

Side-Event Meeting on Tuesday, 28th March 2006

Tsunami Early Warning Strengthening project in the Indian Ocean *Partnership for Building Resilience to Tsunamis*

Recognizing the urgency to mobilize efforts and resources towards establishing an early warning system for the Indian Ocean region, a multi-partner, multi-donor initiative **“Evaluation and Strengthening of Early Warning Systems in countries affected by the 26 December 2004 Tsunami”** was launched in early 2005 with funding through the UN Flash Appeal for the Indian Ocean. The initiative has provided **an overall integrated framework** for strengthening early warning systems in the Indian Ocean, and has been focusing on key components that include core system implementation, integrated risk management, public awareness and education, community-based approaches, and coordination and partnership building.

Significant progress towards key objectives has been achieved as follows:

- ✓ Establishment of the core technical elements of a regional tsunami early warning system is on track and to be completed by July 2006.
- ✓ Coordination of joint efforts in the region linking the tsunami warning system to other hazard warning systems and to disaster management institutions.
- ✓ Significant progress towards awareness raising and capacity building in advocacy with effective engagement of the media and non-governmental organizations.
- ✓ Provision of an example of an integrating vehicle for supporting the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters*.
- ✓ Engagement of a wide range of partners and donor contributions bringing an added-value to the diversity of activities, and a more coordinated and coherent approach to the problem, thus extending the reach and effectiveness of inputs and resources.
- ✓ Development of a **“Strategy for Building Resilience to Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean for 2006-2008”** to ensure sustainability and integration of disaster risk reduction in development planning.

During the 3rd **International Conference on Early Warning (EWC III)**, a side-event on tsunami early warning is organized to brief participants on progress towards strengthening tsunami early warning systems in the Indian Ocean, and provide a forum to exchange information and experience with regard to implementation of activities and delivery of results at the regional, national, and local levels. Participants will discuss future prospects for partnership towards building resilience to tsunamis in the Indian Ocean region.

The tsunami side-event meeting will take place on Tuesday, 28th March, 2006 from 14:00 to 15:00 in the EWC III conference venue, Room I. **The following agenda is proposed:**

- 14:00 Tsunami early warning project "Past - Present - Future", *Reid Basher, UN/ISDR – Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning*
- 14:05 Tsunami hot spots and risk assessment, *Professor Fumihiko Imamura, Tohoku University, Japan*
- 14:10 Regional tsunami warning systems and intergovernmental process, *Ulrich Wolf, UNESCO-IOC*
- 14:15 National and local tsunami early warning systems, *Juan Carlos Villagrán, UNU-IEHS with Sri Lanka Deputy Director of the Meteorological Department & Director of Geological Survey Department*
- 14:25 Making early warning more effective: Lessons from Tamil Nadu, *Professor Debarati Guha-Sapir, WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Catholic University of Louvain.*
- 14:30 Open forum for comments and discussion