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Why Implementation of Tsunami Early Warning System in Oman was based on a Multi Hazard Approach

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Abstract - Oman just like many countries in the Indian Ocean is affected by different Hazards on different time scales from seasonal, to yearly, to decadal to centuries. Since these Hazards are not frequent, it is not cost effective to establish an Early Warning Centre with complete infrastructure with trained personnel dedicated for just one particular Hazard (for example, Tsunami from Makran Subduction Zone is no doubt a potential threat for generating a local Tsunami that may affect Oman coastal areas within 30 minutes, but may take a very long time to occur).

To overcome this scenario, Oman embarked on a Multi Hazard Approach to establish a state-of-art National Multi Hazard Early Warning Centre with the assistance of IOC UNESCO in implementing the required infrastructure for Tsunami and other Hazards such as Tropical Cyclones, Storm Surge, Severe Weather, Flash Flood, Sand and Dust Storm, etc.

The most important milestone in implementing this Multi Hazard Approach is to guarantee sustainability in the most cost effective manner as opposed to establishing redundant infrastructures for individual dedicated centres supporting typically one Hazard.

The paper will address Oman’s National Multi Hazard Approach as well as challenges and lessons attained during the implementation process for the entire end to end early warning system infrastructure including but not limited to human resources, capacity building, monitoring, data processing, communications, coordination and cooperation with potential stake holders and partners nationally, regionally and globally.

Key Words:
Tsunami, Multi Hazard Approach Framework, National Multi Hazard Early Warning Centre, End to End Early Warning System, Challenges, Lessons Attained.