



**FIRST SESSION OF THE IOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL CO-ORDINATION GROUP
FOR THE TSUNAMI AND OTHER COASTAL HAZARDS WARNING SYSTEM FOR
THE CARIBBEAN SEA AND ADJACENT REGIONS**

(United Nations House, Bridgetown, Barbados, 10-12 January 2006)

To prevent loss of life and destruction of property, and mitigate against catastrophic economic impacts, the people of the Caribbean region have an immediate need for a Coastal Hazards Warning System linked to the soon-to-be-established Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The primary purpose of the system will be to provide timely and accurate forecasts and warnings of coastal flooding and associated hazards due to tsunami, storm surge and hurricanes.

Considering conclusions reached at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 19–22 January 2005) and UNESCO/IOC call to establish a Global Tsunami Warning System within the Global System of Systems (Ref. UNESCO DG speech 31.01.2005, Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements, Phuket, Thailand and Ref. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5), the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) through its IOCARIBE-Sub-Commission and jointly with UN-ISDR, WMO and UNEP CAR-CU organized the "International Conference for the Development of a Tsunami and Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean Sea and Adjacent Regions" in Mexico City, Mexico, from 1 to 3 June 2005. In line with the recommendations of the Communiqué adopted at this international conference, the 23rd session of the UNESCO/IOC Assembly adopted IOC Resolution XXIII-13, by which it decided to establish an Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions.

Following with the implementation of Resolution mentioned above, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) jointly with WMO and ISDR is convening the **First Session of the IOC Intergovernmental Co-ordination Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean Sea and Adjacent Regions** to be held in the United Nations House, Bridgetown, Barbados, 10-12 January, 2006.

Objectives:

1. To coordinate the activities of the tsunami and other coastal hazards system;

2. To organize and facilitate as appropriate the exchange of seismic, sea level and other data at or near real-time and information required for the interoperability of the tsunami and other coastal hazards system;
3. To promote the sharing of experience and expertise related to tsunami and other coastal hazards warning and mitigation for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions Basin;
4. To promote tsunami and other coastal hazards research;
5. To promote the establishment and further development of national tsunami and other coastal hazards warning and mitigation capacities in accordance with standard protocols and methods;
6. To develop, adopt and monitor implementation of work plans of the tsunami and other coastal hazards warning system in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, and to identify required resources;
7. To promote implementation of relevant capacity-building;
8. To liaise and coordinate with other tsunami and other coastal hazards warning systems;
9. To liaise with other relevant organizations, programmes and projects;
10. To promote the implementation of the ICG within a multi-hazard framework;
11. To keep under constant scrutiny the status of the system and how it satisfies the needs

Countries and Territories of the Region (30): Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Salvador, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America and Venezuela.

Participating Agencies: IOC / UNESCO, WMO, UN-ISDR, UNEP (CAR/CU)

Participating Regional Agencies: CARICOM, CDERA, CEPREDENAC, OAS

Other International Agencies and invited countries: IHO, IMO, IADB, CDB, WB-GEF, USAID, USA, PADF, CARICOM, PAHO, Caribbean Tourism Organisation, Canada, Japan, Norway.

Major IOC/IOCARIBE Programmes and Groups and Bodies Participating: IOCARIBE-GOOS, GLOSS, IOCARIBE Tsunami Group of Experts, JCOMM, ITIC and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC).