



# AUGUST 2006

## US IOTWS Program Update

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

### Representatives from US IOTWS Program Participate in Third Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Intergovernmental Coordination Group (IOC/ICG-III) Meeting

July 31–August 2, 2006, Bali, Indonesia

Several members of the US IOTWS Program recently attended the IOC/ICG-III Meeting in Bali, Indonesia. The US delegation participated in all six working groups at a technical level and actively supported calls for system integration and for long term sustainability. Considerable progress had been made prior to the meeting on the development of national plans for all of the 28 member states that participate in the ICG/IOTWS. In addition, the IOC unveiled an implementation plan that attempted to catalog contributions to the regional system from member state and donors. The next ICG meeting is to be held in Kenya in February 2007.

### Disaster Management Experts Assess Early Warning Policies and Institutional Capacity in Four Indian Ocean Countries

August 10–September 8, 2006, Sri Lanka and Thailand

In an effort to improve early warning capability in the region, the US IOTWS Program recently conducted comprehensive assessments of the organizational disaster management capacity in Sri Lanka and Thailand to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from tsunamis and other natural and man-made disasters. The assessment, which is being implemented in close coordination with UNDP, is based on an all-hazards approach to disaster management. Input was solicited from all levels of governments and of civil society, NGOs, and international organizations. This assessment will provide critical input to country, bilateral, and UN partners to guide practical recommendations to ensure early warning operational capacities are improved.

### Officials from Sri Lanka visit United States to Gain Insights into US Disaster Management Practices

August 19–September 2, 2006, USA

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) hosted a two-week study tour across the U.S. for 12 senior Sri Lankan officials to gain hands-on exposure to how Incident Command System (ICS) is used to respond to disasters in all kinds of contexts and situations. The delegation learned first-hand how the Red Cross, U.S. Coast Guard, and others use ICS. The tour presented a unique and emotional exchange of experiences for disaster managers from two of the world's most devastating catastrophes—the Tsunami of December 2004 and Hurricane Katrina of September 2005—when the delegation visited Katrina's "ground zero" in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi.



Rich Rusk, the Logistic Chief from the National Interagency Fire Center, gives a briefing about logistic support and activities for the Trailhead Fire Incident.

Photo credit: SHM Fakhruddin/US IOTWS Program.



## U.S. Scientists Support Additional Seismic Monitoring Stations in Indonesia

August 2006, Indonesia

Scientists from the California Institute of Technology (CalTech) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are upgrading and installing new seismic monitoring equipment on the island of Sumatra as part of the international effort to help Indonesia improve its earthquake and tsunami detection capabilities. Twenty-seven monitoring stations were completed as of August 15, 2006, and another three stations are planned over the next six months. This is part of the overall international effort to help significantly improve Indonesia's ability to determine the accurate time and location of earthquakes, including those that can trigger tsunamis.

## US IOTWS Program Continues Regional Trainings on Seismic and Tsunami Warning

August 21-25, 2006, Malaysia and August 27-31, 2006, the Maldives

Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) completed two additional seismology training workshops in Malaysia and the Maldives as part of a series of regional trainings. To date, the US IOTWS Program has trained over 140 seismologists and other experts in five countries to help better identify and react to tsunami-generating earthquakes. Participants also included staff members from warning centers in Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka.

## NEW ON THE US IOTWS PROGRAM WEB SITE

The following documents are included under the Information and Resources section of the web site at [www.us-iotws.gov](http://www.us-iotws.gov)

- Country fact sheets that summarize US IOTWS Program activities for Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the Maldives
- Coastal Community Resilience fact sheet
- Fact sheet on how scientists develop seismic hazard maps to guide safe building practices in earthquake zones

## UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

### US IOTWS Program Event: National Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) Workshop, Jakarta, Indonesia

September 12-13, 2006

For more information contact Catherine Courtney at [kitty.courtney@ttemi.com](mailto:kitty.courtney@ttemi.com)

### US IOTWS Program Event: National Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka

October 9-10, 2006

For more information contact Catherine Courtney at [kitty.courtney@ttemi.com](mailto:kitty.courtney@ttemi.com)

### US IOTWS Program Event: Incident Command System Training Course: Planning Section Unit Leader, Colombo, Sri Lanka

October 16-20, 2006

For more information contact Trudie Mahoney contact [tmahoney@fsip.net](mailto:tmahoney@fsip.net)

### US IOTWS Program Event: Incident Command System Training Course: Planning Section Chief

October 25-27, 2006

For more information contact Trudie Mahoney contact [tmahoney@fsip.net](mailto:tmahoney@fsip.net)

### 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](http://www.us-iotws.gov).