



1 September 2004

Dr Peter Yuen Joins TSR Consortium

New Appointment to Lead Further Innovative Developments to the Tropical Storm Tracker

London, 1 September 2004 - Tropical Storm Risk (TSR), the consortium of experts on insurance, risk management and seasonal climate forecasting led by the Benfield Hazard Research Centre at University College London, today announced the appointment of Dr Peter Yuen to work on further innovative developments to the award-winning* Tropical Storm Tracker.

Prior to his appointment as a Research Fellow on Tropical Storm Tracking at UCL, Dr Yuen worked on a number of large industry research projects in Hong Kong and the UK involving seismic engineering, image processing and robotic vision. Peter has a PhD in mathematics, has published several papers in leading academic journals and has over 20 years experience of IT, software engineering and project management.

Dr Yuen will work on a number of planned developments for the Tropical Storm Tracker which will be totally innovative for the industry. These additions include:

- Creating an automatic storm alert email system (autumn 2004)
- Introducing storm forecast strike probabilities out to 5 days lead (2005)
- Building an archive of historical tropical storms, windfields and losses (2005)
- Estimate market losses as storms develop (2005)

Dr Mark Saunders, the TSR Lead Scientist and Head of Seasonal Forecasting and Meteorological Hazards at the Benfield Hazard Research Centre commented: *"We are delighted that Dr Peter Yuen has agreed to join the TSR Consortium. His task is to maintain and lead further innovative improvements to TSR's winning product to generate further benefits and opportunities to the insurance and reinsurance industries. Dr Yuen's extensive experience in industry, mathematics and IT will prove a great asset to TSR."*

The TSR Tropical Storm Tracker was launched in May 2003 and is a free Internet application available from www.tropicalstormrisk.com. It is designed for clarity of information, ease of use and relevant content (re)insurers, providing real-time forecasts out to five days lead for all active tropical cyclone systems worldwide. Forecasts are updated every 6-12 hours and provide the best available information on storm position (past, current and forecast), strength, track and track uncertainty, all with various levels of zoom.

* Tropical Storm Risk was awarded the London Market Innovation of the Year Award for the Tropical Storm Tracker at The British Insurance Awards 2004.

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors:

About Tropical Storm Risk (TSR):

Founded in 2000, Tropical Storm Risk (TSR) offers a leading resource for forecasting the risk from tropical storms worldwide. The venture provides innovative forecast products to increase risk awareness and to help decision making within the (re)insurance industry, other business sectors, government and society. The TSR consortium is co-sponsored by Benfield, the leading independent reinsurance intermediary, Royal & Sun Alliance, the global insurance group, and Crawford & Company, a global claims management solutions company. The TSR scientific grouping brings together climate physicists, meteorologists and statisticians at University College London and the Met Office.

About Benfield Hazard Research Centre:

Benfield Hazard Research Centre is sponsored by Benfield, the leading independent reinsurance intermediary and risk advisory business. Benfield's customers include many of the world's major insurance and reinsurance companies as well as Government entities and global corporations. Benfield employs over 1,700 people based in over 30 locations worldwide. www.benfieldgroup.com

With over forty researchers and practitioners, the Benfield Hazard Research Centre is Europe's leading multidisciplinary academic hazard research centre and comprises three groups: Geological Hazards, Meteorological Hazards and Seasonal Forecasting, and Disaster Studies and Management. The Centre is based at University College London, which along with Oxford and Cambridge, is one of the UK's top three multi-faculty teaching and research institutions. www.benfieldhrc.org