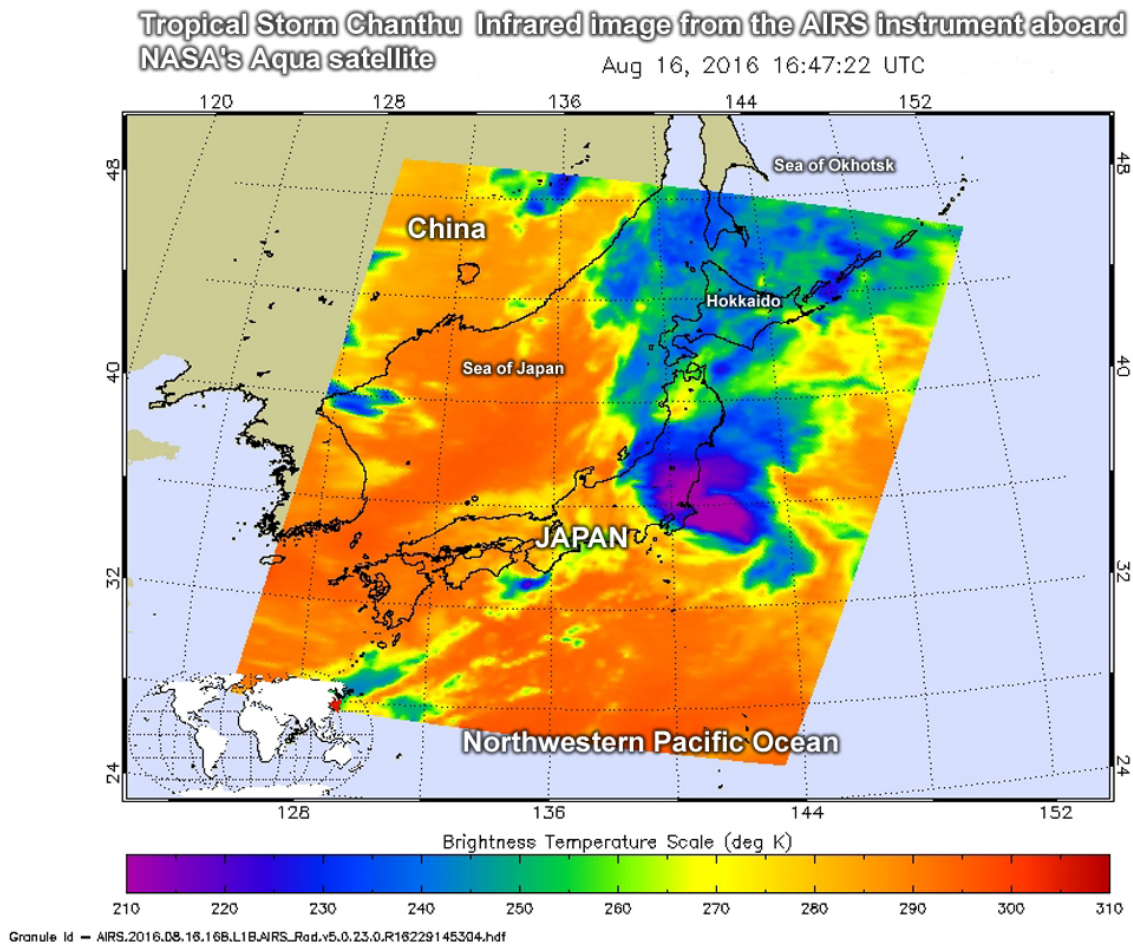


NASA sees Tropical Storm Chanthu moving over northern Japan

August 17 2016, by Rob Gutro



On Aug. 16 at 12:47 p.m. EDT (1647 UTC) when NASA's Aqua satellite looked at Tropical Storm Chanthu the storm appeared somewhat elongated over the big island of Japan, indicating it was weakening. Credit: NASA JPL, Ed Olsen

Tropical Storm Chanthu was bringing heavy rainfall and gusty winds to the big island of Japan when NASA's Aqua satellite passed overhead.

The Atmospheric Infrared Sounder or AIRS instrument that flies aboard NASA's Aqua satellite analyzed Chanthu in infrared light on Aug. 16 at 12:47 p.m. EDT (1647 UTC) gathering temperature data of the system's clouds.

Although the [storm](#) appeared elongated, strong thunderstorms were still occurring around the center of circulation although they appeared to be weakening. Some cloud top temperatures of the strongest storms exceeded minus 63 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 53 degrees Celsius). Storms with temperatures that cold are high in the troposphere and NASA research has shown they have the ability to generate heavy rain. The storm also appeared somewhat elongated from northwest to southeast, likely as a result of interaction with land.

At 11 p.m. EDT on Aug. 16 (0300 UTC on Aug. 17) the Joint Typhoon Warning Center issued their final warning on Chanthu. At that time the tropical storm was located approximately 171 nautical miles north-northeast of Yokosuka, Japan. Maximum sustained winds were near 40 mph (35 knots/62 kph). Chanthu has tracked northwestward at 15 knots (17.2 mph/27.7 kph).

The Japan Meteorological Agency noted that at 8:50 a.m. EDT (12:50 UTC) on Aug. 17, Chanthu was centered near 44.0 degrees north latitude and 143.0 [degrees](#) east longitude, over the north central part of the island of Hokkaido. Chanthu was moving to the north at 40 mph (35 knots/62 kph).

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) forecast noted that [vertical wind shear](#) is rapidly increasing (25 to 30 knots) as Chanthu tracks along the western edge of a subtropical ridge (elongated area of high pressure).

The storm is transitioning into an extra-tropical storm today and is expected to move into the Sea of Okhotsk.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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