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National Committee for Search and rescue

(VINASARCOM)

Viet Nam's experiences on disaster preparedness and response

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of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam**

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Vietnam area of 331.688 km²

Coastline 3.444 km

Strategic Guideline and 4 on-site principle

STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:

- Take the initiative in prevention, timely response, quick and effective recovery. The main policy: “Prevention is better than cure”.
- Mobilize all resources in the society to participate in search and rescue activities, in case of emergency, implementation of the principle “**4 on site**”.
- Attach much importance and develop the collective strength from the entire people, political system, promote the internal force as the main policy.
- Take advantage of the support, co-ordination from the international community, especially from APEC.

Content of Principle of “4 on-site”

a) On-site forces

Immediately mobilise, utilise the force of civil defence, armed force in the locality or the available specialized force to the scene.

b) On-site facilities

Immediately mobilise, utilise all available means or means laid as planned. Even primitive tools must be prepared in advance which will also effectively work.

c) On-site Logistics

Immediately mobilise, utilise all material facilities for response. Each person, household, hamlet, commune, district, province and in each area and strategic direction, food, medicine, potable water, tents, lifebuoy, lifeboat ...must be reserved and prepared...for preparedness and self-response in a certain time before the force in charge to come.

d) On-site Command

In case of emergency, the Steering Committee of all levels must be established urgently.

Through summarization, learning from experience from emergency preparedness and response activities:

- 70% of people and means rescued owing to the on-site forces.
- Remaining 30% is owing to the specialized force in charge.

