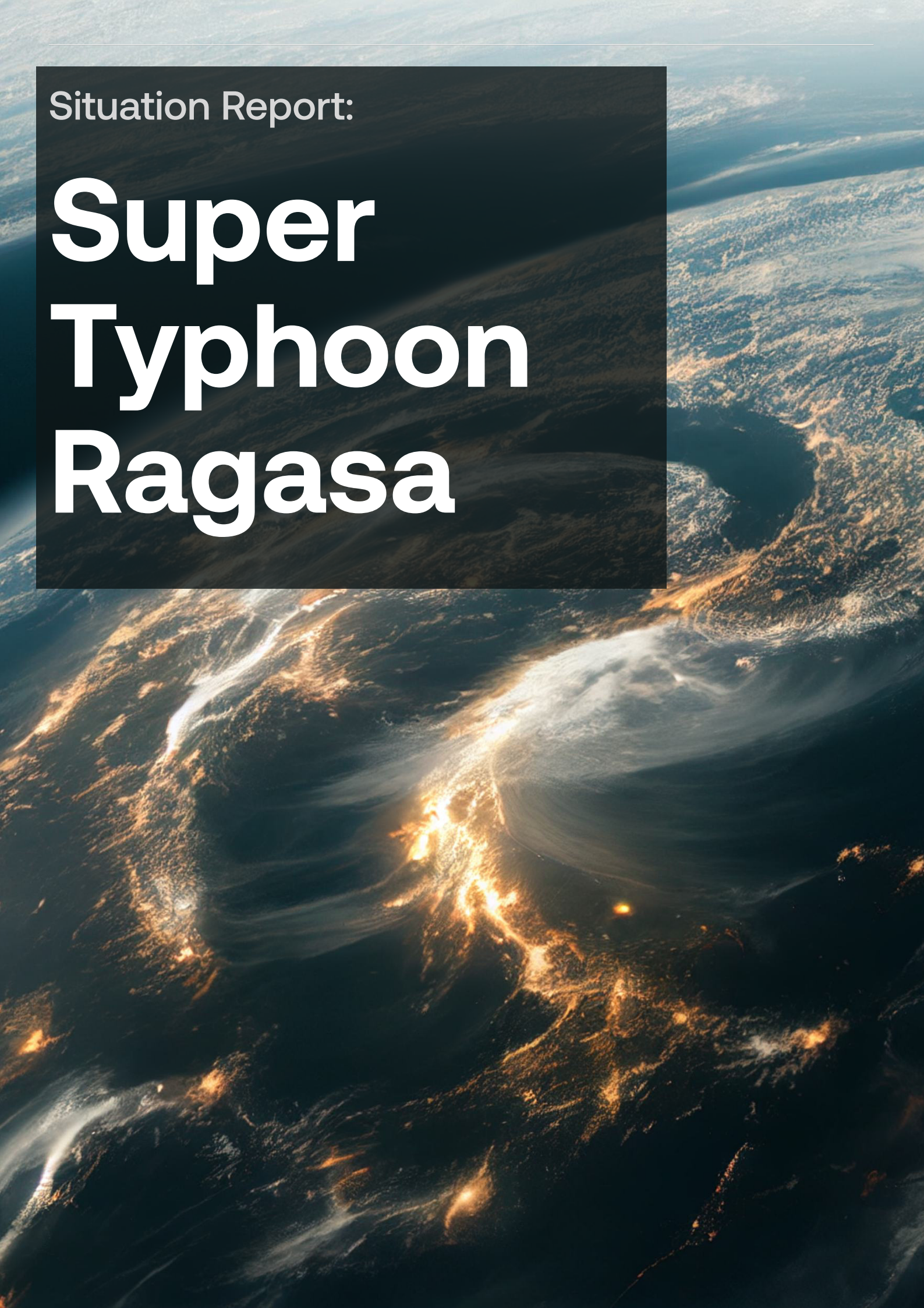


Situation Report:

Super Typhoon Ragasa



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● Executive Summary

Ragasa is battering the **northern tip of Luzon** (Batanes, Babuyan Islands, northern Cagayan, Ilocos Norte/Sur). Seas are extremely dangerous (waves 8–14 m), with life-threatening storm surge for low-lying coasts. That effectively closes the Luzon Strait/Bashi Channel, a key shipping lane between the Pacific and the South China Sea.

Taiwan has land and sea warnings in its south and east; domestic flights, ferries and parts of the rail network are suspended. Expect port pilotage restrictions and weather holds around Kaohsiung as the storm skirts the Hengchun Peninsula.

