



**STRICT EMBARGO: NOT FOR USE BEFORE 23.59HRS TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2001.**  
SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT, INSURANCE AND CITY EDITORS.

## **JAPAN TYPHOON STRIKES IN 2000 PRECISELY PREDICTED BY TSR CONSORTIUM**

Pacific typhoon and intense typhoon activity in 2000 and the numbers of typhoons striking Japanese shores last year were all predicted correctly in May 2000, a team of UK scientists announced today.

Dr Mark Saunders, Dr Paul Rockett and Dr Tony Hamilton of the Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre at University College London (UCL) have developed - in collaboration with the Met Office - innovative long-range forecasts for tropical cyclone activity around the world. These forecasts are central to a new venture called *TropicalStormRisk.com* (TSR) which commenced in December 2000.

Issued on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2000, the team's pre-season forecast for the 2000 NW Pacific tropical cyclone season (which spans the period from 1<sup>st</sup> June through to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000) called for 25 tropical storms, 14 typhoons, 7 intense typhoons, and 2 typhoons reaching Japan landfall. All of these predictions proved correct. Their further prediction of 3 tropical storms making Japan landfall was only 1 in error. Overall the 2000 NW Pacific typhoon season saw slightly below average activity.

The TSR forecasts are prepared using advanced statistical methods and historical climate data back to 1950. The model exploits the long-range predictability of tropical Pacific sea surface temperatures (SSTs) and atmospheric winds.

Typhoons rank as the most costly and deadly natural disaster affecting much of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, and coastal areas in other southeast Asian countries. Skilful long-range forecasts of seasonal tropical cyclone strikes would benefit society, business and government by reducing through the available lead-time - the risk, uncertainty and financial volatility inherent to varying active and inactive storm seasons.

The TSR extended-range forecast for the 2001 NW Pacific typhoon season will be issued on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2001. This timing is designed to benefit insurers and reinsurers being two months prior to the insurance industry's major renewal season for Asia.

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

Forecast Numbers:

	<b>Japan Landfalling 2000</b>		<b>NW Pacific Total Numbers 2000</b>		
	Typhoons	Tropical Storms	Intense Typhoons	Typhoons	Tropical Storms
Ave. no. 1971-2000	2.5	4.1	8.2	17.0	27.2
Actual no. 2000	2	4	7	14	25
Forecast no. 2000	1.8	3.1	7.0	14.1	25.3
Key: Intense Typhoon	=	Sustained Wind > 95 Knots	=	Hurricane Category 3 to 5	
Typhoon	=	Sustained Wind > 63 Knots	=	Hurricane Category 1 to 5	
Tropical Storm	=	Sustained Wind > 33 Knots			

The full summary and forecast verification may be viewed as a PDF download at the *TropicalStormRisk.com* web site:  
<http://www.TropicalStormRisk.com>

TropicalStormRisk.com (TSR) is a venture which has developed from the UK government-supported TSU-NAMI initiative project on seasonal tropical cyclone prediction. The TSR consortium comprises leading UK insurance industry experts and scientists at the forefront of seasonal forecasting. The TSR insurance expertise is drawn from the UK composite and life company CGNU Group, the Royal and Sun Alliance insurance company, and Benfield Greig, a leading independent global reinsurance and risk advisory group. The TSR scientific grouping brings together climate physicists, meteorologists and statisticians at UCL (University College London) and the Met Office.