

OPENING CEREMONY, April 20, 2015

Dr. Ken Gledhill, Chair, ICG/PTWS

Colleagues and friends

On behalf of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS), welcome to our 50th Anniversary Symposium!

In my view the primary reason for the symposium is celebration:

- Celebration of our history
- Celebration of our contribution – both in the Pacific and globally
- Celebration of our future potential

The establishment of PTWS in 1965 was an amazing achievement showing great foresight – very worth celebrating.

50 years of saving lives in the Pacific!

Our contribution to the formation and development of the tsunami warning capability globally is very significant.

Over the last few years we have moved to using threat-based tsunami forecast models.

Looking back and celebrating our achievements is necessary and rewarding, but I challenge this symposium and all of you to “look back so we can look forward”.

What are our next BIG challenges and achievements? What will be our legacy in another 50 years?

All I can say now is:

Watch this space!

I have very high expectation for the next two days!

Have a great Symposium!