The WMO Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP)

Session 4: Insights into some WMO Programme Activities to Support MHEWS at National, Regional and Global Levels

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WMO OMM
World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Tropical Cyclone Programme

- Crosscuts with all major WMO Programmes;
- Benefits ~ 80 WMO Members;
- TCP Mission and Objective → to assist and support its Members to:
  - Provide reliable and improved forecasts of
    - tropical cyclone tracks and intensities;
    - related forecasts of strong winds, heavy rainfall, waves, storm surges;
    - along with timely warnings,
    - in multi-hazard approach; TCs are in essence multi-hazard phenomena.
  - Establish and upgrade early warning systems with multi-hazard configuration.
TCP contribution to DRR through MHEWS

• TCP effected on regional and national levels through cooperative action described in Operational Plan for each regional body
• Operational Plans are part of the EWS and establish the regional level mechanism to support the national mechanism. They describe:
  – Data/information sharing
  – Regional arrangements
  – Institutionalize the direct support from the RSMC to some Members when TC conditions
• NMCs:
  – to convert the technical information into meaningful severe weather forecasts and warnings
  – in terms of the established national cyclone warning system well-known to the community.
TCP contribution to DRR through MHEWS
Example: UNESCAP/SSOP Project
Typhoon Committee and Panel on TCs countries (13)

Synergized Standard Operating Procedures for Coastal Multi-Hazards Early Warning System (SSOPs) Project

• Given that nations need to develop their DRR protocol;
• Based on exchange of good practices, lessons learned from many different agencies and experts;
  – Multi-hazard
  – Multi-agency; typically meteorology, hydrology, disaster management services
  – Multiple levels of government; national, sub-regional, local
TCP contribution to DRR through MHEWS
Example: French EWS for TCs in La Réunion – Alert system

**Cyclone pre-alert:** warning for cyclone risk
A tropical depression exists in the area and can be a potential threat for La Reunion during the next days (beyond 24 hours)

**Orange alert:** the cyclone threat is more precise
There can be a danger for the department within the next 24 hours. Schools and nurseries are closed, but economic life continues.

**Red alert:** imminent danger
La Reunion will be touched within next hours. It is forbidden to move on roads, people have to stay where they are.
Announced 3 hours before, to allow people to take shelter.

**Safeguard phase:** there is no cyclone threat anymore, but it remains some dangers.
Schools and nurseries remain closed, but economic life can start again.
TCP contribution to DRR through MHEWS
Example: French EWS for TCs in La Réunion - Alert management

• Joint intervention of 3 essential partners:
  – Météo-France
    • in charge of the TC and related hazards forecasting / warnings issuance,
    • guide and advise the representative of the government in the crisis task force,
    • propose to the government representative (Prefect) to trigger the alert system
  – Authorities
    • the government representative triggers the alert system
    • Responsible for the prevention and security
  – Medias
    • Responsible to inform the general public

• Global efficiency of the system relies on the efficiency of each partner

• System based upon a « Specialized Assistance Plan for TC »
  – Set up for more than 20 years
  – Proved efficient and well now by the public

• Can NOT work without the involvement of the national government and local authorities