Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS-IX)
Jakarta, 27-30 November 2012

Agenda Item 8.2

REPORT ON IOTIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This document contains the report on the progress towards the IOTIC development plan. It proposes a programme for 2013 – 2014 with a list of workplan activities. The budget for the programme is provided in working document ICG/IOTWS-IX/25 for consideration by the sessional committee on Programme and Budget and further discussion under Agenda Item 11. The ICG is requested to consider and comment on the report and provide guidance on the future development of IOTIC.
Report on IOTIC Development Plan

Background

Based on the mandate given to UNESCO/IoC and the respective resolutions of the 23rd IOC Assembly in 2005, tsunami warning systems are established in four regions, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, and the North-East Atlantic/Mediterranean, which are administered by separate ICG secretariats. Based on the experience in the Pacific, it is envisioned that each region would also maintain a regional tsunami information centre.

The International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) in Hawaii was established in 1965 to cater member countries taking the Pacific basin as the foundation for tsunami information. In December 2006, in response to the 2004 earthquake and tsunami in Aceh and the need for public awareness on tsunamis and tsunami early warning systems in Indonesia, UNESCO/IoC developed a project for the establishment of a tsunami information centre. Hosted in the UNESCO Office Jakarta and supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) a three years (2007-2009) project called the Jakarta Tsunami Information Centre (JTIC) was implemented. The JTIC focused its activities in Indonesia.

The JTIC’s mission consists of three fundamental elements: information clearing house, capacity building for preparedness and awareness, and information management and services. As an information resource, the JTIC shared information and publications, and distributed educational and preparedness materials on tsunami and tsunami hazards via its website (www.jtic.org). As many of those who needed information for preparedness and awareness, however, did not have access to the internet and to be more effective in sharing information on preparedness and capacity building, the JTIC also began to implement on-site activities.

With the establishment of TICs in other tsunami regions (Caribbean, North East Atlantic and Mediterranean seas), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (ICG IOTWS) endorsed JTIC’s proposal in 2011 to expand its role to support other Indian Ocean states. Currently the JTIC is in the process becoming the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC).

Progress

In September 2012, despite the difficult situation UNESCO is facing, UNESCO/IoC and UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, established a new unit in UNESCO Jakarta Office namely Disaster Risk Reduction and Tsunami Information Unit. This unit will be responsible in the transition of the Jakarta Tsunami Information Centre to become the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre as well as to ensure the operational and implementation of IOTIC.

Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC)

The Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre main function is to provide support in tsunami education, preparedness and awareness, to promote tsunami warning and mitigation system including hazard and risk assessment, education and training, and studies.

The tsunami information centre will build partnership with national disaster management organizations and, the national tsunami warning centres of the member states as well as
draw on the support of regional organizations and donors. The Tsunami information centre will work closely with the ICG chairman, the working groups, the ICG/IOTWS secretariat and the International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) in getting support and guidance for the development and operations of the centre.

Programme

Work closely with ICG/IOTWS working groups, ICG/IOTWS secretariat, and the member states on:

1. Information and Resources
   - Provides Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System information to the general public, scientists, engineers, administrators, policy makers in the region.
   - Make available ICG/IOTWS working group result and knowledge, tools, guidelines, lessons learned to the public.
   - Develop and make available comprehensive awareness, preparedness and education materials for public in general, coastal communities, schools, media, as well as national and local officials, and policy makers. Materials developed based on the needs and local context (language, design, etc.).
   - Provide support to member state in developing preparedness, awareness, and educational materials, i.e.
     - Making sure the necessary UNESCO-IOC materials are available (in the national language),
     - Facilitate member states to use and adapt different materials available in other countries.

2. Capacity Building
   - Work with ICG working group and ITIC to develop, coordinate and organize an end to end Tsunami Training Program specific for Indian Ocean TWS, i.e International Training Programs (ITP) for Indian Ocean
   - Support ICG working groups and experts on training programme /workshop developed by the working group.
   - Promote and socialize earthquake and tsunami preparedness assessment; school-based disaster preparedness; and community-based mitigation programmes to reduce tsunami impacts and save lives to national and local stakeholders.

3. Studies
   - Facilitate and coordinate studies, surveys, case studies in accordance to the need
   - Work with national universities, research agencies, and experts on studies.
   - Preserving tsunami information, past tsunami events, local and indigenous knowledge.
   - Coordinate, support and facilitate, in cooperation with member states and local authorities, on field investigations of destructive tsunami (local and regional) ➔ International Tsunami Survey Team.

Activities 2013-2014

1. Develop IOTIC Website.
   - Transform the JTIC website into IOTIC.
2. Preparedness, Awareness, and Educational Materials and Programme Stock Taking
   IOTIC will conduct stock taking survey on Preparedness, Awareness, and Educational materials and programme available in the member states

3. Training and workshops
   IOTIC will provide support to member states through regions (African coast; South Asia coast; South East Asia Coast; Indian Ocean Islands) training programme on different topics among others: tsunami risk assessment based on the TRA IOC guideline, Training programme to strengthening tsunami warning and emergency responses: training on end-to-end standard operating procedures (SOPs), IOTWS training for Media, etc. i.e. the Tsunami Exercise in Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Timor Leste supported by UNESCAP.

4. Studies
   JTIC (IOTIC) will facilitate and support studies, surveys, case studies in accordance to the need / requests of member states, i.e. the Makran Studies supported by UNESCAP.

5. Coordination with ICG/IOTWS
   In coordination with the ICG/IOTWS Secretariat, JTIC (IOTIC) will support the organization and coordination of meeting with ICG working groups.