2. SOME KEY MEASURES:

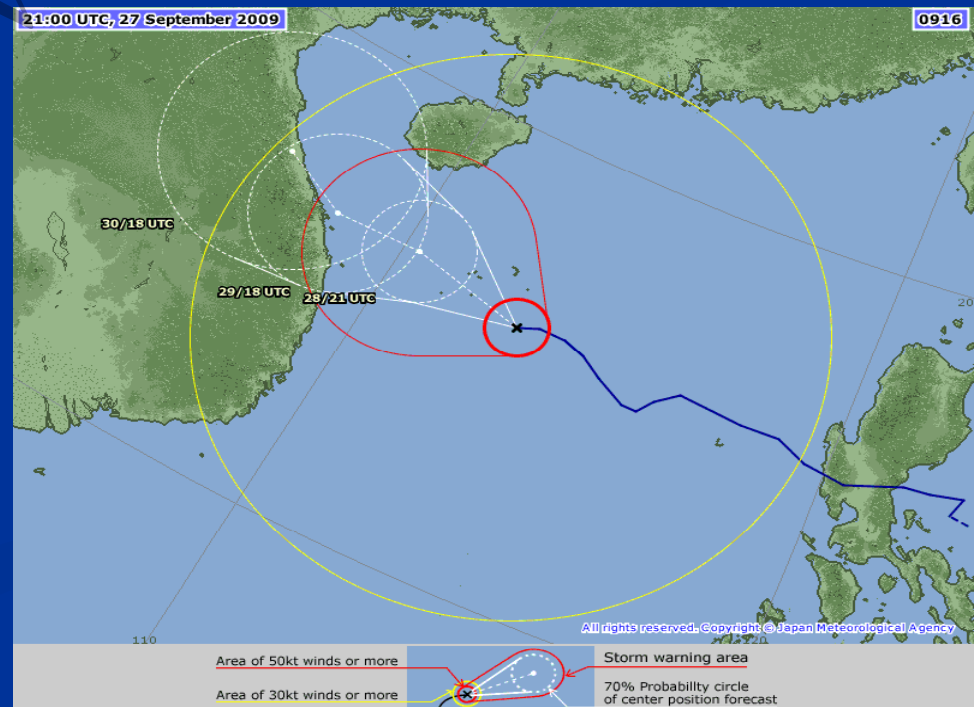
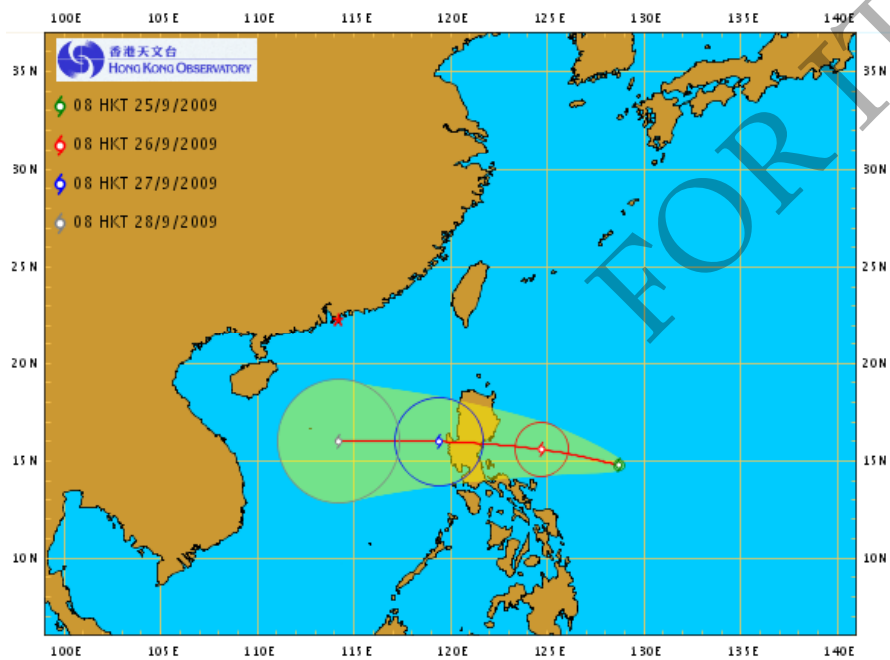
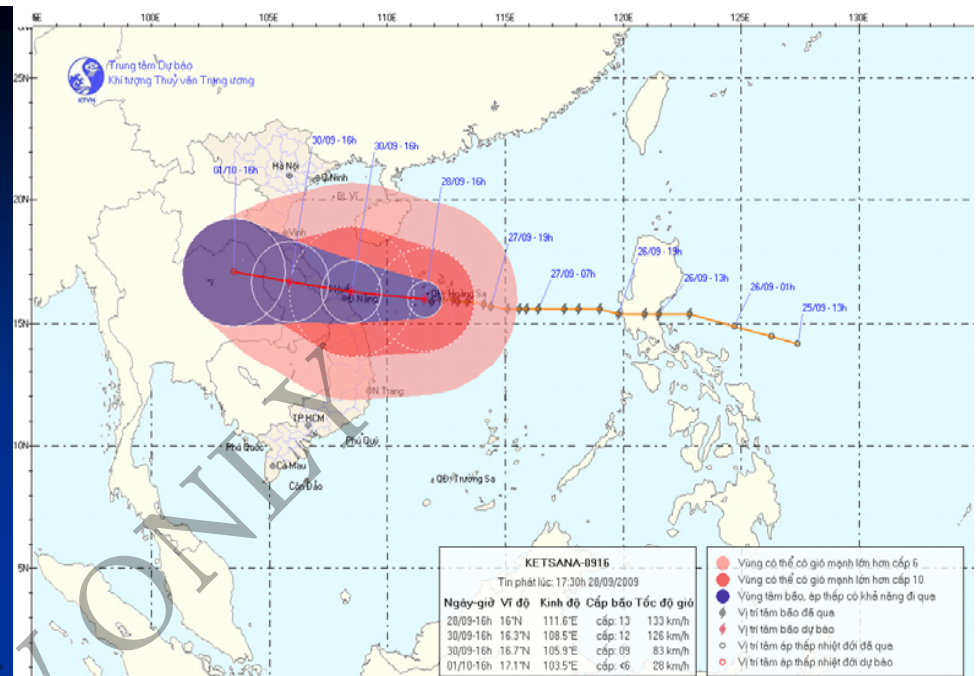
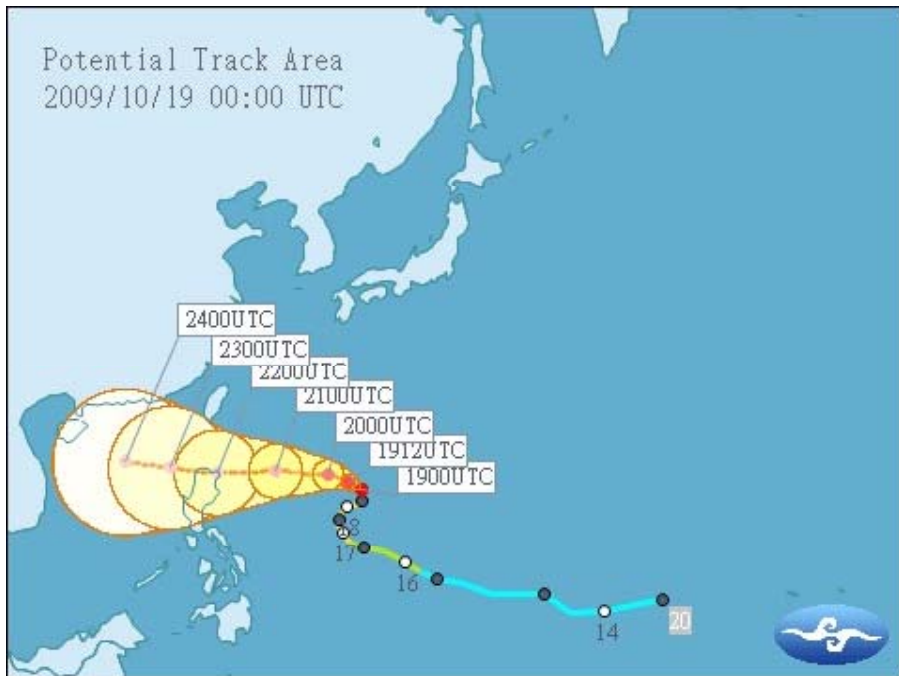
a) Before the disaster:

