

Theme 3: Awareness & Response

Summary

Keynote topic 1 Mylene Villegas, Chief, Geological Disaster, Awareness and Preparedness, Philippines Institute of Seismology and Volcanology

Community Education and Awareness

- Preparedness for local tsunami in Philippines – language, political challenges.
- Partnerships essential
- Community based Pilot sites
- Community base EWS for local events
- Dept of Education involved.
- Education material developed since 1997
- Survivor stories (Japan)

Keynote topic 2 Vinnie Atofau Jr, Manager, Territorial
Emergency management Coordinating Office, American Samoa

Tsunami Emergency Response and Evacuation

- Video to introduce ASDHS
- Pre-2009 capacity
- Post-2009 capacity
- Elaborates on the Outreach Program: Schools, churches, Govt agencies, ethnic groups, villages, business, radio, TV, markets, live, brochures, newspapers.
- Training & drills

Keynote topic 3 Kevin Miller, Earthquake and Tsunami program, California Office of Emergency Management

Boat Harbors and Shipping Ports During Tsunamis

- Tsunami maritime safety planning: in-harbor hazard maps, off-shore safe depth evacuation zone; national policy
- Explained project in the context of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Programme
- Validation of modelling through 2011 event observations
- Duration of currents feeding into 'scenario playbooks'
- Found beyond 30 fathoms depth = safe for distant events; Oregon = 100 fathoms for local events, Cal follows that.
- Commercial vs recreational boating.

Keynote topic 4 Julie Leonard, Regional Advisor, USAID OFDA, Latin America and the Caribbean

Post-event Response Relief and recovery and Humanitarian Assistance- mandate and Roles of PACOM and USAID/OFDA

- Emphasised the importance of Preparedness in-country and with response partner agencies.
- Background, mandate & criteria for response – OFDA
- Explained DART & RMT
- Base response on Incident Command System
- Special capabilities
- Response partners- US (inter agency agreements); international; NGOs
- Highlighted relation with and role of Dept of Defense

Discussion Questions

1. What are the common Awareness and Response challenges, or successes, in relation to tsunami and what can the PTWS do to support member states in this regard?
2. What measures can countries take to facilitate effective public awareness and disaster response? What percent of a country's tsunami budget, or tsunami program, should be spent on public awareness and education?
3. How can communities be more involved in tsunami risk mitigation?

Rick Bailey

- Message from IOTWS: most advanced warning systems won't be effective if communities do not know what to do.
- Requires education, preparedness, response
- PTWS to consider Capacity assessments in countries to establish benchmarks
- Develop KPIs for national status/capacity

Dr Wilfried Strauch

- Talked about personal experience 1991 Nicaragua earthquake & tsunami.
- Public demanded protection. Re- assessed awareness approach
- Challenge to secure resources- built tsunami into other seismic work (earthquake & volcanic).
- Now successful, the hazard risk is understood and donors coming forward

Dr Sun-Cheon Park

- Explained historical tsunami for S. Korea.
- Tsunami drills in local areas along the Eastern Coast
- 12 S.Korean casualties and 8 missing in 2004 tsunami showed education also required for travellers that go overseas.
- Poster explains work underway.

Conclusion

- “The last mile”? = Our world!
- The real world = “First in the line of fire” (flood)
- Think about our task from the real world perspective & needs:
 - Support time - what would be effective warnings from a time perspective (time needed to take effective action)?
 - Support appropriate action - what do they need? (education, mapping, design, evac routes & drills, vertical evacuation etc)



So:

- We have become fixed in our approach - starting from the wrong end!
- This symposium tells us:
 - The test for what we do in PTWS should start with understanding what our communities need and then consider how our capacities stack up to that.
 - The time has come to reconsider our approach – turn it around!
 - Establish benchmarks & KPIs to support this.
 - Then we will be in the best position to plan and focus our limited resources to best effect.