

**ICG/PTWS WORKING GROUP ON TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION
IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC OCEAN**

**First Working Group Meeting
23 September 2006, Main Conference Room,
Mendana Hotel, Hibiscus Avenue,
Honiara, Solomon Islands**

Annotated Agenda

8:30 am **Welcome and Introduction** – Ken Gledhill, Chair

This is the first meeting of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS) Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation in the Southwest Pacific Ocean (SWP-TWG). The working group was formed at the PTWS meeting in Melbourne in early May 2006. The Terms of Reference for the working group are attached. After this meeting we would like to conduct most of the business of the working group by email, but further meetings may be required. The working group will be required to report progress at the PTWS meeting in Equator in October 2007.

8:45 am **Capabilities and requirements for tsunami warning**

- Review of previous meetings

This will be a brief review of previous meetings and outcome. This can form the basis for how we move forward with the tasks of this working group.

- AUSAid project - Phil Cummins

Phil Cummins will present details on an AusAid funded tsunami hazard study which will take place over the next two years. This work fits in well with one of the Terms of Teference for this group (see attached).

10:15 am **Morning tea**

10:45 am **Action Plan – SWP-TWG**

An overall action plan for the working group needs to be developed. This can be based on previous work, particularly the recommendations of the Tsunami Awareness Workshop held in July 2004 (see attached) and the SOPAC resolutions followingsg from that. Several presentations at the 2004 STAR meeting also discussed this topic, so the abstracts from that meeting have also been attached.

The action plan should include the identification of tsunami hazard and risk as part of the decision making process, the review of the capabilities and requirements for tsunami warning in the region, capacity building and public education, as well as the more technical aspects of data collection and alert dissemination. Some of this work is already being undertaken by other organisations in the region and we must avoid duplication whilst ensuring that progress is being made. It is also important to consider tsunamis in a multi-hazard environment so that the action plan should identify how what we propose,

fits into the overall hazard reduction programme for the region (e.g. as agreed at the 12th Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting, Madang, PNG, June 2005).

A key question which should be addressed is how regional tsunami warnings will be handled in the long term. Is a regional tsunami warning system required (as a sub-region of PTWS)? If so, what form should it take and what will the relationship be between the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, any proposed regional warning centre and national warning centres? The Action Plan does not need to answer these questions, but it must define a forward path for doing so.

12 noon **Lunch**

Lunch will be provided

1 pm **Current capability presentations**

This will allow an opportunity for working group members to present a brief overview of their current capabilities, focusing on sensor networks, communications networks and the systems for disseminating warnings. Please come prepared to share information. It will probably be necessary to limit each presenter to 10 minutes.

3 pm **Afternoon tea**

3:30 pm **Action plan for station upgrades and data sharing**

We would like to formulate a detailed plan to allow the sharing of seismic and sea level data in the region. This will include planning for any required new or upgraded sites and communications capabilities, how the data will be shared and who will do what. The focus should be on how we cooperate in making sure all necessary data is available to detect tsunamis in the region. All possible scenarios for tsunami warning systems in the southwest Pacific Ocean require that the data required to detect events is freely available.

5 pm **Summary and closure**

Appendix One

RECOMMENDATION PTWS-XXI.5

WORKING GROUP ON TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC OCEAN

The Intergovernmental Co-ordination Group for the Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System in the Pacific,

Recognizing that the Southwest Pacific Ocean has a significant threat from local, regional and distant tsunamis;

Further recognizing that local and regional tsunami alerts for some areas of the Southwest Pacific are not covered by the PTWC;

Further recognizing the strategic recommendations for addressing tsunami risks in the region agreed at the South Pacific Tsunami Awareness Workshop Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji, 1-3 July 2004;

Noting the interest of Member States in the Southwest Pacific region to enhance their tsunami warning and mitigation services;

Acknowledges that a number of countries in the region are developing National Tsunami Warning Systems with already existing and planned upgrades to seismic and sea-level networks and that the PTWC provides distant tsunami warnings for the Southwest Pacific;

Further acknowledging that there may be mutual benefits to these regions and to the Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System in the Pacific from the establishment of this working group;

Further acknowledging donor support, but encourages continued effort in donor harmonization;

Decides to establish an intercessional Working Group on the Southwest Pacific Ocean with the following Terms of Reference:

1. to evaluate capabilities of countries in these regions for providing end-to-end tsunami warning and mitigation services;
2. to ascertain requirements from countries in the Southwest Pacific Ocean for the tsunami warning and mitigation services;
3. to facilitate tsunami hazard and risk studies in the region;
4. to facilitate cooperation in the establishment and upgrading of seismic and sea level stations and networks in the region, and the interoperability of these systems;
5. to facilitate capacity building and the sharing of tsunami information in the region, including the free and open exchange of data;
6. to support the development of the centre of expertise in a multi-hazards context within SOPAC in line with the SOPAC strategies for enhancing early warning in the region.

Recommends that the Group be composed of representatives from members countries of SOPAC as members and observers and including, France, the Directors of ITIC and PTWC and Chaired by the Representative of New Zealand, with vice-chairs from Fiji and Samoa.

Acknowledges that PTWS is the Co-ordination Body for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (TWSP) and **encourages** non-PTWS Member States to contact the IOC Secretariat to request membership of the ICG/PTWS.