= Tropical Storm Toraji (2007) =

Tropical Storm Toraji was a short @-@ lived and minimal tropical cyclone that brought inundating rainfall to areas of Southeast Asia in July 2007 . The name Toraji was contributed to the western Pacific typhoon naming list by North Korea and stands for a broad bell flower (Playtycodon gradniflorus) . The third named storm of the annual typhoon season , Toraji developed from an area of disturbed weather within the South China Sea on July 4 . As a result of its northwesterly track , the tropical depression moved over Hainan shortly after tropical cyclogenesis . Upon its emergence into the Gulf of Tonkin on July 5 , Toraji quickly intensified into a tropical storm with winds of 65 km / h (40 mph) ; this would be the tropical cyclone 's peak intensity for its entire duration . However , the JMA indicated that tropical storm intensity had been reached a day earlier . On the evening of July 5 , Toraji made its final landfall on Dongxing , Guangxi before rapidly deteriorating inland and degenerating into a remnant low @-@ pressure area by the following day .

During its two @-@ day duration , Toraji brought heavy rainfall to areas of southeastern China and Vietnam . Prior to impacting China , 147 @,@ 000 people were evacuated from potentially affected regions . In that country , the storm 's effects were spread out over a 800 @,@ 000 ? 1 @,@ 200 @,@ 000 km2 (310 @,@ 000 ? 460 @,@ 000 sq mi) area . The torrential rainfall produced by the tropical storm damaged agricultural land and destroyed several hundred homes , while damaging many more . Total damage in China was estimated at CN ¥ 73 million ($ 9 @.@ 6 million) . Despite making landfall near the border of Vietnam and China , effects in the former were generally minimal . However , several fishing boats capsized offshore ; these sinkings did not result in any deaths .

= = Meteorological history = =

In early July 2007 , an area of disturbed weather began to persist in the South China Sea roughly 155 mi (250 km) southeast of Hainan . The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) classified the system as a tropical depression at 0000 UTC on July 3 after the storm had organized sufficiently , however , other tracking agencies did not indicate that tropical cyclogenesis had occurred at the time . However , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) began to monitor the disturbance for potential signs of tropical cyclogenesis at 0100 UTC later that day , At the time , the storm system was situated in an area of weak to moderate wind shear , exposing the disturbance 's low @-@ level circulation center . Despite the prevailing conditions and proximity to land , the storm continued to organize , and as such the JTWC issued a tropical cyclone formation alert for the system at 0130 UTC the following day .

As it tracked in a general northwesterly direction , intensification continued , and both the JMA and JTWC consequently upgraded the disturbance to tropical storm intensity at 0600 UTC on July 4 , giving the storm the name Toraji . Meanwhile , the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) upgraded the same system to tropical depression status . At the same time , Toraji made its first landfall on Hainan Island . According to the JMA , the tropical storm had winds of 65 km / h (40 mph) and a minimum barometric pressure of 996 mbar (hPa ; 29 @.@ 42 inHg) . As the cyclone passed over the island , Toraji weakened marginally , and whilst the HKO and JMA maintained their prior intensities for the system , the JTWC downgraded Toraji to tropical depression status at 1800 UTC before a subsequent re @-@ upgrade as the cyclone emerged into the Gulf of Tonkin early the following day . Once over open water , modest intensification ensued , with the storm reaching peak intensity at 1800 UTC on July 4 with winds still at 65 km / h (40 mph) and a pressure of 994 mbar (hPa ; 29 @.@ 36 inHg) . Six hours later on the following day , the HKO upgraded Toraji to tropical storm intensity . After having tracked north @-@ northwestward along the western periphery of a subtropical ridge , Toraji made its final landfall near C?m Ph? , Vietnam at approximately 1200 UTC on July 5 at the same intensity . Six hours later , all three agencies downgraded Toraji to tropical depression intensity . By that time , the JTWC had ceased the issuance of tropical cyclone products on the storm . However , the JMA and HKO continued to monitor the system until 0000 UTC on July 5 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Due to the impending threat of Toraji , Chinese officials evacuated over 147 @,@ 000 people from areas potentially affected by the cyclone . Upon making its first landfall in China , Toraji became the first of six tropical cyclones to move ashore the country in the first three quarters of 2007 . The system 's effects were spread out over a region approximately 800 @,@ 000 ? 1 @,@ 200 @,@ 000 km2 (310 @,@ 000 ? 460 @,@ 000 sq mi) in area . In Guangxi , Toraji caused extensive impacts . In Dongxing , a weather station clocked gusts peaking at 120 km / h (75 mph) . Associated rains destroyed approximately 16 @,@ 600 acres (6 @,@ 700 ha) of farm and agricultural land , and the resulting flooding caused the collapse of 376 homes . An additional 946 residences sustained at least partial damage . In China , the total economic loss resulting from Toraji was estimated at approximately CN ¥ 73 million ($ 9 @.@ 6 million) .

In preparation for the tropical storm , the Government of Vietnam redirected all boats back to port in Ha Long Bay . A hundred people were evacuated from low @-@ lying areas prone to landslides . Off of Vietnam , late reports indicated that several small fishing vessels were sunk by Toraji in Qu?ng Ninh Province , located in the northern part of the country . However , no deaths resulted in these sinkings . On Bach Long Vi , a station recorded 152 mm (5 @.@ 98 in) of rain . Further inland , damage from Toraji in Vietnam remained generally minimal . Throughout northern areas of the country , an average of 155 mm (6 @.@ 1 in) of rain fell , leading to flooding and landslides . At least 27 homes were damaged and 13 others were destroyed by the storm , leaving millions of Vietnamese dong in losses . A power station at a nearby military base was also damaged during the storm , causing roughly ? 40 million (US $ 2 @,@ 240) in damage .