

Outcome of the Second International Coordination Meeting for the Development of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean

Grand Baie , Mauritius from 14 to 16 April 2005

Countries from the Indian Ocean region, as well as other interested Member States of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Organizations and Observers met in Mauritius between 14 and 16 April for the Second International Coordination Meeting for the development of a tsunami warning and mitigation system for the Indian Ocean (IOTWS).

The first coordination meeting was held at UNESCO's Paris Headquarters from March 3 to 8 and established that the system would be based on a coordinated network of national systems and capacities, and that each Member State would be responsible for issuing

warnings within their respective boundaries.



In Mauritius, however, several countries from the region indicated that the requirements for a national system were not clearly defined and requested clarification so as to avoid duplication and waste of resources.

The results of the assessment studies will be used to finalize the technical plans for both the national and regional systems.

They should also facilitate the coordination of donors assistance for the different components – from technical requirements and instrumentation to communication channels and public education programmes.

Donor nations attending the Mauritius meeting, including Belgium, Finland, and Norway, pledged some \$5m over and above earlier contributions for specific activities linked to the tsunami warning and mitigation system. Several others, including Australia, France, Italy, Japan, Germany and the United States of America, along with the European Commission, also indicated their continuing support and their willingness to provide more financial aid as the plans for the system became more clearly defined.

The Meeting also adopted the "Mauritius declaration" that complements the Paris Communiqué and further outlines the way forward towards the development of the IOTWS.

We, the participants of the Second International Coordination Meeting for the Development of an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System held in Grand Baie on 14-16 April 2005:

1. Recall the many directions and guidance provided by the Special ASEAN Leaders' meeting in Jakarta on 6 January 2005, the UN Conference on Small Island

Developing States held at Port Louis on 14 January 2005, the UNGA Resolution 59/279 in New York on 19 January 2005, the Common Statement of the Special Session on Indian Ocean Disaster and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 both adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe on 22 January 2005, the Ministerial Declaration in Phuket on 29 January 2005, the GEO Communiqué in Brussels on 16 February 2005, and the technical meetings held in India, China and Indonesia;

2. Endorse the communiqué adopted by the International Coordination Meeting for the Development of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean within a global framework held in Paris at UNESCO Headquarters on 3-8 March 2005;
3. Reaffirm that the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) will be a coordinated network of national systems and capacities;
4. Reaffirm also the need for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Assembly to govern the IOTWS;
5. Recognize the unique tectonic plate structure of the Indian Ocean, and that there are primarily two tsunamigenic sources that could affect the coastlines of the Indian Ocean, namely the Indonesian seismic zone and its extensions, about 4000 km in length, and the Makran source;
6. Welcome the plans and intentions of Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand to develop their national capability to detect, analyze and provide timely warning of tsunami generated along the Indonesian seismic zone and its extensions as well as the plans of India, Iran and Pakistan to cover the Makran source;
7. Encourage these countries to continue to cooperate closely in developing their national systems to ensure effective coverage of the above mentioned tsunamigenic zones;
8. Reaffirm that each Member State should have the responsibility to issue warnings within their respective territories;
9. Urge the ICG, as the governing body of the IOTWS, to develop and coordinate appropriate arrangements for the effective and timely dissemination of tsunami advisory information and warnings;
10. Reaffirm that all regional efforts should serve the purpose of strengthening international cooperation aimed at the creation of a global multi-hazards warning system;
11. Welcome the plans and intentions of all countries of the Indian Ocean to enhance their abilities to receive tsunami advisory information and warnings and issue appropriate warnings within their respective territories on a 24x7 basis;
12. Welcome the efforts by countries of the Indian Ocean to, jointly or individually, enhance their capacity to build knowledge, public awareness, preparedness, including through the use of traditional knowledge, and exchange good practices globally;
13. Recognize the many generous offers of financial, technical and other kinds of assistance made by countries across the globe to help establish the IOTWS, including the further generous pledges of assistance made at the Mauritius meeting;
14. Invite the countries of the Indian Ocean to complete by July 2005, where necessary with the support of UNESCO/IOC, an assessment of their requirements and capacity needs for an effective and durable national tsunami warning and mitigation system, to be followed by the development of appropriate national strategic plans;
15. Welcome the readiness of Member States and other donors to provide further financial, technical and other kinds of assistance to promote national capacity and in this context request UNESCO/IOC to develop a mechanism to coordinate donor assistance in relation to assessed needs;
16. Note with appreciation that the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) and Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) have started to provide interim tsunami advisory information to authorized contacts in the Indian Ocean States, that many Member States have already provided information on their designated contact points and that the remaining Member States will provide this information as soon as possible;
17. Express our determination to enhance regional and national capacities for tsunami detection including through further upgrading of existing observation facilities;

18. Reaffirm our commitment to an open, free and unrestricted sharing of tsunami-relevant real time observational data in accordance with the UNESCO/IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy and without prejudice of the sovereignty of Member States;
19. Call for the formal creation of the IOTWS and the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the IOTWS by a resolution at the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to be held in Paris on 21-30 June 2005;
20. Request Indian Ocean Member States to report to the forthcoming IOC Assembly on national progress made in establishing IOTWS;
21. Recommend that the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group of the IOTWS be held in the second half of 2005 and, among other matters, develop a strategic plan to implement the IOTWS;
22. Request the UNESCO/IOC Secretariat to finalize the technical plans for the detection systems of the IOTWS through the convening of the technical working groups identified at the Paris meeting, for consideration by the first meeting of ICG/IOTWS;
23. Appreciate the financial contribution made by Japan to make the Second International Coordination Meeting for the Development of an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System possible;
24. Express appreciation to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for its strong coordination role, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat for its guidance and support and the World Meteorological Organization for its infrastructure and technical support;
25. Also express appreciation to the Government of Mauritius for hosting the Second International Coordination Meeting for the Development of an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.

Grand-Baie , Mauritius , 16 April 2005

The Report of the Meeting will be made available around 10 May 2005.