Hong Kong is preparing for a potential 36-hour suspension of all passenger flights from Tuesday evening as the storm crosses the South China Sea toward Guangdong. Guangdong authorities have activated high-level emergency measures; Shenzhen/Yantian terminals have issued typhoon advisories. Plan for short port closures across the Pearl River Delta mid-week and a multi-day vessel bunching.

Critical Areas

1. Luzon Strait / Bashi Channel (international shipping lane).

With 8–14 m seas off Batanes/Babuyan, most deep-sea traffic will reroute or be put on hold. That pinches a main corridor between the Pacific and the South China Sea. Expect schedule slippage on Asia–US West Coast, trans-Pacific backhauls, and Asia–Europe rotations using this gateway.

2. Hong Kong (air hub).

A 36-hour airport shutdown would halt regional transshipment of high-value/urgent cargo (electronics, fashion, pharma), pushing freight to Taipei, Bangkok, Singapore and Manila (limited spare capacity).

3. Northern Luzon “tip ports” and island links.

Small ports serving Batanes, Babuyan, Cagayan, and Ilocos will be weather-closed. Island communities may be temporarily cut off for cargo/fuel.

Situation and Track (September 22)

“Life-threatening conditions persist over the northern portion of Northern Luzon as ‘Nando’ passes very close to Babuyan Island,” with gale warnings and storm surge risk >3 m for Batanes, Cagayan (incl. Babuyan), Ilocos Norte/Sur. Seas up to 14 m around Batanes/Babuyan; 10–12 m along northern Cagayan/Ilocos Norte. Sea travel is risky for all vessels.”

- Taiwan: CWA land warning (Pingtung, Taitung, Kaohsiung), sea warnings (Bashi Channel, southern Taiwan Strait). Flights and ferries canceled; South Link Line trains paused.
- In the northeastern South China Sea; Guangdong is activating Level-II emergency response; Hong Kong preparing airport shutdown; HKO raising signals.”

Ports at the “Tip” of the Impact Zone (Northern Luzon)

Port (Province)	Role & typical flows	Why it matters now	Likely status (next 24–48h)
Basco (Batanes)	Lifeline port for island cargo (fuel, food, construction materials); small RO-RO and general cargo.	Only all-weather pier for Batanes; prolonged closure isolates islands.	Closed by sea state; operations resume when waves drop well below 4–5 m.
Port Irene Sta. Ana (Cagayan Freeport/ CEZA)	Regional gateway; historically used vehicles, special cargo; CEZA seeks diversified trade.	Serves the far northeast; limited shelter from northerly swells.	Weather hold / pilotage suspension likely.
Aparri (Cagayan)	River mouth/anchorage; small breakbulk (timber, aggregates), passenger craft.	Shallow bar/anchorage exposed to strong currents and surf.	Closed to small craft; anchorage unsafe in current conditions.
Currimao (Ilocos Norte)	Small seaport; being upgraded; identified to support offshore wind logistics.	Potential staging for future wind projects; exposure to NW swells.	Weather hold. Any dredging/works paused; gate/ramp closures likely.
Salomague (Ilocos Sur)	Cruise tender/RO-RO access to Ilocos; limited cargo role.	Facilities/light craft sensitive to surf.	Suspended until sea state improves.
San Fernando / Poro Point (La Union)	Regional port handling fuel, cement, fertilizers; PMO Northern Luzon HQ.	On the fringe of the warning zone; still facing rough seas (up to ~3.5–4 m).	Intermittent weather holds possible; fuel/cement berths reviewed case-by-case.

The small northern ports are not built for 8–14 m seas. Expect complete stoppage there until winds and waves settle. Basco and nearby island jetties are the most vulnerable, so fuel and food barges may be delayed a few days.

Industrial clusters in and near the impact area (Luzon)

Renewables (Ilocos Norte):

Burgos Wind Farm (150 MW) and Bangui Wind Farm (~33–42 MW) sit along exposed ridges. Turbines feather in high winds; grid trips are possible but typically brief if lines hold.

Cement (La Union):

Holcim Bacnotan integrated plant (northwest Luzon) may experience raw-material trucking and power interruptions; port weather could slow coastal shipments.

Agriculture (Cagayan Valley/Ilocos):

The corridor is a top corn and rice producer; wind/flood can disrupt harvest logistics and drying, and road washouts delay mill deliveries.

Expect brief power blips and road closures that slow cement/aggregate and farm movements. Wind farms will ride out the storm but could trip offline; they normally come back once winds normalize.

