

5.1.4 Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (ITSU)

202 The Chairman of the International Co-ordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific, Mr. Richard Hagemeyer, presented the Report of the Eleventh Session (Beijing, 8-12 September 1987). He reported that the Master Plan for an International Tsunami Warning System has been completed and now is being published by Canada. Tsunami travel-time charts for 25 locations in the Pacific have been published in the USSR. The Eleventh Edition of the ITSU Communication Plan for the Tsunami Warning System has been published and distributed by the USA on behalf of the IOC; a new edition of the Guide on Wave Reporting Procedures was prepared by the USA and is now being published by Unesco.

203 The Chairman of the International Co-ordination Group for ITSU paid special attention to recent improvements to the International Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific. He informed the Executive Council that tidal data collection is now being carried out by 27 satellite data-collection platforms. The computer capability of the Alaskan Regional Tsunami Warning Centre was upgraded and Chile, through its participation in the THRUST programme, has significantly improved the efficiency of its Tsunami Warning System. However, he expressed concern that there had been no progress in the establishment of the South East Asia Regional Warning Centre, which considerably diminishes the effectiveness of the entire Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific.

204 With assistance from the USA and the IOC, the International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) has increased the scope of its activities by preparing a glossary of tsunami-related terms, developing a complete and thorough historical tsunami data base and providing training in tsunami preparedness. The Chairman of ITSU stressed that every effort should be made to continue provision of assistance for the activities of the International Tsunami Information Centre and restated the importance of appointing an Associate Director of ITIC. He finally referred to the Recommendation of the International Co-ordination Group to modify the Mandate of the ITIC in order to improve the co-ordination between the Secretary IOC and the Director ITIC.

205 The Director of the International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC), Dr. George Pararas Carayannis, reminded the Executive Council that the membership of the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific has grown from the six original Member States to 24 at the present time with many more Pacific countries already receiving the benefits of the system and ready to join. The number of reporting stations in the System has grown from the original 13 to over 100 stations at present. The System has been made possible only because of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's involvement and of the generous contributions of the ITSU Member States.

206 The Director of the International Tsunami Information Centre then presented Dr. Oliounine a plaque in recognition of his dedicated and competent service to the ITSU programme.

207 The Executive Council expressed its satisfaction with the results achieved by the International Co-ordination Group.

208 The Executive Council accepted the Summary Report and approved the Recommendations of the Eleventh Session of the International Co-ordination Group for ITSU. It instructed the Secretary IOC to anticipate and mobilize appropriate funds for the successful implementation of the programme and to make a slight correction to the text of para. 64 of the Summary Report of ITSU-XI: the sentence

which reads "Significant test results of the system's performance" should read "significant test results of the national operational plan's performance", and to distribute a corrigendum to the Summary Report.

209 The Executive Council noted with special appreciation the co-operation with the IUGG Tsunami Commission and the Tsunami Society as well as the comment of the Chairman of the IOC Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping on the contribution of map material by the International Co-ordination Group to the International Geological/Geophysical Atlas of the Pacific Ocean, together with very valuable advice, comments and constructive criticism.

210 The Executive Council noted with satisfaction the support expressed by many Member States for the ITSU activities. The Executive Council especially acknowledged the publication of the Master Plan by Canada, the Communication Plan by the USA, the Tsunami Travel Time Charts by the USSR, and the information provided by the Delegate of the USA on the possibility of his country's hosting a meeting of the Pacific Basin nations with the objective of exploring the possibility of extending the application of the technology demonstrated by the THRUST project, provided funding for such a meeting can be secured.

211 The Executive Council expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of China for having hosted the Eleventh Session of the International Co-ordination Group in 1987 and to the Government of the Soviet Union for an invitation to host the Twelfth Session in August 1989, jointly with an International Symposium on Tsunamis of the IUGG Tsunami Commission, and with the Second Workshop on the Technical Aspects of the Tsunami Warning System, to be held in August 1989.

212 The Executive Council encouraged the International Co-ordination Group for ITSU to take an active role in the planning and implementation of the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and welcomed the decision by Unesco to invite the Chairman of the ITSU and the Director of ITIC to take part in the Advisory Expert Meeting on Unesco's Natural Hazards Programme (Unesco Headquarters, 14-18 March 1988).

213 The Executive Council adopted Resolution EC-XXI.4.

5.2 INTERNATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA EXCHANGE

214 The Chairman of the IOC Technical Committee on IODE, Dr. N.C. Flemming, reported the progress in 1987-1988 and the plans for the years to come by emphasizing that, in spite of extreme pressure on resources, a great deal of work has been done. The overriding objective of the last year has been to try to expand and strengthen the IODE System, taking into account the need to increase the number of NODCs in developing countries, and increase the skills and resources available to the System, to respond more effectively to increasing needs for oceanographic data exchange and management.

215 The IODE System now comprises 42 National Oceanographic Data Centres/Declared National Agencies, and 13 Responsible National Oceanographic Data Centres. During the last two years, 7 new NODCs have been established and 11 Member States are considering the formation of NODCs. Responsible National Oceanographic Data Centres have been accredited for MARPOLMON data, in Japan, USSR and USA, and for the Southern Ocean, in Argentina. Nevertheless, the problem of understaffing and lack of sufficient resources to fulfil the objectives of NODCs at national and international levels still exists.

Considering it timely to resume the preparation of a draft international convention on the legal status of ODAS,

Invites the organizations members of ICSPRO, and in particular IMO, WMO, Unesco and the UN Office of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to consider, jointly with IOC, the question of the establishment of a joint group of experts to carry out the preparatory work in 1988-1990;

Instructs the Secretary to bring this matter to the attention of ICSPRO at its Twenty-seventh Session;

Invites Member States to assist in carrying out the aforementioned preparatory work.

Resolution EC-XXI.4

TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM IN THE PACIFIC (ITSU)

The IOC Executive Council,

Having received the Summary Report of the Eleventh Session of the International Co-ordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific,

Considering the need to promote further the ITSU activities and to encourage support from Member States, particularly in the development of new Regional Tsunami Information Centres,

Accepts the Summary Report of the Eleventh Session of the International Co-ordination Group for ITSU;

Approves the Recommendations of the aforementioned Session, including Recommendation ITSU-XI.3 containing the amendment to the mandate of the ITIC, presented in an Annex to this Resolution, and Recommendation ITSU-XI.4 on Tsunami Programme and Priorities for 1988-1989, subject to the availability of funds;

Recognizes with appreciation the work of the International Co-ordination Group for ITSU in mitigating the effects of the tsunami hazard in the Pacific, in a manner that is relevant and consistent with the UN plans to expand its role on disaster mitigation, as illustrated by its recent resolution in support of the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR);

Requests Member States to provide appropriate additional funds to support the Tsunami Programme.

Annex to Resolution EC-XXI.4

AMENDMENT TO THE MANDATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTRE

The International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) operates with the support of the IOC and interested IOC Member States, particularly the USA. The Director ITIC should consult with the Secretary IOC on all policy issues that may have political or financial implications to the IOC.