

ACTIVITIES OF TYPHOON COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON HYDROLOGY

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The Typhoon Committee (TC) was established in 1968 under the auspice of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UN/ESCAP. TC is a sub-regional network for effective cooperation in Typhoon-related natural disaster reduction, and a broad network involving related agencies in member countries in order to support preparedness and warnings against Typhoon-related disasters.

TC Membership has increased from 7 to now 14: Cambodia; China; DPR of Korea; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Macau; Malaysia; Lao PDR; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Thailand; United States; Viet Nam. The TC Secretariat is located in Manila, the Philippines since its inauguration.

There are three major components in TC structure as follows, each of which supported by related government bodies in each country.

- Working group on Meteorology (WGM)
- Working group on Hydrology (WGH)
- Working group on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (WGDPP)

The TC members meet once a year at its annual session. Last November TC held its 37th annual session in Shanghai, China, hosted by the Government of China. Prior to this annual agenda, the WGM and WGH are each holding annual workshop in order to put forward collaborative programmes/studies among member countries and in order to be prepared for the annual session.

Last year, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the WGH Workshop on Living with Risk: Dealing with Typhoon-related Disasters as Part of the Integrated Water Resources Management, was hosted by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation (MOCT) in Seoul, Korea, from 20-24 September 2004, at the Construction Center in Seoul.

The opening of Seoul Workshop was also attended by high-level guests including Dr. Cosgrove, President, World Water Council, Dr. Chow Kook Kee, incumbent Chairman, Typhoon Committee, Dr. Hung Rae Kwon, Director, Environment and Sustainable Development Division of UNESCAP, etc.

The RCPIP (Regional Cooperation Project Implementation Plan) is a unique system adopted by the TC to deepen the level of collaboration of member countries in trying to produce tangible outputs in various forms, e.g. technical manuals. Normally the project life for each RCPIP is 5 years. Each RCPIP is led by one of member countries, and participated by interested members.

Under WGH framework, 9 RCPI Ps are currently ongoing as follows.

1. Pilot project on the preparation of Inundation and Water-related Hazard Maps. (leading country: Japan)
2. Pilot project on the establishment on flash-flood warning system (including debris

- flow and landslides. (Japan)
3. Development of guidelines for the dam operation in relation flood forecasting. (Korea)
 4. Evaluation and improvement of operational flood forecasting system focusing on model performance. (Korea)
 5. Extension of flood forecasting systems to selected river basins. (China)
 6. Project on the evaluation and improvement of hydrological instruments and telecommunication equipment. (China)
 7. On-the-job Training on Flood Forecasting between TC members. (Malaysia)
 8. Pilot project on the establishment of community-based flood forecasting system. (The Philippines)
 9. Improvement of Hydrological products in response to user needs. (The Philippines)

During Seoul WS, each member actively contributed in progressing related activities through collaborative efforts. Especially, two manuals were developed under this framework, namely “Manual on Flood Hazard Mapping” and “Guidelines on Warning and Evacuation System Against Sediment Disasters.”, which are developed with expectation to be modified by each member to meet specific needs and situation in each country.

Another uniqueness of the Seoul WS was the adoption of one-day on-site training on flood hazard mapping in order to enable the participants to gain knowledge and skills in the production of flood hazard maps. As part of the training, participants were made to form groups before proceeding to field exercise in Pyeong Taek City. Armed with the information gathered from the site inspection, the groups complete their maps (table-top exercise).

The Workshop concluded with a lot of useful findings as follows.

- ▶ Flood and drought are inextricably connected and should be addressed in an integrated manner. RCPPI on integrating activities of hydrology and DPP towards realization of TC Vision are a important part of IWRM process.
- ▶ Integrated Flood Management (IFM) is required to be as part of IWRM. In this connection TC initiative has generated great deal of progress in flood risk management field.
- ▶ The socio-economic impact of floods are assessed in a integrated manner and fully understood by key stakeholders particularly decision makers and financing institutions.
- ▶ In flood management, software such as appropriate land use, early warning and hazard maps should be combined with hardware.
- ▶ Systematic collection and sharing of data and information are important. The emerging risks call for better cooperation among countries to facilitate tools and methodologies for better warning and forecasting systems which is utilized to cope with global climate change and variability for better IWRM.

Regrettably, at this moment the author is only able to report in this proceedings general information of TC and WGH annual Workshop held in 2004.

Coincidentally this year’s WGH Workshop is planned to be held during the previous week of IAHR 2005. Therefore the author will, by the time of presentation during IAHR 2005, completely renew the contents of presentation in order to report the most recent activities and some substantial outcomes under the TC WGH framework.