Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Intl Tsunami Symposium &
ICG PTWS XXVI

Honolulu
Hawaii
USA
20-24 April
2015

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c/o SPC-GSD, Suva, FIJI
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

- Focal point in UN for ocean observations, ocean science, ocean services and data exchange
- Competent international organization for marine science
- Marine and Coastal hazards
- Climate change and variability
- Health of ocean ecosystems
- Sustainability of coastal and ocean environment and resources
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

- Promote international cooperation and coordinate programmes
- Apply knowledge for improvement
IOC Regional Bodies
Tsunami Warning Systems

- Pacific since 1965
- 2004 tsunami in Indian Ocean illustrated need for more
- IOC established three more TWS
  - ICG IOTWS
  - ICG CARIBE EWS and
  - ICG NEAMTWS
Inter-Governmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS)

Chairperson: Ms. Filomena Nelson (Samoa)
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Rick Bailey (Australia)
Dr. Tatiana Ivelskaya (Russian Federation)
Mr. Tomoaki Ozaki (Japan)

Regional Working Group
- Central American Pacific Coast
- South East Pacific
- South West Pacific (Ofa-Tonga, Esline-Vanuatu)
- South China Sea

Working Group 1
- Tsunami Hazard Assessment

Working Group 2
- Tsunami Detection, Warning and Dissemination

Working Group 3
- Disaster Management, Preparedness, and Risk Reduction

Task Team
- Future Goals and Performance Monitoring
- Evacuation Planning and Mapping
- Enhancing Products
- PacWave Exercises
- Seismic Data Sharing in the South West Pacific
- Establishment of a South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center
The International Tsunami Symposium to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the International Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific

The theme of the Symposium was "Making the Pacific Ready for the Tsunami Threat" to recognize the achievements of the last 50 years of Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS).

The two-day Symposium was attended by over 160 country delegates and experts from over 40 countries.

Pacific Island countries that attended consisted of Cook Is, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Is, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Is, Tonga, and Vanuatu
International Tsunami Symposium-Hawaii, 20-21 April’15

- The Symposium reviewed the current state of the PTWS, and identified practical and tangible next steps, desirable partnerships, and necessary commitments needed to sustain and evolve the PTWS for the future.
- Thematic sessions consisted of invited speakers, panellists representing decision makers, planning and policy, science, warning and/or emergency operations practitioners.
- Country participants were also invited to contribute posters for display at the Symposium venue. Tonga contributed to the Poster session.
ICG PTWS XXVI - Hawaii, 22-24 April’15

- 107 participants registered from 25 Member States.
- 9 PICs for 1st time - Cook Is, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Is, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Is, Tonga, and Vanuatu
- Elections - Refer to highlighted part of ICG PTWS XXVI Report
- Recommendations – Refer to highlighted part of ICG PTWS XXVI Report
ICG/PTWS-XXVI- Executive Summary

• The Twenty-sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS-XXVI) was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America, from 22 to 24 April 2015, chaired by the ICG/PTWS Chair, Dr Ken Gledhill (New Zealand). The meeting was attended by 106 participants from 28 countries, and 18 Observer organizations.

• The ICG approved the continuity of the PTWC Enhanced Products for PTWS.

• The ICG decided that to avoid misunderstandings the words “No threat” should be indicated for all countries with inundation below 0.3 metres, and the list of countries falling under this category should be removed from the message.
ICG/PTWS-XXVI- Executive Summary

• The ICG further agreed to continue the Task Team on Enhanced Products under the Working Group on Tsunami Detection, Warning and Dissemination, to guide and provide feedback to NWPTAC regarding the enhanced products and requested the Task Team to provide a report on the recommendations and any implementations at ICG/PTWS-XXVII.

• The ICG also agreed that any new products only be exercised in an experimental mode as they are developed and until they are approved for official use later by the ICG.

• The ICG agreed to carry out a sixth and seventh Exercise Pacific Wave 16 and 17, coordinated by a Task Team on PacWave Exercises under the Steering Committee with Terms of References approved under Recommendation ICG/PTWS-XXVI.1.
ICG/PTWS-XXVI- Executive Summary

- The ICG decided to establish a Task Team on Evacuation Planning and Mapping to develop a new programme aimed at facilitating tsunami resilience through community preparedness, specifically through the preparation of tsunami evacuation maps and associated response plans for tsunami-vulnerable coastal communities.
- The ICG agreed that ICG/PTWS organizes its effort on a more balanced report between warning systems, awareness and preparedness, and risk assessment, aligning its reporting against targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) which took place in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.
ICG/PTWS-XXVI- Executive Summary

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• The ICG decided to constitute, under the Steering Committee, a Task Team to look into performance monitoring measures for Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs), National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs), and national warning systems starting from the PTWS Medium-term Strategy 2014-2012 (IOC/2013/TS/108) established goals.
ICG/PTWS-XXVI- Executive Summary

• The ICG further decided to hold a mid-session joint meeting of Working Groups, Task Teams and the Steering Committee and to have four days ICG/PTWS sessions to allow sufficient time for discussion and decisions.

• The ICG agreed that Member States be requested to reaffirm their commitment to enable the continued maintenance and enhancement of the PTWS, as indicated in Recommendation ICG/PTWS-XXVI.3.
Thank You

Reaching the Last KM!

By Frits Ahlefeldt