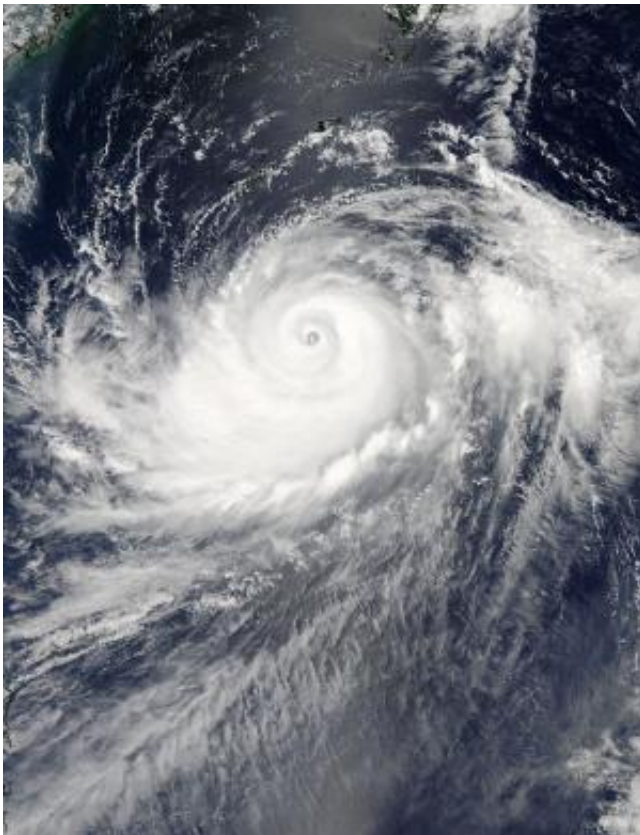


Typhoon Halong opens its eye again for NASA

August 6 2014, by Rob Gutro



Aqua captured this visible image of Halong on August 6 at 12:30 a.m. EDT as powerful bands of thunderstorms swirled into the center from the northwestern quadrant. Credit: NASA Goddard MODIS Rapid Response Team

When NASA's Aqua satellite passed over Typhoon Halong on its northern journey through the western North Pacific Ocean, it became

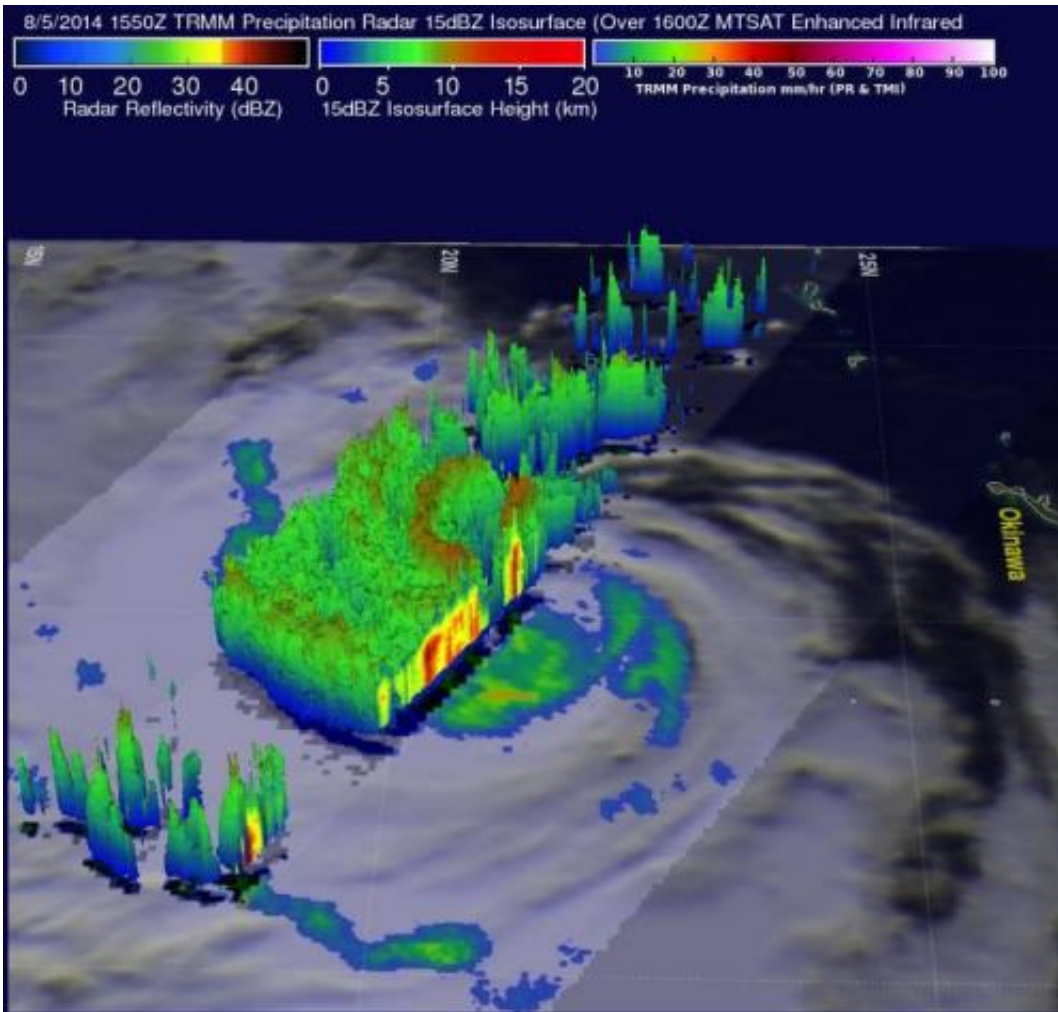
wide-eyed again after going through eyewall replacement.

