

TC50 APPENDIX IX

SSOP PHASE II: IMPLEMENTATION OF SYNERGIZED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SSOP) FOR COASTAL MULTI-HAZARDS EARLY WARNING SYSTEM PROGRESS REPORT

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1. Introduction

The purpose of the SSOP Phase II: Implementation of Synergized Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) for Coastal Multi-Hazards Early Warning System is mainly focused on training how to establish an appropriate standard operating procedure based on the published SSOP Manual. So, the project concentrates on training the “mechanism” of preparing and implementing synergized standard operating procedures for coastal multi-hazards early warning systems in beneficiary countries with the goal of promoting the capacity of coastal community resilience to coastal multi-hazards.

2. Major SSOP-II Activities Completed

Two of the three major activities for this project have been completed. The first major activity completed was the SSOP-II training course for coastal multi-hazards EWS held for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) experts and warning experts at the WMO Regional Training Center in Nanjing, China from October 24-26, 2017. Eight of the ten beneficiary country sent representatives to the training course which included Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Also, China sent representatives to participate in the training. The workshop focused on the current state of the beneficiary countries standard operating procedures, how to use the Manual on SSOPs for Coastal Multi-hazards Early Warning System and its companion, the Quick Reference Guide on SSOPs for Coastal Multi-hazards Early Warning System, and practical application through table top discussions of real-world problems.

Two instructors, Jim Weyman and Ken Kleeschulte, and one facilitator/project manager, Tom Evans, provided training on the use and application of the Manual on SSOPs for Coastal Multi-hazards Early Warning System and its companion, the Quick Reference Guide on SSOPs for Coastal Multi-hazards Early Warning System. Also, participants from each country presented on their country's National Meteorological and Hydrological Services Agency, Disaster Management Office, current state of SSOP and expectations for the workshop. As one would imagine, these four items were quite diverse. However, a few themes emerged allowing us to focus on the needs of the participants. For example, many participants wanted to focus on updating and improving their SOPs along with developing better synergized SOPs among their country's agencies. The training consisted of lectures, presentations and training scenarios along with active discussions among participants, representatives of the beneficiary countries, and lecturers/trainers. The Workshop was attended by 23 participants from the beneficiary countries and 3 participants from China. On the third day of the workshop exercises were conducted based on two separate scenarios. The first scenario had the groups work through a series of questions to guide them in the strengthening of their standard operating procedures and synergize with other agencies in order to reduce confusing/conflicting messages and increase efficiencies. The groups produced the components of an SSOP based on their discussions. The second scenario had the same groups look at how to quickly disseminate warnings, especially to remote, underserved and those hard to communicate with populations. The

interaction of the participants at the workshop provided opportunities for countries to better understand their neighbors and their neighbors' procedures, share experience and knowledge, and understand the complexities or simplicity of the decision making processes. Several participants noted that the discussion during the workshop, especially during the scenarios, was valuable and will consider using how others have approached issues to work toward solutions in their own countries.

The second major activity completed was the Attachment Training hosted by RSMC Tokyo. In addition to hosting three operational forecasters from the Typhoon Committee (TC) Members, three operational forecasters from Members of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) participated. The Attachment Training occurred December 11-21, 2017 at the JMA Headquarters in Tokyo.

3. Future and Final Activity

The final major activity will be to conduct in-country consultation workshops with two to three Member Countries from each of the regions (2-3 from TC and 2-3 from PTC). These workshops are designed to strengthen their SSOPs by helping them identify gaps, encourage synergy and cooperation among agencies and detect possible areas for efficiencies. Also, the synergy of multiple agencies (warning issuers, disaster management, media, social scientists and decision makers), will allow the project to assist in sustainability by ensuring parallel, integrated activities motivate each other to perform and update tasks in the future. By developing a synergized approach to standard operating procedures national, district, and community/local level personnel within the system will be able to reach the last mile/kilometer where the need is vital and again assists to motivate each other at different levels. At least two of these workshops will be conducted in each region with a third possible depending on our interaction with Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES). However, we have been unable to communicate with RIMES. Although we have attempted to contact RIMES several times, there has not been any responses. Our hope was to address in-country workshop alongside the Monsoon Forums.