



APRIL 2006

US IOTWS Program Update

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

USD 750,000 Small Grants Program Launched to Support Local Initiatives for Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS)

The US IOTWS Program launched its \$750,000 Small Grants Program (SGP) by formally releasing a Request for Applications. The SGP will support local initiatives in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, and the Maldives that contribute meaningfully to developing national disaster warning systems and procedures and strengthening local disaster preparedness. The SGP will accept abstracts in two rounds. The first round closes May 28 and the second round closes June 19. Nongovernmental organizations, universities, and associations are encouraged to apply at any time before these closing dates. For more information on the SGP go to www.us-iotws.gov.

NOAA Sponsors Workshop to Develop Operational Guidelines for Tsunami Warning Centers

April 3-7, 2006. Honolulu, Hawaii

Under the US IOTWS Program, NOAA scientists sponsored a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) workshop on April 3-7 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The purpose of the workshop was to identify the operating principles, concepts, structure, and responsibilities for both a national tsunami warning center and a regional tsunami warning center or watch provider. Participants developed a draft framework for the guidelines including a detailed table of contents. This framework was then distributed in preparation for a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) meeting scheduled for May 23, 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland.

International Experts Train Sri Lankans on Seismology and Tsunami Detection

April 3-7, 2006. Colombo, Sri Lanka

The US IOTWS Program kicked off a series of trainings by international experts in seismology and tsunami detection for countries affected by the December 2004 tsunami. Experts from the Sri Lanka Geological Survey & Mines Bureau, the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and the U.S. Geological Survey jointly held a five-day training workshop for more than 25 Sri Lankan technical specialists. Training topics included the earth's structure, theoretical seismology, interpretation of seismograms, analysis of the Sumatra earthquake that caused the December 2004 tsunami, and other damaging impacts of earthquakes in Asia.



Participants of ICS workshop help drawing a hazard map for their communities

Incident Command System (ICS) Taking Shape for Managing National Disasters in Sri Lanka

April 24-28, 2005. Colombo, Sri Lanka

U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service experts conducted a training to help the Sri Lankan government develop and implement ICS



as part of a comprehensive disaster management system. The ICS effort will be customized to Sri Lanka's needs. Professor Sam Hettiarachchi, member of the national advisory committee for the Sri Lankan Disaster Management Center, thanked the U.S. government for helping Sri Lanka to implement ICS, which he said is very unique and useful for countries like Sri Lanka.

US IOTWS Program Changes Web Site Address

In an effort to more accurately reflect the U.S. government participation in the US IOTWS Program, the program's web site address has changed from www.iotws.org to www.us-iotws.gov.

UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Coastal Community Resilience Workshop, Bangkok, Thailand

May 23-25, 2006

For more information contact Kitty Courtney, US IOTWS Program Integrator, at kitty.courtney@ttemi.com

First Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System (TARNS) workshop, Hua Hin, Thailand

May 23-27, 2006

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

Second Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System (TARNS) Workshop: Communication, Technology and Media, Location TBD, Thailand

July 23-25, 2006

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

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Symposium on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Integrated Disaster Risk Management, Geneva, Switzerland

May 23-24, 2006

For more information contact Dr. Maryam Golnaraghi, Chief, Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme, World Meteorological Organization, at mgolnaraghi@wmo.int

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

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/>

NEW ON THE US IOTWS PROGRAM WEB SITE

The following documents have been added under the Information and Resources section on www.us-iotws.gov:

- *Activity Brief: Building Capacity for Earthquake and Tsunami Detection for the Indian Ocean*
- *Progress to Date February 2006: Developing a Tsunami Warning System for the Indian Ocean*
- Fact sheet on the Tsunami Alert Ready Notification System Program available in Thai
- Small Grants Program Request for Proposals
- *Proceedings: Second U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System Program Coordination Workshop, January 30-31, 2006*

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. 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.

