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Typhoon Morakot Strikes Taiwan, Causing Widespread Disruption and Damage

Taipei, Taiwan — Typhoon Morakot made landfall on October 1, 2023, unleashing powerful winds and heavy rains that have severely impacted Taiwan. With winds reaching up to 120 kilometers per hour (75 mph), the storm has caused widespread flooding, power outages, and significant transportation disruptions across the island.

The Central Weather Bureau (CWB) reported that Morakot struck near Taitung early in the morning, resulting in over 400 millimeters (15.7 inches) of rain in some areas. Flooding and landslides have been particularly severe in mountainous regions, prompting the government to issue evacuation orders for high-risk areas. “Residents should remain indoors and follow local authorities’ instructions,” CWB Director Chen Wei-chen stated during a press briefing.

As of midday, more than 200,000 homes were without electricity, with utility crews working to restore power. Major roads and highways have been blocked by fallen trees and debris, leading to canceled flights at Taitung and Kaohsiung airports and halted train services on multiple routes.

Emergency shelters have been established in schools and community centers for evacuees. “We’re thankful for the quick response, but we’re worried about our homes,” said Lin Hsiu-feng, a resident seeking refuge in a local shelter.

President Tsai Ing-wen urged citizens to prioritize safety and assured that government resources were being mobilized to assist affected areas. “We are closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with local authorities,” she said.

As Morakot continues to impact Taiwan, meteorologists warn of ongoing heavy rainfall, raising concerns about further flooding and landslides. The full extent of the damage is still being assessed, and recovery efforts are expected to begin as soon as conditions allow.