= Typhoon Meranti (2004) =

Typhoon Meranti was the first of the record nine named storms to develop during August within the 2004 Pacific typhoon season . Forming from an area of low pressure on August 3 , Meranti gradually strengthened . On August 5 , the storm underwent a brief period of rapid intensification , attaining its peak intensity later day . According to the Japan Meteorological Agency , the storm attained winds of 140 km / h (85 mph 10 @-@ minute winds) while the Joint Typhoon Warning Center reported that the storm attained winds of 165 km / h (105 mph 1 @-@ minute winds) . The following day , the typhoon quickly weakened to a tropical storm due to unfavorable conditions . By August 9 , the system completed an extratropical transition ; the remnants of the storm persisted until August 13 , at which time it was absorbed by a large , non @-@ tropical low .

= = Meteorological history = =

Typhoon Meranti originated out of an area of low pressure about 475 km (295 mi) south of Wake Island on August 2 . Little deep convection accompanied the weak system despite being situated within an area of moderate diffluence and weak to moderate wind shear . Initially , the system was thought to have been much closer to Wake Island ; however , following the development of deep convection , the location of the center of circulation was corrected . Around 0000 UTC on August 3 , the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) , the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center for the western Pacific basin , designated the system as a tropical depression . Development continued as the depression moved into an area of divergence near a tropical upper @-@ tropospheric trough cell . Several hours after the JMA issued their advisory on the depression , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) issued a tropical cyclone formation alert , stating that the system was likely to develop into a tropical storm within 24 hours .

Later on August 3 , the JTWC issued their first advisory on the storm , classifying it as Tropical Depression 14W . Located to the west of a mid @-@ level ridge , the depression was steered towards the north . Early the next day , the JTWC upgraded 14W to a tropical storm ; the JMA later upgraded it to a tropical storm around 1200 UTC . At that time , the storm received the name Meranti , a name that was contributed by Cambodia . Little intensification took place until August 5 , at which time convection became increasingly organized and underwent a brief period of rapid intensification . By 1200 UTC , both the JMA and JTWC upgraded Meranti to a typhoon . Several hours later , the storm reached its peak intensity ; the JMA assessed it to have had winds of 140 km / h (85 mph 10 @-@ minute winds) while the JTWC assessed it to have attained Category 2 status on the Saffir ? Simpson Hurricane Scale with winds of 165 km / h (105 mph) .

Upon attaining typhoon status , Meranti turned towards the northeast in response to a strengthening near @-@ equatorial ridge south of the typhoon . Visible satellite images of the typhoon depicted a small , ragged eye within a well @-@ developed cyclone . Gale @-@ force winds extended 155 km (100 mi) at this time . Well @-@ developed outflow allowed the storm to maintain its peak intensity for roughly 18 hours before dry air became entrained in the circulation . The combined effects of decreasing sea surface temperatures and increasing wind shear caused Meranti to quickly weaken . By 0600 UTC on August 6 , the eye was no longer visible on satellite imagery and several hours later deep convection rapidly diminished , leading to both agencies downgrading the typhoon to a tropical storm .

Later on August 6 , the weakening trend briefly halted as outflow significantly improved due to an area of low pressure north of Meranti . However , wind shear drastically increased , displacing convection to the northwest of the circulation center . By this time , the storm began to undergo an extratropical transition . Due to the influence of a major shortwave trough approaching from the west , Meranti took a sharp northward turn . The JTWC issued their final advisory on the weakening cyclone around 0600 UTC on August 8 . The JMA continued to monitor Meranti as a tropical cyclone until August 9 . Shortly after becoming extratropical , the remnants of the storm executed a slow , counter @-@ clockwise loop until August 12 . Shortly after crossing the International Date Line on August 13 , the storm was absorbed by a large non @-@ tropical low over the Bering Sea .

= = Impact = =

As Typhoon Meranti never threatened any land masses , no watches or warnings were issued in response to the storm . Although Meranti passed near Wake Island as a tropical depression , no effects were recorded .