

= Typhoon Rammasun (2008) =

Typhoon Rammasun , known in the Philippines as Typhoon Butchoy , was recognized as the second typhoon of the 2008 Pacific typhoon season by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and the Philippine Atmospheric , Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) . Rammasun was also recognised as the third tropical storm , the second typhoon and the first super typhoon of the 2008 Pacific typhoon season by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) .

Rammasun formed on May 5 as a tropical disturbance . The next day the Joint Typhoon Warning Center issued a tropical cyclone formation alert on the developing disturbance . On May 7 both the JTWC and the Japan Meteorological Agency designated the disturbance as a tropical depression , while PAGASA named the depression Butchoy . Later that day both the JMA and the JTWC upgraded the depression to a tropical storm with the JMA naming the storm Rammasun . On May 9 both the JTWC and the JMA upgraded Rammasun to a typhoon . The next day the JMA and the JTWC reported that Rammasun had reached its peak winds of 195 km / h (120 mph) and 250 km / h (155 mph) respectively , which made Rammasun a Category 4 super typhoon on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . After reaching its peak intensity , Rammasun weakened and was downgraded to severe tropical storm on May 12 , before the JTWC declared it extratropical and issued their final advisory . The JMA did not issue their final advisory until several hours later . Within Japan an estimated 10 hectares (24 @.@ 7 acres) of farmland were damaged . In all , the typhoon killed four people , injured 40 others and caused \$ 9 @.@ 6 million (2008 USD) worth of damage in both the Philippines and Japan .

= = Meteorological history = =

On May 4 , 2008 , an area of low pressure formed in the Pacific Ocean to the southeast of Yap . The next day , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) upgraded the area of low pressure to a tropical disturbance and assessed the disturbances chances of forming into a significant tropical cyclone within 24 hours as poor . This was because the developing low level circulation center was weak . Early on May 6 , the JTWC upgraded the disturbances chances of forming into a tropical cyclone within 24 hours to " fair " , as the low level circulation center had consolidated further . A Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert was then issued later that day , by the JTWC who upgraded the disturbance 's chances of becoming a tropical cyclone by the next day as good .

Early the next day both the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and the Philippine Atmospheric , Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) designated the tropical disturbance as a tropical depression with PAGASA assigning the local name of Butchoy to the depression . At this time the depression was located 790 km , (490 miles) , to the east of Mindanao in the Philippines . Later that morning the JMA started to issue full advisories on the tropical depression as forecasts showed that the depression could become a tropical storm within 24 hours . The JTWC then designated the depression as Tropical Depression 02W . Later that day both the JTWC and the JMA reported that the depression intensified into a tropical storm , with the JMA assigning the name Rammasun to the storm .

Rammasun continued to intensify and was designated as a severe tropical storm late on May 8 . The next day both the JMA and the JTWC reported that Rammasun had intensified into a typhoon . Later that day the JTWC reported that the typhoon had rapidly intensified within the last six hours and had become a Category 3 typhoon on the Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale . At the same time the JMA were reporting that Rammasun had winds of 150 km / h (90 mph) . The typhoon then continued to intensify quickly with the JMA reporting that Rammasun had winds of 160 km / h (100 mph) , the JTWC then reported that Rammasun had become a Category 4 typhoon with winds of 225 km / h (140 mph) . Later that day both the JMA and the JTWC reported that the typhoon had reached its peak winds . The JMA reported peak winds of 195 km / h (120 mph) whilst the JTWC reported that Rammasun had peak winds of 250 km / h (155 mph) , making it a category 4 super typhoon . Typhoon Rammasun 's minimum pressure was officially estimated at 915 hPa which tied with Intense Tropical Cyclone Hondo as second strongest storm of 2008 .

The JTWC kept Rammasun as a super typhoon until early on May 11 , when they reported that the typhoon had weakened into a category four typhoon , while the JMA were reporting that the typhoon had wind speeds of 175 km / h (110 mph) . Later that day both agencies reported that the typhoon had weakened even further , with the JMA reporting that Rammasun had winds of 160 km / h (100 mph) , while the JTWC reported that Rammasun had weakened into a Category 3 typhoon . The JTWC then reported within their next advisory that Rammasun had weakened into a Category 2 typhoon whilst the JMA reported that the typhoon had winds of 140 km / h (90 mph) . The next day as the Typhoon moved out of PAGASA 's area of responsibility Rammasun was downgraded to a Category 1 typhoon by the JTWC . Later that day the JMA downgraded Rammasun to a Severe Tropical Storm whilst the JTWC downgraded it to an extratropical cyclone and released their final advisory on the system . The JMA continued to issue advisories on severe tropical storm Rammasun until early the next day when they downgraded it to an extratropical low .

= = Naming , preparations and impact = =

The name " Rammasun " was one of the 10 original names submitted by Thailand to the ESCAP / WMO Typhoon Committee for use from January 1 , 2000 . Rammasun is the Thai god for thunder . The name was last used in the 2002 Pacific typhoon season , though it was retired in 2015 after Typhoon Rammasun (the same name used for the 2014 season , Typhoon Glenda in the Philippines) left considerable damages in the Philippines , China and Vietnam . The Philippine Atmospheric , Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) also assigned the local name of " Butchoy " to Rammasun ; the name " Butchoy " was last used by PAGASA to name a tropical depression in the Philippines in 2004 to name Tropical Storm 02W .

Within the Philippines , PAGASA issued no public storm warning signals , as the storm was too far away from the country to prompt the issuance of such advisories . However , they did warn that the cyclone was expected to enhance the southwest monsoon and bring rain over Central and Southern Luzon , Visayas and Mindanao .

= = = Philippines = = =

On May 12 , a father of two drowned in rough seas produced by Rammasun after saving his children . Later that day , a boat carrying 17 people capsized due to rough seas produced by the typhoon . All of the passengers were rescued the following day by the Philippine Coast Guard . Heavy rains from the outer bands of Rammasun triggered flooding and mudslides in the Philippines . Strong winds also downed numerous trees , one of which , measured at 60 centimetres (2 @. @ 0 ft) in diameter , fell on three forest guards , killing two and critically injuring the other . In Jaro , Iloilo City , a swollen river overflowed its banks , inundating the district . Local reports stated that water in the area was waist @-@ deep in places . In Cauayan , a 15 @-@ year @-@ old girl drowned after being washed away while crossing a bridge . Flooding in Hinoba @-@ an , Negros Occidental destroyed six homes and damaged 24 others . An estimated 3 @,@ 153 families were affected by the storm in the Philippines . A strong extratropical storm from the " tail " of the former typhoon struck the Philippines after Rammasun had become extratropical . The associated winds caused severe damage to buildings , and numerous trees were uprooted . The damage may have been due to a possible tornado , although this possibility is not confirmed . At least 40 people were injured and damage totaled to PHP 61 million (\$ 1 @. @ 2 million USD) .

= = = Japan = = =

On May 12 , the Japan Meteorological Agency issued warnings for the Tokyo area as Rammasun was forecast to make landfall near the city . As Rammasun became extratropical , the storm brushed the Japanese coastline on May 13 , producing winds gusting up to 85 km / h (50 mph) and high waves for several hours . An estimated 10 hectares (24 @. @ 7 acres) of farmland were damaged . Damage from the storm amounted to ¥ 770 million (\$ 8 @. @ 4 million 2008 USD) in

agricultural losses .