

International Tsunami Symposium Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System: Making the Pacific Ready for the Tsunami Threat, 20-21 April 2015

Opening message on behalf of IOC by Prof. Yukata Michida

Dr. Laura Kong, the International Tsunami Information Center, Dr. Vasily Titov, the Chair of the Tsunami Commission of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, Dr. Ken Gledhill, the Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, Lieutenant General Anthony Crutchfield, Deputy Commander of US Army, Brigadier General Arthur Logan, Adjutant General of the US Department of Defense,

Invited experts from the world, tsunami related scientists and policy makers, ladies and gentlemen,

- It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the IOC Officers I would like to provide some remarks at this opening ceremony of the 50th anniversary symposium for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS). It is also a great honor to me to be here with all of more than 150 participants from more than 30 countries, and to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of PTWS today.

Firstly I would like to thank the local organizer and the Government of US for hosting such an important event.

- As Chairman of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS) I have been a privileged observer of past and recent developments of the PTWS, particularly since 2011 when I was elected as one of the Vice-Chairs of IOC and was asked to lead the tsunami programmes as the responsible officer of the IOC.

- The Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System has indeed contributed substantially to the current global services for tsunami warning and mitigation, sharing its high level of expertise and long experience in developing standards.

- This has been the case for example in the development of Standard Operating Procedures but also in the area of Post Tsunami Field Assessments, and many others.

The two Tsunami Service Providers in the Pacific also generously covered the Indian Ocean with an interim Tsunami alert service from 2005-2013.

- I have noticed the landmark in the development of the system in the Pacific with the introduction on 1st October 2014 of Enhanced PTWC products for the PTWS, which is a significant upgrade in the level of services provided. The transition to these new products is also a consequence of the improvements in the detection networks (increase in observation network, sampling, improved data transmission) and the enabling research and development. – All manifestations of the investments that several countries in the Pacific have made towards the PTWS.
- I also know that in the near future the ICG/PTWS intends to reinforce the work in the area of tsunami evacuation mapping and tsunami modeling. That is an avenue that other ICGs likely also will want to explore.
- The PTWS continues to be a source of inspiration to the work of IOC in the area of tsunami preparedness and I would like to wish you a very successful work and long life to the PTWS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We need to keep going toward better and sustainable tsunami warning and mitigation system in the Pacific based on the excellent achievements done by PTWS for the last 50 years. I hope we will be able to obtain constructive conclusions based on the discussions during the 2-days symposium. They are conveyed to the **th Session of ICG/PTWS following the Symposium this week for further practical discussions there.

I also like to join the discussions during the Symposium.

Thank you all.