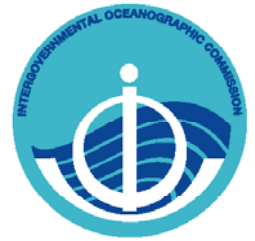




United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission



International Tsunami Information Centre

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6 March 2006

To : National Contacts PTWS;
Chairman, Vice-Chairman ICG/PTWS;
Chairman, Intersessional Working Groups for Seismic Measurements, Data
Collection and Exchange, ICG/IOTWS, ICG/CARIBE-EWS, ICG/NEAMTWS;
Federation of Digital Seismograph Networks;
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology;
Global Seismology Research Scientists;

cc : Chairman, Vice-Chairmen IOC;
Chairman, Vice-Chairman IOC Regional Committee (WESTPAC, IOCARIBE);
IOC Member States (Action Addresses) of the ICG/PTWS
Permanent Delegations/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC PTWS Member
States;
Directors of UNESCO and IOC Regional Officers in the Pacific, Indian Ocean,
Caribbean, and Mediterranean areas

Subject: **PTWS Intersessional Working Group Meeting, 15-16 March 2006**
Working Group 1: Seismic Measurements, Data Collection and Exchange

Dear Colleagues,

The XXth session of the International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (renamed Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, ICG/PTWS) hosted in Viña del Mar, Chile on 3-7 October 2005 created five Intersessional Working Groups to continue activities during the intersessional period to improve the PTWS, especially in consideration of the devastating impact of the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004. These Working Groups (WG) are:

1. Working Group 1: Seismic Measurements, Data Collection and Exchange.
2. Working Group 2: Sea-level Measurements, Data Collection and Exchange.
3. Working Group 3: Tsunami Hazard Identification and Characterization, including Modeling, Prediction and Scenario Development.
4. Working Group 4: Resilience Building and Emergency Management.
5. Working Group 5: Interoperability of Regional, Sub-regional and National Tsunami Warning Systems in the Pacific.

The Working Groups are open to all IOC Member States and invited organizations, and are convened by chairs nominated by the ICG/PTWS,

The WG 1 on Seismic Measurement, Data collection and Exchange will conduct a meeting on 15-16 March 2006 in Honolulu, Hawaii hosted by the International Tsunami Information Centre. The Objectives of WG 1 are:

1. To review and report on existing arrangements with regard to seismic measurements, data collection and exchange.
2. To advise on how best to ensure that all earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater can be reliably located and sized in a timely manner.
3. To review and make recommendations regarding upgrading and enhancements to the PTWS network, communications, processing and analysis to further reduce the time required for earthquake source characterization to meet desired warning responses.

In connection with this, the ICG/PTWS Secretariat, on behalf of the Chair of the WG 1, Dr. Stuart Weinstein of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, is pleased to invite you to this meeting.

- The meeting agenda will be technical in nature; participants should be prepared to participate in the technical discussions. The language of the meeting will be in English.
- The meeting will take place in the Conference Room of the US NOAA National Weather Service Pacific Region Headquarters, 737 Bishop St., Ste. 2200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Directions can be accessed from <http://ioc3.unesco.org/itic/contents.php?id=184>

Visa requirement

To enter the US, you will require a valid visa, please take immediate steps to obtain your entry visa.

Travel Funding

We regret to inform you that no travel funds are available for this meeting. All participants are responsible for their own transportation, lodging, and meals.

Lodging

Many hotels at all price ranges are available in Waikiki. ITIC will assist in making hotel reservations for you. Please contact Pauline Benjamin.

Transportation from Airport

The Honolulu International Airport is located approximately 25 km away from the city. Taxis and shuttle buses are located outside the Baggage Claim for transport to Waikiki Hotels.

Transportation from to/from Meeting

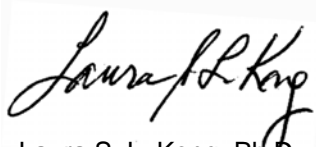
For out-of-town guests, the ITIC will provide transportation to and from your Waikiki hotel to the meeting venue.

Further questions can be addressed to

1. Laura Kong, Director, ITIC: Phone: <1> 808 532-6423, Email: l.kong@unesco.org
2. Brian Yanagi, ITIC: Phone: <1> 808 532-6424, Email: brian.yanagi@noaa.gov
3. Pauline Benjamin, ITIC: Phone: <1> 808 532-6422, Email: pauline.benjamin@noaa.gov

Please let us know soonest if you are able to participate in this meeting.

Sincerely yours,



Laura S. L. Kong, Ph.D.
Director, ITIC
ICG/PTWS Secretariat