

## Quiet tropical cyclone activities over the western North Pacific in August 2014

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Normally there are about 6 tropical cyclones formed or first occurred over the western North Pacific (0-45N, 100-180E) in August, the peak of the year (Figure 1).

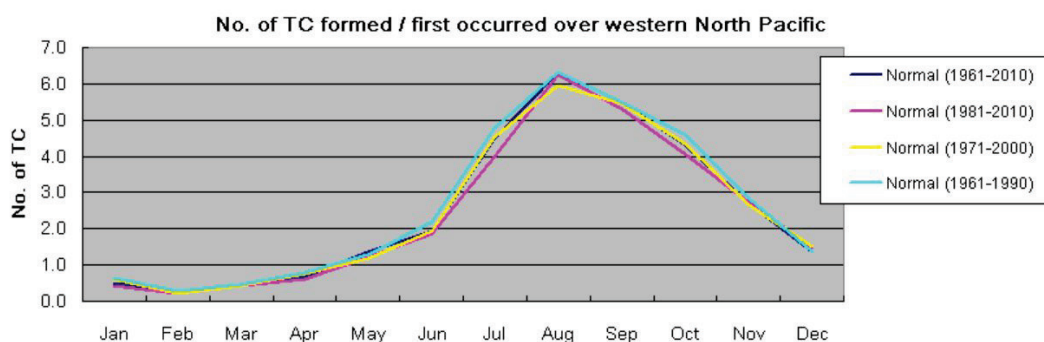


Figure 1. Average number of tropical cyclones formed or first occurred over the western North Pacific

However, August 2014 is a notable exception in which only one tropical cyclone formed or first occurred over that region which was Super Typhoon Genevieve. It formed over the eastern North Pacific, tracked westwards crossing the International Date Line and entered the western North Pacific on 7 August. There were two other tropical cyclones, Super Typhoon Halong and Severe Tropical Storm Nakri, affecting that region in August. However, they formed on 29 July and were included in the statistics for July (Figure 2).

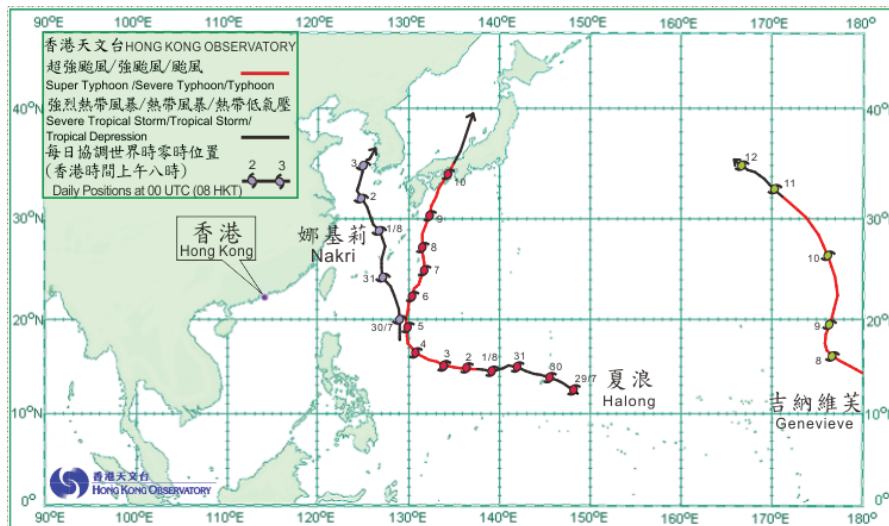


Figure 2. Tropical cyclone tracks in August 2014

In August, tropical cyclones would normally form over the western North Pacific to the east of the Philippines and the South China Sea where the southwest monsoon generated by cross-equatorial flows converges with the easterly winds over the southern flank of the subtropical ridge. However, the southwesterly winds were particularly weak in August this year and consequently convergence of airstreams at that region was weak. Moreover, the subtropical ridge was stronger than normal and was relatively south of its normal location, resulting in a subsidence airstream which suppressed the development and organization of cloud clusters over that region. These two factors were both unfavourable for tropical cyclone formation over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea.