

3.3.3 China

China

Brief Working Instructions for the Typhoon Rananim Emergency in China

Successful experience

Although typhoon no. 14 (Rananim) had strong winds, a wide area of rainfall and highly destructive power, damage was controlled under the lead of the Central Party Committee and the State Council. Under the command of the Provincial Party committee of Zhejiang and the Government of Zhejiang Province, and with the guidance and support of such departments as State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Ministry of Finance, China Meteorological Administration, etc., the emergency preplan was rapidly put into effect. A variety of emergency measures were actively implemented and losses were reduced as far as possible through the joint efforts of all levels of government the people, and the army and police officers in the stricken area. All cadres regarded the security of people's lives as the consistent starting point and most important factor in their work. The successful experience of dealing with typhoon No. 14 can be summed up as follows.

1. The Central Party Committee, the State Council, the Provincial Party Committee of Zhejiang, and the Zhejiang Government paid close attention to the situation and implemented resolute policies and commands.
2. "People first" was stressed, and ensuring the security of people's lives was taken as the starting point and most important factor for the work.
3. A concrete command system for the emergency and prediction systems has been set up.
4. General knowledge of how to protect against typhoons was disseminated, improving the general people's consciousness of taking precautions against natural calamities.



1. Disaster introduction

On August 12-13 2004, strong typhoon no.14 (Rananim) struck Zhejiang, the largest typhoon to make landfall in our country since 1956. Its winds were powerful. The maximum wind speed in the centre was up to 45 m/s (a storm force of over 12) when the typhoon made landfall, and the maximum gusting wind speed was up to 58.7 m/s, in addition to intense rain. From 8 o'clock on the 11th to 8 o'clock of the 14th, there were 36 localities where rainfall exceeded 300 mm, with 916 mm in one location, the highest rainfall ever recorded in Zhejiang Province. The area that experienced precipitation of more than 100 mm extended over 44,000 km², accounting for 44% of the whole land area of the province. This typhoon caused more than 60,000 houses to collapse. Some buildings were blown down and the top stories of many were destroyed.

2. Main measurements

Before, among and after typhoon no. 14, the relevant ministries and commissions of the State Council, Zhejiang Province, Wenzhou, Yongjia county, and Hesheng town carried out the following tasks:

- Preparation for Emergency
 1. Preplan preparation
The central government, Zhejiang province, Wenzhou city, Yongjia county and Hesheng town had prepared an emergency preplan
 2. Funds, goods and materials were prepared
 3. Technology guarantee
A three-dimensional monitoring system for policy-making was put in place, composed of automatic weather stations on the ground and a meteorological information service system.
 4. Measurements for reducing natural disasters and taking precautions against natural calamities:
 - (1) Training for reducing natural disasters and taking precautions against natural calamities;
 - (2) The early implementation of measures for taking precautions against natural calamities.
- Pre-warning prediction
- Emergency response
- Rehabilitation and rebuilding
Rehabilitation and rebuilding should be implemented through three main aspects:
 1. Arrangements for rehabilitation and rebuilding;
 2. Guidance for rehabilitation and rebuilding;
 3. Supply of funds.

3. Achievements and experience

- Ability to make emergency decisions:
 1. Scientific decisions;
 2. Timely and resolute decisions;
 3. Effective decisions.
- Ability to implement emergency support:
 1. The emergency preplan;
 2. Preparation of funds, goods and materials;
 3. Irrigation works and facilities;
 4. Technological guarantee.
- Ability for pre-warning and prediction
In line with early warnings received from the meteorological department, all levels of government should organize conferences to study, dispose and implement different measures to combat natural disasters on the principles of early planning, early deployment and early action.
- Ability for on-site deployment
When dealing with typhoon no. 14, emphasis was placed on the role of the county government, town government and villages in handling the emergency, with the guidance and support of higher government and relevant departments. The three aspects stressed were mainly: (1) Organization and guidance, (2) reaction speed, and (3) cooperation.

- Total Budget

	Types of funding	Amount of funds
Central government	Sizeable allowance for natural calamities	2.2 billion CNY
	Sizeable flood prevention funds	0.5 billion CNY
Zhejiang province	Expenses for preparing for local natural calamities	20 million CNY
Wenzhou city	Budget for providing disaster relief	6 million CNY
Yongjia county	Expenses for preparing for local natural calamities	1 CNY per people in Yongjia city
	Flood prevention funds	400,000 CNY