

Recommendation ICG PTWS-XXII.4

**PACIFIC-WIDE TSUNAMI EXERCISE**

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System,

**Noting** that the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004 brought to the attention of the world the urgent need to be more prepared for such events,

**Understanding** that simulating scenarios and learning lessons from such exercises is an effective way to improve preparedness,

**Recognizing** that the PTWS requires regular testing and review,

**Recommends** that the second end-to-end tsunami exercise be carried out for the Pacific Ocean during the third quarter of 2008, with a final report of results written before the next ICG Session;

**Decides** that a Task Team be formed to design and carry out the exercise and bearing in mind the following elements:

- (i) Membership of the Task Team for organizing the exercise should include representatives from PTWC, WC/ATWC, NWPTAC, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and ITIC
- (ii) The exercise should simulate each country being put into a warning situation requiring decision-making and be taken to the step just prior to public-notification
- (iii) The scenario to be exercised will be a destructive tsunami generated off the northeast coast of Japan and crossing the Pacific. It will be simulated with notification by PTWC and other warning centres such as WC/ATWC and the NWPTAC to the designated contact points and national emergency authorities of the Member States responsible for tsunamis
- (iv) The scenario will be conducted in real time
- (v) Member States be strongly encouraged to participate
- (vi) Due care be taken so as not to inadvertently alarm the public; a most conservative approach may be best, considering this will only be the second such Pacific-wide exercise
- (vii) Member States share information about the Pacific Wave 06 exercise as well as past National or Sub-National tsunami exercises prior to this exercise
- (viii) Participating Member States be required to share information regarding the procedures applied and lessons learned during the exercise
- (ix) The details of the exercise, as well as its set of outcomes and performance measures be defined in advance, taking into consideration when possible, the results of the Member State assessments; outcomes and performance measures should be collected using a standard instrument and at a minimum include:
  - a. How each Member State received the warning (e.g., GTS, fax, e-mail)?
  - b. Elapsed time between when the bulletin is issued and when it is received and recognized
  - c. What assessment tools are applied for decision-making about evacuations?
  - d. How the public would be notified and instructed?

- e. Elapsed time until the public would be notified and instructed
  - f. Summary of each Member State's National Emergency Plan for tsunamis, including any chapters on exercises
  - g. Feedback from stakeholders regarding their performance and the performance of the information providers
  - h. Media response;
- (x) ICG/PTWS National Contacts will be responsible for collecting results of their Member State and providing them to the Task Team by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008
- (xi) A formal letter announcing the exercise and providing its details should be composed by the Task Team and sent by the IOC as a Circular Letter to TNC and TWFP no later than 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008

This exercise is the second exercise in a pattern of recurring exercises to be conducted by the ICG/PTWS;

**Requests** that resources be made available from the IOC and Member States to facilitate organizational and follow-up meetings, and a contractor to help facilitate the debriefing process and quickly assemble the report.

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Financial implications: US\$ 5,000 in 2008