in the socio-economic impacts of water-related disasters, especially in the Asian and Pacific region. This rapid increase has been attributed to the rapid increase in population, rapid expansion of settlement into disaster-prone areas and also the increase in climate variability. Coping with risk, including living with risk, has thus become an unfortunate reality that water engineering for the future must address. In Asia and the Pacific, close cooperation among countries has provided important forums for coordinating international efforts for better risk management. One of such subregional cooperation is the UNESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, through which technical cooperation among the experts of its Members and other related international organizations continues to expand on several aspects of water-related disaster risk management, such as flood hazard mapping, sediment disaster forecasting and warning systems and improvement of operational flood forecasting models. On the basis of the identification of needs for cooperation and capacity building, priority projects were identified and implemented within the framework of cooperation of the Committee to improve capacity to cope with the increasing risk of typhoon-related disasters.

These experiences together with those from other international experts on flood forecasting will be shared with participants of this special session on "Coping with Risk".

¹ The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations nor the Typhoon Committee and its Members.