- **It is a must to develop an overall, strategic, long-term, short-term plan, mechanism, policy on natural disaster emergency preparedness and response;**
- **To prepare forces, means, training and development of the human resources; to conduct exercise on SAR co-ordination, command, management to enhance the preparedness and response capacity of all levels.**

- To Actively apply and develop technical science and technology for enhancing the capability of natural
-disaster forecast, warning, assessment to make the effective preparedness and response plan.
- Dissemination, education for enhancing the public awareness of the whole society on natural disaster prevention and emergency response.
- Regularly maintain the SAR forces and means for preparedness and response to all situations.
- To conduct SAR duty on watch 24/24 to keep track of the situation and deal with timely all disasters or risks.

b) During disaster:

- In case of natural disaster the most important measure is urgent evacuation, removal of people and means out of dangerous area (on sea, on land, time) evacuation is an important measure.
- To set up command post and to ensure communications.
- To mobilise forces and means in timely manner
- To search and rescue and provide first aid to the victims.
- Transport and provide relief goods.
- Ensure security, safety and social order in the disaster affected area.



c) After natural calamity, disaster:

- To Quickly overcome consequences , environmental sanitation, epidemic prevention.
- To Restore infrastructure, especially traffic roads, electricity, water, schools, hospitals, public agencies.
- To quickly stabilise people's life, production and other normal activities of the residents.

