Good morning. I am Yohko Igarashi, working at the Japan Meteorological Agency.

First of all, thank you very much for the opportunity to join this ITP training program international. It is an honor for the Japan Meteorological Agency to be able to contribute for the establishment of tsunami disaster countermeasures in countries in the Pacific Region, which is sure to lead also to the better tsunami disaster mitigation system internationally.

The Japan Meteorological Agency started national tsunami warning services in 1952 and has improved our techniques step by step accompanied by lots of experiences. This week, we are glad to introduce you our techniques and to share our experiences as examples in Japan. Why I emphasized “examples in Japan” is because, requirements as well as backgrounds for building a standard operating procedure against tsunami disaster are different from country to country. There is no single absolute answer but there must be various approaches. Therefore, the techniques and examples to be introduced in this training course can be references but not the complete package to download and install: each country needs to go through the process to pick or arrange the ideas among them to fit your own needs. Of course, we are glad to be of your help after you decide how to proceed as well, but you cannot avoid this process.

What is more, I think there is no final goal for this theme. Japan is still making efforts to achieve more effective, useful warning services despite long history and much experience with advanced techniques. Plus, as proverb says, “other times, other manners;” I would like to say, “other times, other social requirements,”... I think we need to keep asking to the recipients and to ourselves what is expected and what is most effective.

As for the expectations of recipients, the Japan Meteorological Agency has also been operating the Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center to provide tsunami information to countries in the region, and we are seeking for a better way to meet their needs. In this meaning, this training course is not only the honor but a great opportunity for us to learn, by sharing information each other. I am really looking forward to listening to your presentations and having discussion with you, especially this afternoon and later part of this training course.

Let’s work together and make this training course fruitful.
Thank you.