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U.S. Contribution to the
**Indian Ocean
Tsunami Warning
System**

November 2006
US IOTWS Program Update

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

US IOTWS Program Issues Small Grant to Strengthen Regional Capacity to Assess Risks

November 6-24, 2006, Thailand

The Asian Institute of Technology's Geoinformatics Center received a small grant from the US IOTWS Program for the regional project "Strengthening Capacity on Multi-hazard Risk Assessment in Tsunami-affected Countries (SCRATCH)". The project aims to develop a cadre of professionals in the region able to assess a variety of coastal hazards for early warning and disaster management. AIT, in cooperation with the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation in The Netherlands, held a kick-off workshop on November 6, 2006, with representatives from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and India. Eight participants from the region received intensive training on modeling and risk assessment over three weeks, including the development of in-depth case studies from their respective countries. This small grant project will result in a training manual that may be applied across the region, and the ability of the participants to replicate training in their home institutions.

Speakers and participants at the SCRATCH kick-off workshop

Vivian Raksakulthai, US IOTWS Program

Sri Lanka Receives Advanced Training to Manage Disasters

November 7-18, 2006

The US Forest Service (USFS) concluded a series of advanced emergency response training courses in Sri Lanka for 25 senior government officials as part of the Incident Command System (ICS) program that the US IOTWS Program is supporting under Sri Lanka's national strategic plan for emergency response. ICS is an integrated organizational structure that allows governments to respond more quickly and effectively to disaster incidents and emergencies. The Honorable Mr. Mahina Samarasinghe, Minister for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, awarded certificates to the trainers for successful completion of all seven ICS courses.

NEW ON THE US IOTWS PROGRAM WEB SITE

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

Presentation: Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System (Third Workshop Planning Meeting & NDWC Strategic EWS Plan), Thailand, October 24-26, 2006

Developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to Prepare for and Respond to Tsunamis
November 20-24, 2006, Padang, Indonesia

The US IOTWS Program co-sponsored a three-day workshop with several international organizations and local governments working to develop local Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for local community warning systems addressing coastal hazards, particularly tsunamis. More than 50 participants attended the workshop in Padang, representing 30 different organizations. Co-sponsors included the GTZ-TEWS program, Indonesian Red Cross/International Federation of the Red Cross (PMI/IFRC), UNDP, and small learning teams from three pilot cities or districts, Aceh Besar (NAD), Padang (West Sumatra), and Bali. The workshop was the second in a series on *Capacity Building for the Development of Local SOPs for Tsunami Early Warning and Response* organized by the IOC that emphasize shared

Government officials from the ambulance corps, police, and local radio network manage the local Operational Command Center desk during an Earthquake and Tsunami Table Top simulation to test draft SOPs for tsunami warning for Padang, W. Sumatra

learning to improve warning dissemination at the local level. The event included one day of roundtable presentations and related case studies describing the progress since the previous workshop (Oct. 2006). The workshop also included site visits to the key offices, operational centers, and evacuation shelters for the host city Padang, as well as a demonstration of a table-top tsunami drill using their draft SOPs. The three districts will conduct various drills and activities in December to commemorate the 2004 Tsunami and will reconvene in January 2007 to share lessons learned.

UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

US IOTWS Program Event: Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) Guidebook Community Level and National Level Field Testing
Ranong and Bangkok, Thailand
For more information contact: Atiq Ahmed at *atiqka@adpc.net*
December 6-15, 2006

ITU/ESCAP Regional Workshop on "Disaster Communications"
Bangkok, Thailand
For more information go to *www.itu.int/ITU-D/asp/Events/ITU-ESCAP-BangkokDec2006*
December 12-15, 2006

US IOTWS Program Event: Basic and Intermediate ICS Training
Colombo, Sri Lanka
For more information contact: Trudie Mahoney, USFS, at *tmahoney@fsip.net*
February 20-23, 2007

US IOTWS Program Event: Basic and Intermediate ICS Training: District Level
Kandy, Sri Lanka
For more information contact Trudie Mahoney, USFS, at *tmahoney@fsip.net*
March 20-23, 2007

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**.

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