



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

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5 February 2014

To: ICG/CARIBE-EWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) for: Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, France (St Martin, Guyane, St. Barthelemy), Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands (Saba, Sint Eustatius), Nicaragua, Panama, United Kingdom (Cayman Islands, Montserrat)

cc: Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC and Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO for Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, United Kingdom
UNESCO Offices in Guatemala, Kingston, Mexico, La Habana and San Jose
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)
International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)
Permanent Observers to ICG/CARIBE-EWS
IOC Officers and ICG/CARIBE-EWS Officers

Subject: **Invitation to Regional Training on “Strengthening Standard Operating Procedures for Tsunami Warning and Emergency Response and the Development of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS PTWC New Enhanced Tsunami Products”, Mexico City, Mexico, 1-5 April 2014**

The Caribbean and its adjacent seas, including the Atlantic, have been the source region for 11 % of the world's fatal tsunamis over history, with almost 100 tsunamis observed that have impacted 23 countries of this region. Member States of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS) must be prepared to face the dangers of tsunamis from distant, regional and local sources. While many Caribbean Member countries continue to depend primarily on the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) for the warning advice to their National Tsunami Warning Centres, the reality of the dangers posed by local and regional sources does require Member States to: (i) identify and assess their tsunami risk; (ii) improve and expand the capabilities of their National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC)/Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) and Disaster Management Offices (NDMO) in order to respond to a tsunami in a timely and responsible manner to save lives; and (iii) engage in regional collaboration to build a strong warning and mitigation system.

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TOGO

In this context, we are pleased to invite ICG/CARIBE-EWS Member States in the “**To:**” line to nominate up to two candidates to participate in a Regional Tsunami Training Workshop on Strengthening Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Tsunami Warning and Emergency Response and the Development of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS PTWC New Enhanced Products to be held in Mexico City, Mexico, 1-5 April 2014. Attached is a provisional agenda for this training that will be conducted in English, with simultaneous Spanish translation. It is recommended that one candidate should be from the National Tsunami Warning Centre that serves as the Tsunami Warning Focal Point agency (NTWC, TWFP), and one from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).

The training is being organized by the International Tsunami Information Center (Hawaii), in collaboration with the IOC ICG/CARIBE-EWS Secretariat, the Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC) and the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program (CTWP), with the support of the United States Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance USAID/OFDA, UNESCO, the Government of Mexico through its Navy Secretary (Secretaria de Marina SEMAR), the Government of Barbados through its Department of Emergency Management and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office for Barbados.

The organizers have some funding available for supporting attendance at the training, but also welcome full or partial self-funding by countries. Selected candidates receiving support from the organizers will be provided with round trip air ticket through the most economical route, and/or local transport, lodging and meals at the workshop hotel. The selection criteria of the candidates who receive funding are: a) members of the country's NTWC or NDMO; and b) responsible for and involved in tsunami warning and emergency response operations, and/or responsible for their country's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Please note that priority will be given to participants from countries that have not attended ITIC/IOC SOP trainings, as well as to partially self-funded candidates.

Nominations should be endorsed by and submitted through the country's Tsunami National Contact (TNC). It is desirable that where possible the NTWC and NDMO of each country attend together, and ideally, successful applicants will have participated in Exercise Caribe Wave 2013 and or 2014 which introduced the PTWC Enhanced Products.

On Day 1, each country is expected to provide a 10-minute clear summary of the current state of their tsunami warning, alert and response systems, including an outline of the Standard Operating Procedures. More information and documents will be made available through the website <http://www.ioc-tsunami.org/ITP-CAR3>.

Please forward the attached form duly completed by each nominee and a CV, by email to Alison Brome (a.brome@unesco.org), CTIC Director (a.i.), with copy to Laura Kong (laura.kong@noaa.gov), Director, International Tsunami Information Center, by Wednesday 19 February, 2014. Selected candidates will be notified by Wednesday 26 February, 2014.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

Enclosures:
Provisional Agenda
Application Form