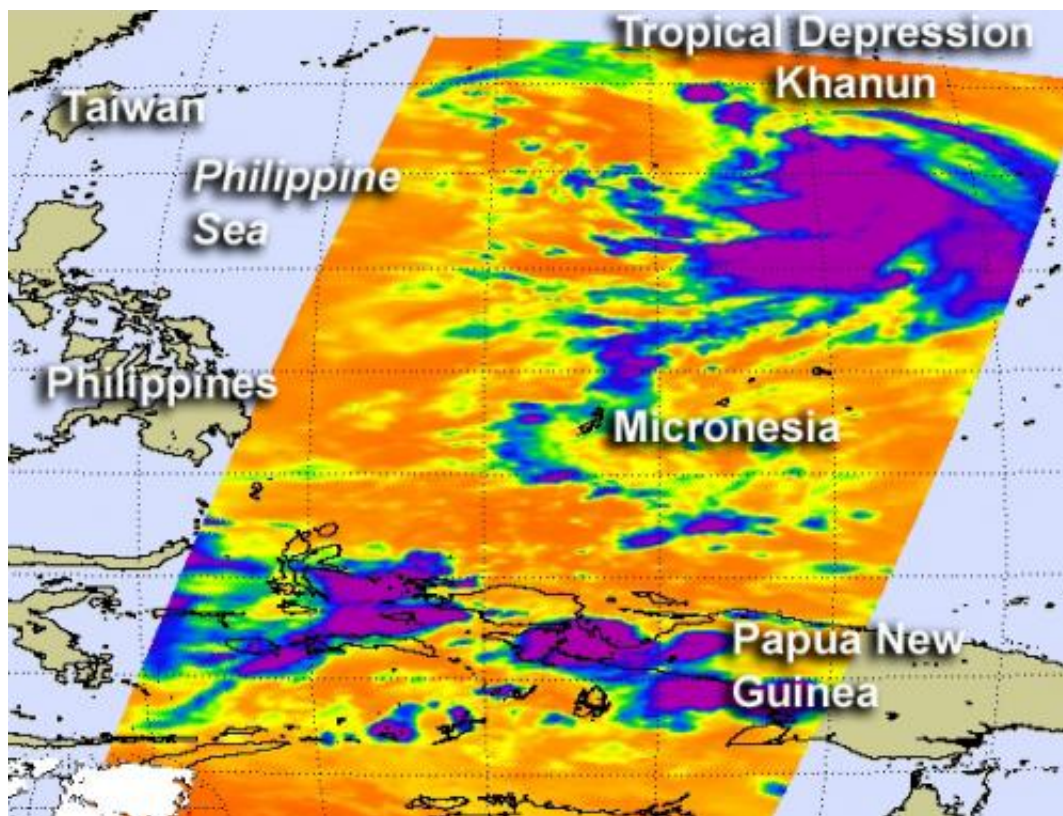


NASA satellite sees strengthening in Tropical Cyclone Khanun

July 16 2012



NASA's Aqua satellite captured a look at Khanun's cloud top temperatures on July 15, 2012, at 1635 UTC (12:35 p.m. EDT) when it was a tropical depression. Coldest cloud top temperatures (purple) were as cold as or colder than -63 Fahrenheit (-52 Celsius), indicating strong thunderstorms. That was a clue to forecasters that Khanun would become a tropical storm, which it did the next day. Credit: Credit: NASA JPL, Ed Olsen

When NASA's Aqua satellite passed over Tropical Depression Khanun on July 15, infrared data revealed some high, strong thunderstorms that hinted the cyclone would intensify. On July 16 Khanun had indeed become a tropical storm.

NASA's Aqua satellite flew over Khanun on July 15, 2012 at 1635 UTC (12:35 p.m. EDT) when it was a [tropical depression](#). At that time the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) instrument onboard measured Khanun's cloud top temperatures. The storm's coldest cloud top temperatures were as cold as or colder than -63 Fahrenheit (-52 Celsius), indicating strong thunderstorms with the potential for heavy rainfall. AIRS data also revealed that the area of strongest thunderstorms were becoming more organized, indicating that the tropical depression could strengthen into a tropical storm.

On July 16 at 1500 UTC (11 a.m. EDT), Khanun had become a tropical storm when [maximum sustained winds](#) reached 35 knots (40 mph/64.8 kmh). At that time Khanun was centered about 370 nautical miles (425.8 miles/685.2 km) east of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, near 25.4 North and 133.6 East. Khanun is moving to the west-northwest near 17 knots (19.5 mph/31.4 kmh).

[Infrared data](#) on July 16 showed the Khanun continued to consolidate and had a larger area of stronger central convection (rising air that forms the thunderstorms that make up the tropical cyclone), so the system is getting more organized and stronger. Khanun is currently in an area where [wind shear](#) is weak allowing for more strengthening.

The Joint [Typhoon Warning Center](#) expects Khanun to begin curving to the northwest and passing north of Kadena Air Base on its way to a landfall in South Korea later this week. Khanun is following the periphery of a north-south oriented sub-tropical ridge (elongated area) of high pressure building up south of Honshu. Khanun is expected to make

landfall as a tropical storm in South Korea in a few days.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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