



MAY 2006

US IOTWS Program Update

U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program
from advanced technologies to resilient communities

United Nation’s Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (ICG/IOTWS) Endorses DART II Stations for the Indian Ocean

May 1-2, 2006. Melbourne, Australia

At a technical working group meeting of the ICG/IOTWS in Melbourne, Australia, officials from Indian Ocean governments endorsed a U.S. offer for two deep-ocean tsunami detection stations (DART II). NOAA presented the U.S. proposal for contributing two DART II stations that will serve as important models and reference points for additional deployments by Indian Ocean countries and other partners. NOAA will be providing technical training to Indian Ocean countries that will be operating the buoys. The working group endorsement is a major step forward for the USAID-funded US IOTWS program to support tsunami detection and warning system development in the region.

Indonesia and Thailand Receive Seismology and Tsunami Warning Training

May 15-19, Bangkok, Thailand/May 8-19, Jakarta, Indonesia

The U.S. Geological Survey, UNESCO/IOC, and USAID jointly conducted trainings in Bangkok and Jakarta to build capacity of disaster management specialists in seismology and tsunami forecasting, detection, and warning. These trainings are part of a series USAID is supporting in tsunami-affected countries.

Asian Disaster Management Experts Developing Region-wide Preparedness Guidelines for Coastal Communities

May 23-25, 2006, Bangkok, Thailand

Disaster and coastal management experts from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, and the Maldives worked with specialists from USAID, NOAA, and the University of Rhode Island to begin developing a regional “coastal community resilience” guidebook. A key component of the US IOTWS Program, the guidebook will support ongoing post-tsunami recovery efforts by providing a comprehensive set of tools that disaster management trainers and local authorities can apply simultaneously in communities across the region. In particular, the guidelines will show how coastal communities can conduct self-assessments and strengthen their resilience to tsunamis and other hazards while supporting local livelihoods and natural resource conservation.



Participants identify tools and strategies that can be used by communities to assess and improve their resilience to natural hazards. (photo credit: A. Ahmed, ADPC)



Thailand Works to Enhance Rapid Communications for Early Warning

May 24-26, 2006, Hua Hin, Thailand

The Government of Thailand, in collaboration with U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service (USFS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and USAID conducted a three-day workshop in Hua Hin, Thailand, to coordinate and enhance the early warning communication strategies in Thailand. As a first step, an interim Interagency Workgroup was formed, chaired by Dr. Smith Dharmasaroja, Vice Minister to the Office of the Prime Minister. The Interagency Workgroup will develop a comprehensive integrated plan for effective disaster warning dissemination and strategies for developing the conceptual framework model for the rapid notification system in Thailand.

NEW ON THE US IOTWS PROGRAM WEB SITE

The following documents are included under the Workshops and Training section of the web site at www.us-iotws.gov

- Presentations from May Coastal Community Resilience workshop
- Presentations from May TARNS workshop

UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Joint NOAA and South East Asia Center for Ocean Research and Monitoring (SEACORM) workshop, Bali, Indonesia

June 7–10, 2006

For more information contact David McKinnie, NOAA, at david.mckinnie@noaa.gov

US IOTWS Program: Paleotsunami Field Work, Phang-Nga, Thailand

July 1–15, 2006

For more information contact Brian Atwater, USGS, at atwater@usgs.gov

US IOTWS Program: Second Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System Workshop: Communication, Technology and Media, Hua Hin, Thailand

July 23–27, 2006

For more information contact Deanne Shulman, USDA/FS, at dshulman@fs.fed.us

Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS-III), Bali, Indonesia

July 31–August 2, 2006

For more information go to <http://ioc3.unesco.org/indotsunami/>

US IOTWS Program: Seismology Training Workshop, Maldives

August 27–31, 2006

For more information contact Shane Detweiler, USGS, at shane@usgs.gov

About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an “end-to-end” approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of national and local stakeholders in the region.

For more information please visit www.us-iotws.gov.

