= Typhoon Neoguri (2008) =

Typhoon Neoguri , known in the Philippines as Typhoon Ambo , was the earliest tropical cyclone on record to strike The People 's Republic of China . The first named storm in the 2008 Pacific typhoon season , named after the Korean word for raccoon dog , it formed from a low pressure area on April 13 to the east of the Philippine island of Mindanao , and after crossing the island it intensified into a tropical storm in the South China Sea . Environmental conditions allowed for quick strengthening , with Neoguri attaining typhoon status on April 16 . The typhoon reached its peak intensity on April 18 as it approached the island of Hainan , and subsequently it turned northward . Due to increased wind shear and cooler waters , Neoguri rapidly weakened and made landfall as a minimal tropical storm in southern China on April 19 .

In the southern Philippines , the storm brought heavy rainfall , which left a person missing when a boat capsized . The typhoon left 40 fishermen missing in the South China Sea . Neoguri brought heavy rainfall as it made its final landfall on China , causing moderate damage totaling over ¥ 296 million (2008 RMB , $ 42 million 2008 USD) . Three deaths occurred in China .

= = Meteorological history = =

An area of disorganized convection persisted east @-@ northeast of Palau on April 11 in association with a sharp easterly wave , and within the system , a low pressure area was evident between Palau and Yap . Located beneath a developing anticyclone , with limited wind shear and enhanced diffluence , the system encountered favorable conditions for development . By April 13 , a low @-@ level circulation had formed and started consolidating about 260 km (160 mi) southeast of Bislig City on Mindanao island in the Philippines . At around the same time , weak rainbands began wrapping into the center . At 1200 UTC on April 13 , the JMA classified it as a weak tropical depression . Its development was impeded somewhat as it crossed Mindanao and Negros island , though the circulation consolidated while convective banding features increased . Later that day , the Philippine Atmospheric , Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) classified the system as Tropical Depression Ambo , and early on April 14 the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) classified it as Tropical Depression 02W about 300 km (185 mi north of the Zamboanga Peninsula) . Also , PAGASA declared " Ambo " at 0300 UTC April 14 to be within Dumaguete City .

The depression continued westward , along the southern periphery of a strong subtropical ridge extending from southeastern Asia to north of Luzon . After it entered the Sulu Sea , the convection and circulation continued to consolidate , while its anticyclone aloft provided excellent outflow . Based on satellite intensity estimates using the Dvorak technique , the JTWC upgraded the depression to Tropical Storm 02W midday on April 14 . At 0000 UTC on April 15 , the JMA classified the system as a full tropical depression , and six hours later the agency upgraded it to Tropical Storm Neoguri after it crossed Palawan island into the South China Sea . Shortly thereafter , the PAGASA issued its last advisory on the cyclone as the storm moved out of their area of warning responsibility .

After attaining tropical storm status , significant intensification was limited due to a slight increase in wind shear as well as impeded outflow . The slowing of the strengthening trend was temporary , and by early on April 16 the organization had rapidly improved . As a result , the JMA upgraded Neoguri to a severe tropical storm . Warm water temperatures contributed to further intensification , and an eye formed in the center of the convection . At 1200 UTC on April 16 , the JMA classified Neoguri as a typhoon about 350 km (220 mi) east of Qui Nhon , Vietnam . An approaching mid @-@ level trough turned the typhoon northwestward , which enhanced outflow and contributed to further intensification . Late on April 17 , the JTWC assessed Neoguri as attaining peak winds of 175 km / h (110 mph) , averaged over a duration of one minute , near the Paracel Islands . Early the next day , the JMA estimated Neoguri reached its peak intensity with ten @-@ minute sustained winds of 150 km / h (90 mph) , about 190 km (120 mi) east of Sanya on the southern tip of Hainan .

Typhoon Neoguri underwent an eyewall replacement cycle around the time it reached peak

intensity ; the inner eyewall collapsed , and the outer eyewall contracted to a diameter of 65 km (40 mi) . Upon attaining peak winds , the typhoon had turned northward , and the China Meteorological Administration assessed Neoguri as moving ashore along Hainan island near Wenchang . However , other agencies assessed the typhoon as tracking parallel to the eastern coastline just offshore . Land interaction and wind shear weakened the typhoon , and by April 19 it had weakened to a tropical storm . Cooler waters contributed to further weakening , causing its convection to diminish significantly and for its circulation to become elongated . After turning to the north @-@ northeast , Neoguri made landfall on Guangdong province in southern China , a short distance west of Macau as a weak tropical storm . Neoguri made landfall on China earlier than any other tropical cyclone on record , about two weeks prior to the previous record set by Typhoon Wanda in 1971 . Shortly after moving ashore , the JTWC issued its final warning as the cyclone began dissipating .

= = Preparations and impact = =

As Ambo (Neoguri) passed directly through many parts Visayas and Mindanao , PAGASA issued Public Storm Warning Signals for these areas . Signal number one was issued for southern Negros , Siquijor and Camiguin . This storm signal was later scaled back up until the storm reached Palawan and the South China Sea .

As a tropical depression , Neoguri (Ambo) brought heavy rainfall to many portions of the Philippines , including even Metro Manila . In Cebu City , the precipitation caused flooding , which forced 62 people to evacuate their houses . In the Camotes Islands , rough waves capsized a motorboat with six passengers ; five were rescued , with the other reported missing . But the storm at least alleviated for a few days the heat that has been experienced over Luzon from the past weeks . However , the storm did not stop the Palarong Pambansa (National Games in the Philippines) which was held in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan , one of the areas said by PAGASA to see stormy weather .

In preparation for the storm , about 21 @,@ 800 fishing boats in the Chinese province of Hainan returned to port , and about 120 @,@ 000 people evacuated from fish farms and low @-@ lying areas on the island . Officials halted ferry service between Hainan and the Leizhou Peninsula in Guangdong province . Offshore , 56 fishermen rode out the storm in a shelter on the Paracel Islands ; 38 people were rescued shortly after the storm , and initially eighteen people were reported missing . The eighteen missing fishermen were found thirty hours after Neoguri struck . The ship they were on had sunk , and the crew clung to debris and made makeshift rafts to survive in the waters . However , another 18 Chinese fisherman and 22 Vietnamese fisherman remain missing . On Hainan island , the storm left the city of Wenchang without power .

Along the mainland , ferry service was temporarily stopped between Hong Kong and Macau . At the Hong Kong International Airport , over 200 flights were delayed due to the threat of the storm ; additionally , around 30 were canceled , and 66 others were deviated elsewhere . The Hong Kong Observatory issued a standby warning signal on April 17 , which was the second earliest standby signal on record . One day later , the No. 3 strong wind signal was issued , the earliest in record . As it moved ashore , the storm brought heavy rainfall , with one station reporting 237 mm (9 @.@ 35 in) in one day . Strong winds downed coconut and banana trees , with agricultural damage totaling over ¥ 200 million (2008 RMB , $ 28 million 2008 USD) . Structural damage amounted to ¥ 96 million (2008 RMB , $ 14 million 2008 USD) . Three fatalities were confirmed in China , two due to a road being covered in a mud flow , and another due to winds blowing a sheet of aluminum into a person , throwing them off the roof of a stadium .