TOWS TASK TEAM ON
DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS

Report to TOWS-WG X
Paris
February 2017
## Task Team Members

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- Met from 21-22 February 2017, Paris
Terms of Reference

- Facilitate in collaboration with organization such as UNISDR, the exchange of experiences and information on preparedness actions, education/awareness raising campaigns and other matters related to disaster management and preparedness;

- Promote preparedness in coastal communities through education and awareness products and campaigns;

- Facilitate SOP training across ICGs to strengthen emergency response capabilities of Member States and their Disaster Management Offices;

- Promote preparedness programs and assessment tools that have been successful in one regional Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System in the others as appropriate;

- Facilitate the coordination of the TICs of the ICGs;

- Report to the TOWS–WG.
Progress: 2016 Activities

• Develop an SOP Manual:
  ✓ Draft completed and provided to IOC for publication

• Development of Tsunami Evacuation Mapping Guidelines:
  ✓ TEMPP completed (Honduras)

  ✓ The ITIC, CTWP and UNESCO Tsunami Programme built experience with regards to implementation of the TEMPP and are ready to provide guidance to countries that want to implement similar programmes.

  ✓ The Programme identified and references existing best practice evacuation mapping guidelines that countries have developed.

  ✓ The PTWS will finalise programme documentation and make it available to ICGs, noting the interest of IOTWMS.
Progress 2016 activities (cont’d)

- Promote tsunami preparedness recognition programmes:
  - CARIBE-EWS “Tsunami Ready” Guidelines on the ten elements under Mitigation, Preparedness & Response in English, Spanish, French
    - The CARIBE-EWS continues with implementation
    - IOTWS to implement through a funded project
    - PTWS agreed to initiate a pilot in the South West Pacific.
  - In view of the strong support across ICGs for the tsunami Ready Programme, the Task team agreed recommendations to the TOWS-WG in relation to:
    - IOC administrative oversight of the programme;
    - Calling the programme the “UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready” to emphasise its UNESCO status
    - Adoption of the programme by ICGs
    - The assessment process and involvement of ICGs
    - The period that recognition certification is valid for
Progress 2016 activities (cont’d)

• Business continuity planning:
  ✓ TT agreed that rather than focussing on specific BCP guidelines, critical infrastructure and industry must be included in wider Disaster Risk Management and Resilience planning resilience planning in countries, with a specific focus on economic recovery.

  ✓ To support this approach, the Task Team recommends that critical infrastructure must also be included in tsunami exercises.

• Maritime and Ports Guidance:

  ✓ TT noted the *Maritime Planning & Preparedness Guidelines for harbours and ports* developed by the US National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Programme (in draft); methodology is a useful reference for other countries.

  ✓ TT also noted modelling conducted in the Ports of Honolulu and Charlotte Amalie (Saint Thomas- US Virgin Islands), and agreed that this topic is also relevant to the TTWO.
Progress 2016 activities (cont’d)

• Key Performance Indicators:

  ✔ TT was requested by TOWS-WG IX to consider development of Key Performance Indicators in line with the Sendai Framework and to facilitate reporting by ICGs to the IOC Governing Bodies in line with XXVIII Dec 8.2.

  ✔ A joint discussion with the Task Team on Tsunami Watch Operations (TTWO) was held on 22 February 2017 and a recommendation in this regard was agreed. The recommendation will be put to the TOWS-WG by the TTWO.
Other observations

• Tsunami Source Data
  ✅ Noted countries do not always have access to, or are aware of the existence of tsunami source data that can support reduction and response planning. The TOWS-WG will be requested to encourage regions to share tsunami source scenario data, building towards a database of source scenarios.

• Adaptation of UNESCO/IOC awareness materials
  ✅ TT considered that while on-going customisation of UNESCO/IOC material is highly valued by countries, there is a need to ensure quality and consistency with the original documents. Noting the TICs terms of reference include awareness education as well as current capacity issues with CARIBE EWS TIC and NEAMSTIC, the ITIC and IOTIC to take the lead in ensuring consistency.

