



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO – 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France
<http://ioc.unesco.org> - fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 58 12 - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 39 83/84
E-mail: v.ryabinin@unesco.org

IOC Circular Letter No 2655
(Available in English only)

IOC/VR/TA/BA/ba
23 January 2017

- To :** ICG/PTWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) for China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and relevant authorities in Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia
Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)
Director, Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC)
Director, International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)
- cc. :** Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC
Permanent Delegations/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
ICG/PTWS Chairs and Vice-Chairs
IOC Officers

Subject: Test of the South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center Products (SCSTAC) during Pacific Wave 2017 (PacWave17), 15-17 February 2017

At its 26th session, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS-XXVI, Honolulu, United States of America, 22–24 April 2015) approved the conduct of Exercise Pacific Wave 2017 (PacWave17) during the first Quarter of 2017. The exercise intends to support the development of improved tsunami products and procedures, including the Enhanced Products of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and the Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC) of the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). See [IOC Circular Letter 2636](#) for the announcement of the PacWave17 Exercise.

The ICG/PTWS Steering Committee, at its meeting on 27 June-1 July 2016, Honolulu, United States of America, considered the progress of South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (SCSTAC) Tsunami Advisory Products, and agreed to take the opportunity to include testing of the SCSTAC products during PacWave17. At its second meeting on 24-25 October 2016 in Beijing, China, the Task Team on the Establishment of the SCSTAC (TT-SCSTAC) agreed to participate in the PacWave17 Exercise to test the SCSTAC products.

Exercise Aim: In accordance with the Implementation Plan of the SCS Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System¹, as well as the Action Plan of TT-SCSTAC 2016², the aim of the exercise is to

¹ ICG/PTWS-WG-SCS-II/3 Annex IV

² ICG/PTWS-WG-SCS-V/3, Rec. 5

Chairperson

Prof. Peter M. HAUGAN
Director, Geophysical Institute
University of Bergen
Allegaten 70
5007 Bergen
NORWAY

Executive Secretary

Dr Vladimir RYABININ
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Mr Stephen P. HALL
Head, International and Strategic
Partnerships Office
National Oceanography Centre
European Way
Southampton SO14 3ZH
UNITED KINGDOM

Dr Alexander POSTNOV
Deputy Director
State Oceanographic Institute
ROSHYDROMET
6, Kropotkinsky Lane
119034 Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Ariel Hernan TROISI
Head, Oceanography Department
Navy Hydrographic Service
Av. Monte de Oca 2124
C1270ABV Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA

Dr Somkiat KHOKIATTIWONG
Senior Marine Biologist
Phuket Marine Biological Center,
Dept of Marine and Coastal Resources
51 Moo 8, Sakdidej Rd.
Wichit, Mueang District
Phuket 8300
THAILAND

Dr Ashley S. JOHNSON
Director, Oceans Research
Department of Environmental
Affairs
Foretrust Building
M. Hammerslaght Way
Foreshore
SW Cape 8000 Cape Town
SOUTH AFRICA

test the Tsunami Advisory Products for the South China Sea region Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.

Exercise Objectives

Objective 1: Test communications among SCSTAC and each National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) in the region,

Objective 2: Test whether the SCSTAC products are interpreted by Member States accurately.

Date and Conduct of Exercise

Test of SCSTAC products will take place during the period 15-17 February 2017. A Tabletop Exercise is recommended. In coordination with ICG/PTWS Task Team on PacWave Exercise, the SCSTAC advisory products for the exercise will be posted at www.pacwave.info.

Exercise Scenario

According to tectonic settings and historical events within the SCS region, as well as exercise scenarios proposed by ICG/PTWS Task Team on PacWave Exercise, SCTAC products for two scenarios will be provided:

- a Mw 9.0 great earthquake at Manila Trench and,
- a Mw 8.5 earthquake at North Sulawesi Trench.

The Manila Trench scenario would mostly affect Brunei Darussalam, China, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The North Sulawesi Trench scenario would mostly affect Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines. Participating countries should choose only one scenario to exercise.

Exercise documents

Detail on the SCSTAC Tsunami Advisory Products is enclosed hereafter. The Manual on SCS Sub-regional Tsunami Exercise for Introducing and Testing SCS Tsunami Advisory Products is also attached to this letter. An electronic version will be posted on the exercise website (www.pacwave.info). The Exercise Manual contains details on the two scenarios, the Master Schedule of Events List (MSEL), and the post-exercise evaluation questionnaire. Exercise messages for Mw 9.0 scenario at Manila Trench and Mw 8.5 scenario at North Sulawesi Trench will also be posted on the exercise website (www.pacwave.info).

Post-exercise Evaluation

With the assistance of the ICG/PTWS Task Team on PacWave Exercise, a post-exercise evaluation will be conducted with the participation of the SCS regional Member States. To meet the objectives of SCS sub-regional exercise, a special survey section for the SCSTAC will be created on www.surveymonkey.com to highlight the feedback of NTWCs and TWFPs on the SCSTAC Tsunami Advisory Products. All participating countries are asked to complete the official PacWave17 Exercise Evaluation Form by 27 February 2017. A preliminary summary report will be prepared for the 6th SCS Regional Working Group Meeting scheduled on 1-3 March 2017.

National Contact Nomination for PacWave 17

The SCS-WG Member States are strongly encouraged to participate in the exercise to test the SCSTAC Tsunami Advisory Products. The deadline set in Circular letter 2636 for nominating the National Contact for PacWave17 has now passed. SCS-WG Member States which have not nominated National Contact yet, we now seek your nomination and confirmation of the accuracy of existing points of contact for the receipt of messages from the Tsunami Service Providers PTWC, NWPTAC and SCSTAC.

I would be grateful if you could provide the details of your PacWave17 National Contact by 5 February 2017 to the ICG/PTWS Technical Secretary through email to b.aliaga@unesco.org, with copy to laura.kong@noaa.gov, jo.guard@dpmc.govt.nz, hokusei@eqvol2.kishou.go.jp and yuanye@nmefc.gov.cn.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain, yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2):

Tsunami Advisory Products for the South China Sea Regional Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System

SCS Sub-regional Tsunami Exercise for Introducing and Testing SCS Tsunami Advisory Products during PacWave 17