3. The role of vietnam people's military force in natural disaster preparedness and reponse

Vietnam People's Military Force is recognized as:

- The key force in natural disaster prevention and SAR.
- The natural disaster prevention and SAR is the fighting task in peace period.
- The commanders of military units have the right to mobilize its maximum force, means to participate in emergency preparedness and response in case of natural disaster in its locality (without waiting order from higher level), and then make report to the Headquarter of General Staff.

Military force plays an important role in disaster preparedness and response

- With high sense of mobilisation, modern facilities,
- Distribution nationwide ,
- Close command organization with strict discipline,
- Especially with sense of brave, intelligence,
- Ready to sacrifice their life for the people and nation.

4. Co-ordination mechanism between military and civil forces

In natural disaster prevention, emergency response, the co-ordinative mechanism between Vietnam military and civil forces : “the Party to lead, government to manage, armed forces (military force, police) is the advisory body”.

This mechanism has been annually tested in SAR exercises at all levels, from Central to local level, mainly focusing on SAR exercises at provincial and district level.

In order to implement this mechanism, the main measure is in case of natural calamity, disaster requiring emergency preparedness and response, the government of all levels must establish an united Steering Committee with its participants including the representatives from functional agencies, organizations, force under the united direction, management of Party's executive committee and government of all levels ensuring the close preparedness and response in timely, effective manner and the responsibility of all levels must be specified

In 2009
Vietnam was affected by
**10 storms, 05 tropical low pressure and many heavy rain
and flood**

Damage:

- 350 people died, 73 people missing, 170 people injured;

Military force mobilized:

- 94.043 soldiers and civil defense;

- 3.061 turns of means;

- 54 helicopter flights informing storm, transporting 122 people and tens of tones of relief goods.

- Informing, providing guidance for 176.560 ships/1.060.396 fishermen operating on sea to proactively prevent from the storm

The result of search and rescue on sea

6.118 people, 693 vessels (rescue rate is 82,75%).

Border guard force

- Mobilized 1.011 ships and boats,
- Mobilized 551 fishing boats of fishermen and the force on the spot
- Searched and rescued 309 cases, rescued 1.270 people, 129 ships and boats (38 cases/201 people/19 foreign ships);

Naval force

- Using 19 ships participating in 31 cases, rescued 45 people, 15 fishing boats;

Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Center

- Searched and rescued 22 cases/26 ships, rescued 285 people (78 foreigners);

The remaining cases rescued by ships and boats on the site.

Measures for Typhoon

- To inform the boats operating on the sea of the storm; to manage the operation of the boats
- To prepare available SAR forces, facilities for preparedness and response
- To make evacuation plan
- To collect the crops and protect the other
- To check the dykes, water reservoir,
- To be on watch 24/24 to keep the track of the storm to regularly inform the higher levels

Measrues

- MFA requests the agencies of the neighbouring countries for help VN's boats and fishermen a safe place during the storm
- To set up Steering Committee for typhoon including representatives from Vinasarcom, CSSCP, MD, MARD, MH, ...to guide the local government in responding
- To allow pupils in disaster area not to school.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN DISASTER RELIEF AND NATURAL CALAMITY MITIGATION COOPERATION

1. Continue to complete the disaster management and emergency response organization system in line with the actual situation and conditions in Vietnam and strengthen international integration in this field.
2. Enhance response capacity in form of socialization and professionalization of the forces in charge.
3. Strengthen investment in infrastructure, specialized facilities, training, resources building and development.

4. Enhance public awareness and response capacity in the community. Strengthen to provide information and dissemination, training for all to have knowledge of the hazard of natural disaster and the way for prevention, self-response, voluntary to participate in humanitarian response.
5. Strengthen international cooperation in disaster management and emergency response.

Effects of Flooding











SAR activities of Military force in typhoon





SAR activities of Military force in Typhoon





Lò lốt ẽ miÒn trung



Flood in central vietnam



FLOOD IN CENTRAL VIETNAM

Can the bridge incident and SAR activities





Can the bridge incident and SAR activities





Oil spill response





**Thank you
for your attention**