Eyewall replacement happens when the [thunderstorms](#) that circle the eye of a powerful hurricane are replaced by other thunderstorms. Basically, a new eye begins to develop around the old eye and it usually indicates a weakening trend.

The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer or MODIS instrument aboard Aqua captured a visible image of Halong on August 6 at 04:30 UTC (12:30 a.m. EDT). The image showed powerful bands of thunderstorms swirling into the center from the northwestern quadrant that wrapped entirely around the cyclone. The image shows the island of Okinawa hundreds of miles north-northwest of Halong's eye.

The day before, August 5, NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) satellite saw Typhoon Halong on August 5, 2014 at 1550 UTC (11:50 a.m. EDT). Halong was still a strong violent category 2 typhoon with winds of 85 knots (97.8 mph/57.4 kph). Rainfall derived from TRMM's Precipitation Radar instrument revealed that rain was falling at a rate of over 87 mm (about 3.4 inches) per hour south of the Halong's eye.

Also on August 5, subsidence, or sinking air was inhibiting the development of thunderstorms on the northern side. Today, there has been an increase in organization of the eyewall as a band of strong thunderstorms expanded in that northern quadrant.



NASA's TRMM satellite passed over Typhoon Halong on August 5 and revealed that rain was falling at a rate of over 87 mm (about 3.4 inches) per hour south of the Halong's eye. Credit: SSAI/NASA, Hal Pierce

On August 6 at 0900 UTC (5 a.m. EDT), Halong's maximum sustained winds were still at 85 knots ((97.8 mph/57.4 kph). Halong was centered near 23.4 north and 130.7 east, about 255 nautical miles (293.4 miles/472.3 km) southeast of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. Halong has tracked north-northeastward at 7 knots (8.0 mph/12.9 kph). Halong continues to create very rough seas with maximum significant wave heights at 35 feet (10.6 meters).

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) forecasts Halong to track over Minami Daitō Jima by August 7. The Daitō Islands are an archipelago made up of three isolated coral islands southeast of Okinawa. The forecast track from JTWC then carries Halong to a landfall in Shikoku by August 9. Shikoku is the smallest of Japan's four main islands. It is located south of Honshū. All of these areas are under weather advisories. For more information about advisories in Japan, visit the Japan Meteorological Agency's website at: <http://www.jma.go.jp/en/warn/>.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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