

COOPERATION WITH THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE

The UNESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee at its 37th Session held in Shanghai in November 2004 adopted the theme “Socio-economic Impact Assessment of Typhoon-related Disasters and Risk Management towards Millennium Development Goals” for the annual workshop of its Working Group on Hydrology to be held in Malaysia in 2005 to review progress of work in assessing impacts of typhoon-related disasters and to map out future activities in the common efforts to deal with annual disasters caused by typhoons. Subsequently, the Department of Irrigation and Drainage of Malaysia, in cooperation with UNESCAP, the Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS), the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan and the Ministry of Construction and Transportation of Republic of Korea organized the Workshop in Kuala Lumpur from 5 to 9 September 2005.



The opening session of the workshop was attended by high-level officials, including H.E. Dato Sazmi Miah, Parliament Secretary of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia (Vice Minister); Mr. Keizrul bin Abdullah, Director General of Department of Irrigation and Drainage; Dr Xu Xiao-feng, Chairman of Typhoon Committee for 2005; Dr Chow Kok Kee, Director General of Malaysia Meteorological Services (concurrently Chairman of the Advisory Working Group of Typhoon Committee for 2005); Mr Katsuhito Miyake, Chairman of the TC Working Group on Hydrology; and Dr Ahn Jung Hoon, Representative of Ministry of Construction and Transportation of

Republic of Korea.

The Workshop was also attended by nearly 60 TC participants from overseas and 25 Malaysian officials throughout the Workshop. The Workshop followed the new format adopted in 2004 to include also a field investigation to carry out a field exercise on sediment hazard mapping. The participants expressed their appreciation to UNESCAP for sharing the initial findings of its UNESCAP-UNDP-ECLAC Project on assessment of socio-economic impacts of hydro-meteorological disasters and recommended adoption of the ECLAC methodology aiming at standardizing assessment methodology for typhoon-related disasters in the TC Members as part of the new strategic plan for the Committee in 2006-2010.

In order to maintain the momentum and interest of TC Members in these cooperative efforts, the Working Group requested TC to authorize the use of TC Trust Fund to hold a Workshop on Hydrology and DPP in 2006 and recommended that linkage with other organizations and regions of the World, such as through the Fourth World Water Forum, be made to enhance systematic support from interested countries and organizations in these efforts. With respect to possible theme for the 2006 Workshop of WGH, the participants noted the importance of linking activities of the Typhoon Committee to the global efforts on disaster reduction, especially the Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005-2015, and therefore recommended the following theme to the 38th Session of the Typhoon Committee for consideration and approval: **“Integrating activities of the hydrology and related DPP components of the Typhoon Committee into the Hyogo Framework for Action for better impacts and visibility”**.

The findings and recommendations of the Workshop are scheduled to be submitted to the 38th Session of the Typhoon Committee, scheduled to be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam from 14 to 19 November 2005 for consideration.