Where?	What's Happening?	What It Means
Taiwan (south & east)	Land/sea warnings; domestic flights/ferries canceled; South Link trains suspended; heavy seas in the Bashi Channel and southern Taiwan Strait.	Kaohsiung (Taiwan's largest port) typically enforces wind and pilotage thresholds; expect temporary closures or hours-long holds for vessel movements and yard work if gusts exceed limits. Petrochemical/steel plants in the Linhai/Mailiao cluster may reduce non-essential operations during peak winds but generally maintain utilities; shipments can slip a day or two.
Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao (PRD)	Level-II emergency activated in Guangdong; Hong Kong Observatory escalating signals; HKIA planning a 36-hour shutdown (Tue evening–Thu morning local). Yantian has issued a typhoon advisory; terminals across Shenzhen/Guangzhou typically suspend gate-in/moves near T8/T10 equivalents.	1–2 days of port and airport stoppages mid-week across the PRD, followed by vessel bunching and yard congestion as operations restart. Expect rollovers and new ETAs/ETDs on Asia–EU/Trans-Pacific loops that call Yantian/Shekou/Chiwan/Nansha/HK.

Impact Assessment (Today → 7 Days)

Ocean Freight (International):

- **Now–48h:** Vessels avoid the Bashi Channel; Luzon Strait temporarily choked. Feeder loops linking Taiwan–Luzon–PRD pause. Short-haul barges/RO-RO at northern Luzon ports stand down.
- **72h+:** If HK/PRD ports suspend, expect 2–5 days of knock-on delays regionally as terminals clear backlogs and pilots resume. (This timing reflects typical post-typhoon recovery observed in the PRD; exact duration depends on signal levels and flooding.)

Air Freight:

- **Immediate:** Domestic Taiwan and northern Philippines flights canceled; HKIA shutdown would disrupt Asia hub-and-spoke flows and belly cargo. Re-routes via TPE/BKK/SIN/MNL will be capacity-constrained.

Energy & Heavy Industry (Taiwan South):

- **Kaohsiung/Mailiao clusters** (steel, petrochemicals) are exposed to wind/rain; port movement limits and berth closures are the binding constraint, not plant equipment. Short shipping delays are more likely than sustained production outages.
- **Northern Luzon local economy:** Wind farms can trip; grid and distribution lines are the weak links. Cement plant logistics and farm movements (corn/rice) face road and power disruptions.

Base case (most likely):	Worse Case	Best Case
Ragasa skirts south of Taiwan, crosses to Guangdong mid-week as a very strong typhoon. HK/PRD: 1–2 days of closures, then staged re-opening; shipping schedules slip 3–7 days on impacted strings; air: rolling cancellations centered on HKG. Northern Luzon tip ports reopen as seas subside, but island deliveries backlogged.	Slower-moving or closer pass to the PRD → 2–4 days port/airport suspensions; heavier storm surge in low-lying PRD terminals → week-long yard congestion, more rollovers.	Faster westward track with less time over warm water → PRD reopens sooner; delays confined mostly to flight cancellations and 1–2 service omissions.

Consequences

- **Ocean booking teams:** assume late-week PRD berthing conflicts and revised cut-offs. Prioritize time-sensitive cargo for diversion to Xiamen/Fuzhou/Taichung/Keelung where viable; expect feeder imbalance.
- **Air logistics / e-commerce:** if HKIA suspends for 36 hours, express and belly freight flows will miss connections; expect rate spikes and rebooking queues at TPE/SIN/BKK.
- **PH domestic supply to the islands:** anticipate 2–3 days of fuel/food delivery slippage for Batanes/Babuyan, contingent on sea state falling below small-craft limits.
- **Manufacturing in south Taiwan:** Shipping windows—not factory capacity—drive risk. Plan buffer inventory and alternative sailing windows out of Kaohsiung once pilotage resumes.

Quick Guidance

1. **Ocean:** Ask carriers today for revised ETAs on strings transiting the Luzon Strait and calling PRD (Yantian/Shekou/Chiwan/Nansha/HK). Pre-approve contingency routings via Xiamen/Fuzhou or central Taiwan if offered.
2. **Air:** If your network relies on HKG transshipment, pre-book space via TPE/SIN/BKK/MNL for urgent lifts.
3. **PH domestic:** For Batanes/Babuyan and northern Cagayan deliveries, stage inventory at Tuguegarao/Laoag and re-time barges post-gale.
4. **Taiwan south (Kaohsiung/Mailiao):** Treat this as a port-access problem; align plant shipping with the first safe pilotage window and expect yard congestion on restart.