Tsunamis and Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions

Chairman’s Report

Dr Lorna V. Inniss – Chair, Barbados
Mr Gustavo Malave – Vice Chair, Venezuela
Mr Israel Matos – Vice Chair, USA
Report Outline

- Global TWS
- Intersessional activities
- ICG WG Structure
- Critical issues for ICG V
Intersessional Activities

- Global meeting of ICGs for Tsunamis Warning Systems
- 42nd Session of the IOC Executive Council and 25th Session of the IOC Assembly June 16-25, 2009
- 35th General Conference of UNESCO
- PTWS Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation in Central America, Managua, Nov. 4-6, 2009
Global ICG

- Aimed at improving system harmonization across ICGs to ensure a truly global infrastructure

- Three Inter-ICG Task Teams
  - Tsunami Watch Operations
  - Sea Level
  - Disaster Management and Preparedness
INTER-ICG TASK TEAM MEMBERS

- **Sea Level**
  - David Farrell (CIMH)
  - Allison Allen (NOAA)

- **Disaster Management and Preparedness**
  - Stacey Edwards (SRC)
  - Julie Leonard (USAID)

- **Tsunami Watch Operations**
  - Christa von Hillebrandt (PRSN)
  - Emilio Talavera (INETER)
The Assembly was invited to:

- Note the progress made in the system’s development
- Consider the recommendations of the ICG IV
- Join the Chair in expressing our appreciation to Government of France for hosting the session
Address to the French Senate

- Special invitation to ICG Chairs to meet with French Senators June 23rd
- The Chair presented the components of the CARIBE EWS
- Strong collaboration and technical assistance agreed to by France
Central America WG Meeting

- MS of Central America are members of two ICGs (special vulnerabilities)
- Varying expertise in different components enable sub-regional collaboration
- The Chair presented the work of the ICG and encouraged countries to participate fully
- Training opportunities were identified
Working Group Structure

- WG 1 Monitoring and Detection Systems, Warning Guidance
- WG 2 Hazard Assessment
- WG 3 Warning, Communications and Dissemination
- WG 4 Preparedness, Readiness and Resilience
Critical Issues – ICG V

- Working group function and membership
- Updates to the Implementation Plan
- The performance of the system in the Haiti event
- Hosting of ICG VI
Recommendations for National Integration

• Focal points working alone are NOT ideal in a multi-hazard EWS

• National teams led by TNC and WFP more functional (ocean science, seismic, MET, disaster management, coastal sectors, fisheries, ports)

• National system inventories and drills will help to determine deficiencies and weaknesses
Successful Integration

One ultimate test of integration, beyond free and open exchange of data will be the successful execution of a joint tsunami drill (Pacific and Caribbean).
THANK YOU!!

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