Haiyan’s Aftermath
The National Archives of the Philippines’ (NAP) Response

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Panel: Archivos y preparación del plan de emergencia durante desastres naturales
Title: Tifón Haiyan de 2013 y el programa de entrenamiento gubernamental en desastres
Outline of the Presentation

• Introduction
  – The Philippines
  – The NAP
  – Typhoon Haiyan and Its Effects
• Response to Typhoon Haiyan
  – NAP’s Records Recovery and Disaster Preparedness Program
  – Sustaining the Gains
• Conclusion
INTRODUCTION: The Philippines

- It is an archipelagic country in Southeast Asia composed of more than 7,100 islands.
- It is on the western edge of the Pacific Ocean.
- The country lies in both the Pacific Ring of Fire and the Typhoon Belt.
INTRODUCTION: The Philippines

- Yearly, 15 typhoons visit the country on average.
- These typhoons tend to batter the eastern parts of the country which are also places of high population density.
INTRODUCTION: The NAP

• Its primary mandate is to oversee the management of Philippine records.

• NAP also has dual function:
  – cultural;
  – administrative.

• NAP has 125 personnel to serve a country of more than a hundred million people
INTRODUCTION: Typhoon Haiyan

- Typhoon Haiyan was the 23rd typhoon that passed the Philippines in 2013 and the 9th that made landfall.
- On 08 November, the typhoon first hit the major twin islands of Samar and Leyte at 4:40 am.
- The typhoon passed over other major islands like Cebu, Mindoro, Negros, Panay, Palawan and various other places over a period of 16 hours.
INTRODUCTION: Typhoon Haiyan
INTRODUCTION: Typhoon Haiyan

• More than 16 million persons were affected.
• 6,300 were dead, 28,688 injured and 1,062 went missing.
INTRODUCTION: Typhoon Haiyan

- Damage to infrastructure was $186,000,000.
RESPONSE TO HAIYAN

• The response to help from the international community was overwhelming, and within days, aid in the form of goods and volunteers has started coming.
• In November or weeks after Haiyan, NAP tried to come but was not allowed because it was chaotic and would not be helpful at that time.
RESPONSE TO HAIYAN

- On 4 December 2017, NAP was able to send a team to Tacloban City.
- It was the first time that NAP became involved in such type of post-disaster activities.
RESPONSE TO HAIYAN

NAP Memorandum Circular No. 01 series of 2014

• On 15 January 2014, NAP issued a circular providing guidance to government officers on records recovery and disposal procedures.
RESPONSE TO HAIYAN

• From 11-14 March 2014, NAP personnel returned to Tacloban and its nearby areas.
• The team was able to visit 26 offices from four cities.
The group’s observation was that damage to the records was caused by water either from broken roofs and flood waters brought about by the storm surge.
As a long term solution, NAP crafted its Records Recovery and Disaster Preparedness Program (RRDP).
RESPONSE TO HAIYAN: RRDP Program

• 2014 was the first year of the RRDP seminar.
SUSTAINING THE GAINS

• To sustain the momentum, NAP continued the holding of seminars in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
• NAP was able to apply what it learned from its Haiyan experience when typhoon Haima struck the Philippines.
CONCLUSION

• Vacuum freeze drying of records was suggested and considered but was not adopted.
• Giving basic guidelines still remains to be the most practical thing to do.
CONCLUSION

- Programs that promote disaster preparedness and resiliency shall bring great benefits.
CONCLUSION

- There should be omnibus guidelines for archives against disasters focusing on prevention.
Thank you!
Salamat po!