• World Tsunami Awareness Day
  ✅ Joint discussion was held with the TTWO on enhancing the focus on World Tsunami Awareness Day. The discussion was put on hold pending a similar discussion at the TOWS-WG meeting, facilitated by the representative if the UNISDR
Recommendations to TOWS-WG X

• **Notes** the TT has met on 21 & 22 Feb 2017 and considered:
  - reports from the respective ICG working groups and TICs
  - progress with regards to activities agreed in Feb 2016
  - planned activities for the next year

• **Notes** with regards to Wave exercises, the Task Team:
  - encourages ICGs to note the value taken from extending these exercises to community level
  - Identified a need for greater consistency in exercise evaluation, and therefore request exercise coordinators in the respective ICGs to share exercise questionnaires among exercise coordinators with a view on simplification and standardising evaluation of Wave exercises.
Recs continued:

- **Notes** that the draft SOP Manual has been completed and was handed to the IOC for publication. The latest draft includes the comments of the TOWS Task Teams.

- **Notes** with regards to Tsunami Evacuation Mapping:
  - The PTWS successfully completed a Pilot Tsunami Evacuation Mapping and Planning Programme (TEMPP) over two years in Honduras.
  - The ITIC & CARIBE EWS built experience with regards to implementation of the TEMPP and are ready to provide guidance to countries that want to implement similar programmes.
  - The Programme identified and references existing best practice evacuation mapping guidelines that countries have developed.
  - The PTWS will finalise programme documentation and make it available to ICGs, noting the interest of IOTWMS.
Recs continued:

- **Notes** that the Task Team considered the history of, and development of the Tsunami Ready Programme developed by the United States (as TsunamiReady®) and its adaption by the CARBE EWS as Tsunami Ready, and that in view of the strong support across ICGs for the Tsunami Ready Programme, the Task Team agreed to recommend the following to the TOWS-WG:
  - That the IOC provides oversight of the programme and maintain records
  - To emphasize its UNESC-IOC status, the programme be called the “UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready (UNESCO-IOC TR) Community - based tsunami recognition programme”
  - That ICGs adapt the CARIBE EWS Tsunami Ready guidelines for global implementation as UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready and continue to encourage pilots in all ICGs
  - That depending on the more applicable option, the assessment process be conducted either at regional or national level by a regional or national assessment board, with representation from the relevant ICG in either case
  - That recognition is valid for four years after which the community needs to seek renewal.
  - Successful implementation and sustainability of the programme is subject to identification of appropriate funding.
Recs continued:

• **Notes** that with regards to business continuity planning, the Task Team recommends that critical infrastructure must also be included in tsunami exercises.

• **Notes** that the Task Team has noted the Maritime Planning & Preparedness Guidelines for harbours and ports developed by the US National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Programme (in draft), and that the methodology applied is a useful reference for other countries. The Task Team also noted the modelling conducted in the Ports of Honolulu and Charlotte Amalie (Saint Thomas- US Virgin Islands), and agreed that this topic is also relevant to the TTWO.

• **Notes** that countries do not always have access to, or are aware of the existence of tsunami source data that can support reduction and response planning. The TOWS-WG will therefore be requested to encourage regions to share tsunami source scenario data, building towards a database of source scenarios.
Recs continued:

- **Notes** the Task Team considered that while on-going customisation of UNESCO/IOC material is highly valued by countries, there is a need to ensure quality and consistency with the original documents. Noting the TICs terms of reference include awareness education as well as current capacity issues with CARIBE EWS TIC and NEAMTIC, the ITIC and IOTIC to take the lead in ensuring consistency.

- **Notes** that the focus of World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) follows the seven targets of the Sendai Framework, therefore the focus in 2017 will be on Target (b) of the Framework. The Task Team **invites** the TOWS-WG to encourage ICGs to advocate WTAD among member states and advise them of the availability of material from the UNISDR in this regard.

- **Recommends** that the Task Team meets again prior to the next meeting of the TOWS-WG so that the current activities can be consolidated and further activities can be considered.