



May 2007

# US IOTWS Program Update

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

## Incident Command System (ICS) Basic/Intermediate Course for Indonesian Disaster Managers April 30–May 4, 2007, Jakarta, Indonesia

Indonesian disaster managers learned new approaches to operating emergency response organizations during the Incident Command Systems (ICS) for Disaster Management Basic and Intermediate training course, conducted by the US Forest Service (USFS). ICS allows governments to respond more quickly and effectively to incidents, improve coordination, and improve planning, cost-effectiveness, and logistics. Sessions encouraged cross-agency collaboration as the 35 participants identified processes for integrating ICS into existing disaster management practices. The National Coordination Board for Disaster Management (BAKORNAS PB) Director Mr. Sugeng Triutomo said, “ICS will provide us with a great opportunity to enrich the Indonesian disaster management system and organizational structure. The participants here need to facilitate the integration of ICS for emergency management in their own agencies and train other officials on these skills and practices.”

## Officials from Across Indian Ocean Region Share Best Practices on Incident Command Systems for Disaster Management

May 8-11, 2007, Jakarta, Indonesia



S.H.M. Fakhruddin

Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe (second from right) providing the keynote speech

Over 70 participants at this regional workshop, sponsored by USAID and co-hosted by BAKORNAS, engaged in lively discussions on how ICS enhances emergency management systems. The Honorable Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Sri Lanka’s Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, delivered a speech that provided real-world perspective on the Government of Sri Lanka’s experience. He discussed how ICS will help Sri Lanka to more effectively manage natural and man-made disasters, as well as the influx of humanitarian aid following complex disasters such as the 2004 tsunami. A three-hour dialogue between Sri Lankan and Indonesian officials resulted in an exchange of innovative strategies for building capacity in disaster management, culminating in a meeting with Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla.

## Indian Ocean Disaster Warning Center Detects Earthquake in Central Indonesia

May 24, 2007, Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

An earthquake in Nusa Tenggara province occurred at 9:06 AM local time on May 24, triggering a tsunami alert from the Indonesian Meteorological and Geophysical Agency (BMG). The earthquake, which BMG measured at 6.5 and the US Geological survey (USGS) at 5.5, resulted in no casualties or major damage. BMG responded rapidly by sending out a message at 9:12 AM warning of a potential tsunami to local communities around Sumba



Location of earthquake in Central Indonesia

Jakarta Post



Island, but the warning was cancelled shortly afterwards upon confirmation that there was little actual risk of a tsunami. The US IOTWS Program has been actively working with Indonesia to strengthen its warning systems, including the installation of two coastal sea level stations, the upgrade of a third, and their integration into the IOC Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS) network. In addition, the program has provided technical assistance through various tsunami modeling, seismic hazard, paleoseismology, disaster management, coastal community resilience and other trainings to BMG and other key stakeholders. BMG also uses USGS, US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, and other sources in the region to calibrate its seismic detection systems.

### **District-level Officials in Kandy, Sri Lanka Gained Skills on Basic/Intermediate ICS**

*May 23-25, 2007, Kandy, Sri Lanka*

Through training and technical assistance from the US IOTWS Program, the Sri Lankan government has institutionalized ICS within its disaster management system and is now continuing to build the capacity of its personnel at the local levels. Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Centre (DMC) and the American Red Cross jointly conducted the second district-level Basic/Intermediate ICS course in Kandy, building on lessons and training modules from the first course conducted in Galle in March 2007. Resource persons included master trainers from DMC and other government agencies, who have all successfully completed a series of eight ICS courses under the US IOTWS Program.

### **Sleuthing Tsunami History**

*April 21-May 9, 2007, Java and Sunda Strait, Indonesia*

The Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI) has unearthed clues for determining the return period for tsunamis in Java, which was struck by a tsunami in July 2006 that took over 600 lives. Understanding how frequently large events occur will help scientists and officials to improve the country's early warning system. This recent fieldwork in Java and Sumatra, co-led by scientists from LIPI and the US Geological Survey and supported in part by US IOTWS, provided training to government researchers, university students, and lecturers. The tsunami geology findings will be used to assess risk and boost awareness under Indonesia's community-preparedness program. While conducting field research, the team also developed criteria for using coral boulders to estimate the strength of the 1883 Krakatau tsunami, which followed one of the most powerful volcanic explosions in recorded history.



Brian Atwater

*Eko Yulianto digs out geologic clues to Java's tsunami potential near Pangandaran*

## **UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES**

### **Second Workshop on Inundation Modeling, June 29-July 6, 2007**

*Bangkok, Thailand*

For more information contact Vasily V. Titov at [vasily.titov@noaa.gov](mailto:vasily.titov@noaa.gov)

### **Emergency Response Full-Scale Simulation Exercise, June 27, 2007**

*Galle, Sri Lanka*

For more information contact Indira Fernando at [indira@iotws.org](mailto:indira@iotws.org), or S.H.M. Fakhruddin at [fakhruddin@adpc.net](mailto:fakhruddin@adpc.net)

### **Study Tour to US on ICS and Disaster Management, July 14-28, 2007**

*Vallejo, California USA*

For more information contact S.H.M. Fakhruddin at [fakhruddin@adpc.net](mailto:fakhruddin@adpc.net)

### **International Tsunami Training Institute, 21 July-2 August, 2007**

*Seattle, Washington USA*

For more information contact Chatchalapa Chongpaibul at [chatchalapa@iotws.org](mailto:chatchalapa@iotws.org)

### **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).