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اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

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- To : Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs),
National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs), and
Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group of
the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS)
- cc. : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC,
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO, and
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Director Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)
Director, Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC)
Director, South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (SCSTAC)
Director, International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)
ICG/PTWS Officers
ICG/PTWS Steering Committee

Subject: PTWC Interim Procedures and PTWS products for Tsunamis developed after the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai Volcano event (User's Guide and informational webinar on 6 September 2022)

The massive explosion on the volcanic island of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai (HTHH), about 30 km (19 mi) south-southeast of Fonuafo'ou island in Tonga, on 15 January 2022 at about 4:14 UTC, generated a tsunami that caused damages locally, regionally, and across the Pacific.

This was the first time that the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) had to respond to such an event, since its system is primarily focused on earthquake-generated tsunamis representing nearly 90% of the past cases of tsunami in the world.

Following this event and with reference to the information provided in the IOC [Circular Letter 2877](#) regarding the launch of an IOC Post-Event Assessment for the HTHH volcanic eruption and tsunami, we are pleased to confirm that nearly all Member States of the ICG/PTWS did respond to the online survey. The results of this assessment will be published by 30 September 2022.

In response to the HTHH volcanic explosion and tsunami, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS) established a Task Team on Tsunami Hazard Response and requested it to prepare a PTWS Interim Volcanic Tsunami Alert

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Procedures Implementation Plan (its terms of reference can be found in the following link <https://oceanexpert.org/downloadFile/50388>).

This Implementation Plan (version 1.1) was disseminated by [IOC Circular Letter 2882](#) of 16 March 2022. It describes interim Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for responding to the possibility of future tsunamis originating from volcanic eruptions or processes similar to the HTHH event. Effective from 15 March 2022, the SOPs are being implemented by the PTWC acting as a Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) in the PTWS.

The Task Team has now developed the “Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha`apai type” Volcanic Tsunami Hazard Response: PTWC Interim Procedures and PTWS Products User’s Guide attached hereafter. The PTWC interim procedures and PTWS products, have been reviewed by the ICG/PTWS Steering Committee and subsequently approved by the Chair of the ICG/PTWS on 25 July 2022.

In order to brief Member States on the HTHH PTWC interim procedures, the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) is organizing an informational webinar on 6 September 2022 at 2200 UTC. Should you wish to participate to it, please use the following link to connect to the webinar: <https://meet.goto.com/ITIC/ptws-hthh-webinar-6-sep-2022> – Access Code: 235-383-141.

Further information on the webinar and registration is through the meeting web site: <https://www.oceanexpert.org/event/3613>

The IOC Secretariat remains at your disposal to answer your comments and questions on the attached document. Please send your questions and comments to: a.haidar@unesco.org

With my assurances of the highest consideration, I remain.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha`apai Volcanic Tsunami Hazard Response: PTWC Interim Procedures and PTWS Products – User’s Guide, Version 1.3, 25 July 2022