

TSR LAUNCHES TROPICAL STORM TRACKER

Innovative Forecast Product Benefiting Business, Government and Society Set to Become Industry Standard

Tropical Storm Risk (TSR), the consortium of experts on insurance, risk management and seasonal climate forecasting led by the Benfield Hazard Research Centre at University College London, today announced the launch of its new Tropical Storm Tracker. The free to use Internet application is available through TSR s newly updated website www.tropicalstormrisk.com also launched today.

Developed to allow insurers and risk managers to increase their awareness of tropical storm activities and to enhance their ability to forecast more accurately the risk and loss from tropical storms around the world, Tropical Storm Tracker will also benefit other business, government and society by providing increased risk awareness of these damaging and deadly weather systems.

Tropical Storm Tracker provides real-time forecasts out to five days lead for all active tropical cyclone systems worldwide. Forecasts are updated every 6-12 hours and provide the best available information on storm position (past, current and forecast), strength, track and track uncertainty, all with various levels of zoom. TSR has an impressive forecast track record and its new Tropical Storm Tracker includes:

- Unique current and forecast 2-dimensional windfields (in knots) for all systems of at least hurricane force prior to extra-tropical transition
- Forecast windfields out to 120 hours lead
- Storm-centred zooms for current and forecast positions out to 120 hours lead
- Forecast track uncertainties out to 120 hours lead

Commenting on the product launch, Dr. Mark Saunders, the TSR lead scientist said:

Tropical Storm Tracker is arguably the leading tracker on the market and will become the industry standard. It provides at your fingertips the best available information for assessing the risk from active tropical storms worldwide. In particular, TSR s innovative display of 2-dimensional windfields will enable improved forecasting of windspeed spatial loss out to 120 hours lead.

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David Simmons, leader of Benfield's Risk Consulting Team added:

Insurers and reinsurers are always seeking information to improve their competitive needs. In today's increasing dynamic business environment having the latest and best risk information readily to hand is vital. TSR's latest innovative forecast product uses leading edge science to present in one package the very information on active tropical cyclones we need to inform and increase our competitive advantage.

Hurricanes rank above earthquakes and floods as the United States' costliest natural disaster. The annual damage bill in the continental US from hurricane and tropical storm landfalls 1926-2001 is estimated to be US \$5.3 billion (2002 \$). Typhoons are the most costly and deadly natural disaster affecting much of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines. The annual damage bill and fatality rate from typhoon impacts in southeast Asia 1990- 2000 averages respectively US \$3.3 billion (2002 \$) and 700 deaths.

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Notes to Editors

Further information about TSR can be found by following the link
<http://forecast.mssl.ucl.ac.uk/docs/TSRBrochureMay2003.pdf>

About Tropical Storm Risk (TSR):

Founded in 2000, Tropical Storm Risk (TSR) offers the best available resource for forecasting the risk from tropical storms worldwide. The venture provides innovative forecast products to increase risk awareness and to help decision making within the (re)insurance industry, other business sectors, government and society. The TSR consortium is co-sponsored by Benfield, the world's leading independent reinsurance intermediary, Royal & Sun Alliance, the global insurance group, and Crawford & Company, a global provider of risk management services. The TSR scientific grouping brings together climate physicists, meteorologists and statisticians at University College London and the Met Office.

About Benfield Hazard Research Centre:

Benfield Hazard Research Centre is sponsored by Benfield, the world's leading independent reinsurance intermediary and risk advisory business. Benfield's customers include many of the world's major insurance and reinsurance companies as well as Government entities and global corporations. Benfield employs over 1,700 people based in over 30 locations worldwide. www.benfieldgroup.com

With over forty researchers and practitioners, the Benfield Hazard Research Centre is Europe's leading multidisciplinary academic hazard research centre and comprises three groups: Geological Hazards, Meteorological Hazards and Seasonal Forecasting, and Disaster Studies and Management. The Centre is based at University College London, one of the world's leading universities and, along with Oxford and Cambridge, one of the UK's top three multi-faculty teaching and research institutions. www.Benfieldhrc.com

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