Permanent Delegation of Barbados to UNESCO

INT/9/7/4/2

Brussels, February 25, 2013

Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

Dear Madam,

In reference to your letter dated January 7, 2013 regarding the establishment of the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre (CTIC) in Barbados, I am pleased to enclose the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Government of Barbados.

My Government fully appreciates the efforts made to have this process come to fruition and its recognition as priority by the Director General. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Barbados are in need of such mechanism to better build resilience and prepare itself and its people against very real threats posed by natural disasters such as tsunamis.

Please accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Samuel J. Chandler
Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Barbados to UNESCO

Enc.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION (UNESCO/IOC)

AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (herein referred to as UNESCO/IOC) and the Government of Barbados together referred to as “Participants” to this MOU;

Considering the mutual interest of UNESCO/IOC and the Government of Barbados in cooperative activities in the field of oceanography, marine sciences, climate, meteorology, observing and early warning systems, mitigation of natural disasters, marine ecosystem health and function, ocean governance, human resources development, and related areas;

Recalling that the purposes of UNESCO/IOC is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States;

Recalling also that the mission of the Department of Emergency Management of the Government of Barbados (DEM) is to develop, promote and maintain a comprehensive National Disaster Management Programme which will: Educate all citizens about the various elements of Disaster Management. Create appropriate mechanisms which will promote and advance Disaster Management activities at all levels of the society. Promote and institutionalize the practice of appropriate preventative and mitigation measure for all possible hazards. Promote the development and maintenance of effective warning, response and recovery plans for all sectors of the society

Further recalling that the mission of the Coastal Zone Management Unit of the Government of Barbados (CZMU) is to design and implement an effective, comprehensive Coastal Zone Management Plan for Barbados and to ensure that the coast retains its vital and pivotal role in the economic, social and physical development of Barbados;

Noting the letter dated 10 September, 2009, from the Government of Barbados, through the Permanent Delegation of Barbados to the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation, formally offering to host the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre (CTIC),

Also noting that the Intergovernmental Co-ordination Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean Sea and Adjacent Regions (ICG
CARIBE EWS) at its 4th Session in the year 2009 agreed to establish the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre and to accept the offer of the Government of Barbados to host the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre to serve all ICG/CARIBE EWS Members States,

**Being aware** of the need to develop further close cooperation between UNESCO/IOC and the Government of Barbados through its DEM and CZMU in areas of common interest and wishing to promote and strengthen such cooperation;

**Have resolved** to collaborate to build capacity among Caribbean UNESCO/IOC Member States, for developing and operating interoperable end-to-end tsunami warning and mitigation systems, through the CTIC. The Participants intend to establish by mutual consent an annual work plan to guide their cooperation and to include, among other elements:

i. developing training activities for strengthening national Caribbean tsunami and other coastal hazards warning and mitigation systems;

ii. assisting member states in establishing national warning systems, and making information available on current technologies for tsunami warning systems;

iii. maintaining a library of materials to promulgate knowledge about tsunamis in general, and for use by the scientific community; and

iv. disseminating information about tsunamis, including educational materials and research reports.

**Article I: The Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC)**

1. The responsibility for setting up the CTIC belongs to DEM. The Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC) will be established as a unit within DEM that will coordinate activities for the entire Caribbean region, under the area of responsibility of the ICG/CARIBE EWS.

2. Personnel assigned to work at CTIC will be seconded from Caribbean Member States, including Barbados, and/or UNESCO or other UN agencies, under specific arrangements to be concluded on a case-by-case basis.

3. CTIC policy and guidance will be provided by the Board of CTIC as approved at the Seventh Session of the ICG CARIBE EWS (2012) and updated on a continuous basis by the ICG/CARIBE EWS.

4. Projects and funding to support CTIC and its activities should be designed and implemented in accordance with specific arrangements, to be determined jointly by the relevant organ of each Participant setting the practical, technical and financial conditions for the participation of the UNESCO/IOC, DEM, CZMU and other entities that may become involved in specific projects, including exchange
of funds between the Participants as needed and appropriate in conformity with each Participant’s rules and regulations.

5. The Assistant Director-General for the UNESCO/IOC and the Representative of the Government of Barbados with the UNESCO/IOC should adopt appropriate administrative measures to ensure effective cooperation and liaison under this MOU.

Article II: Implementation, Modification and Term of this Memorandum of Understanding

1. The Participants intend to implement this MOU through specific arrangements, each of which should indicate the intended objectives, instruments, forms of participation and financial and other contributions of all participants in conformity with each Participant’s rules and regulations. The MOU is not legally binding and is subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

2. Unless authorized in writing by UNESCO in accordance with its rules and regulations, neither DEM nor CZM U shall use the name, acronym or official logo of UNESCO, or any abbreviation of the name of UNESCO, for advertising or any other purposes.

3. Nothing in or relating to the present MOU shall be deemed a waiver of any of the privileges and immunities of UNESCO.

4. This MOU commences on the date the last Participant signs, and continues for three years and may be renewed for the same period. The Participants intend to periodically review the MOU to determine whether it should be modified or discontinued. The decision to discontinue the MOU should not affect the operation or conclusion of specific projects underway. Either Participant may discontinue its participation at any time, but should provide the other six-months notice of its desire to discontinue the MOU.

5. This MOU may be modified by joint decision of the Participants following a written proposal from either Participant. Modifications apply upon the written consent of both Participants.

In witness whereof the undersigned have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

For the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

[Signature]

Assistant Director-General for IOC and Executive Secretary of IOC
Location: .........................2013
25 Feb

For the Government of Barbados

[Signature]

Barbados Permanent Delegate to UNESCO
Location, .........................2013
1 March