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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



**International Conference to Commemorate
the 10th Anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami**

Sponsored by IOC UNESCO and the Government of Indonesia

**The Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System
10 years after the Indian Ocean Tsunami:
Achievements, Challenges, Remaining Gaps and
Policy Perspectives**

24 - 25 November 2014
BMKG Auditorium
Jakarta - Indonesia



Background

The Indian Ocean Tsunami on 26th December 2004 resulted in the loss of over 230,000 lives including over 2,500 foreign tourists, and the displacement of over 1.6 million people around the Indian Ocean, with estimated economic losses of \$14 billion. The catastrophe brought renewed focus on the need for a regional tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean. Following the disaster, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO was given the mandate to develop and implement an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWS). An Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) for the IOTWS was established by the IOC Assembly in July 2005 (Resolution IOC-XXIII-12). Further mandates were given to IOC UNESCO by the UN General Assembly through Resolutions 61/132 and 62/91. After 8 years of international collaboration and development, facilitated and coordinated by IOC UNESCO, the IOTWS became fully operational on 31st March 2013 with Regional Tsunami Service Providers (RTSPs) established by Australia, India and Indonesia.

The IOTWS has been designed and implemented through the joint efforts and contributions of its Member States and other partners under the coordination of IOC UNESCO. To ensure its long term sustainability, the IOTWS will require policy support at the intergovernmental and national level within the framework of global, regional and national disaster risk reduction policies.

The Conference

The 10th anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami provides an opportunity to organise a high level policy conference to recognise the achievements of the last 10 years, to highlight work that still needs to be done, and to seek re-commitment to continued investment in the IOTWS. The conference, sponsored and organised by IOC UNESCO and the Indonesian Agency for Meteorology for Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG), will offer high level perspectives from invited speakers and panel discussions from decision makers and scientists. The conference will also provide input to the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan).

Objectives:

- To report on and document the achievements of the last 10 years.
- To highlight gaps in the system and work that still needs to be done.
- To seek re-commitment of Member States and other partners to continue investing in the IOTWS to ensure its long term sustainability.
- To launch the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre.
- To provide input to the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan from 14-18 March 2015.

Format:

- 2 day conference at BMKG auditorium in Jakarta.
- Moderated sessions with invited speakers and panellists.
- Sessions providing Member States and other partners the opportunity to report on their achievements, future developments and outstanding needs.
- Sessions focusing on key policy issues for the future of the IOTWS followed by moderated panel discussions.
- Poster session highlighting individual projects outcomes and innovative technology for tsunami warning systems.

The Sessions

Session 1: Development of the IOTWS since 2004. What has been achieved? What is different? Is the Indian Ocean region safer than it was in 2004?

This session will report on the achievements of the last 10 years and compare the present status of the IOTWS to what was available in 2004. The moderator will provide the context of the early days of the IOTWS in 2005 that brought the international donor community together. The Chair of the ICG/IOTWS will provide an overview of the entire system, including the development and successful implementation of the Regional Tsunami Service Providers. The Chairs of the ICG/IOTWS Working Groups will report on achievements in the context of the 3 pillars of the IOTWS: tsunami risk assessment and reduction; tsunami detection, warning and dissemination; and tsunami awareness and response. Presenters will highlight gaps and future plans for the IOTWS.

Session 2: Outstanding needs and future developments. What still needs to be done? What future developments are planned?

This session will cover what is still lacking in the IOTWS and what future developments are planned, and will be presented from the perspective of the IOTWS Member States, UN agencies and other international partners. The focus of the session will be to review the status of selected countries representing different regions in the Indian Ocean from the point of view of capacity development, future developments and outstanding needs.

Session 3: Donor perspectives. What have been the outcomes and impacts of donor interventions?

The purpose of this session will be for donor countries, UN agencies and other regional organisations to report on the outcomes of their contributions to the IOTWS and to highlight the impact of their interventions at regional and national levels. Ongoing and future planned interventions will also be discussed to align with the gaps and outstanding needs highlighted in Session 2.

Session 4: Sustainability of the IOTWS. What is the way forward for sustaining the IOTWS in the long term?

This session will focus on the long term sustainability of the IOTWS now that it is fully operational. Presentations and discussions will cover the governance of the IOTWS, financial models and resource mobilisation for maintenance, training and capacity development needs, and the need for international and national policies to ensure that the IOTWS is sustained for the long term.

Session 5: Strengthening international cooperation: the role of international organisations in tsunami warning.

This session will focus on the role of international organisations in coordinating tsunami warning, raising community awareness and preparedness, and strengthening Member States' capacity through scientific research, training workshops and the development of information resources, including the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre. Presentations and discussion will cover lessons learned in the past 10 years, what has proved to be useful and what is needed to further strengthen international cooperation. Lessons learned in the IOTWS of relevance to other regional Tsunami Warning Systems will also be discussed.

Session 6: Towards the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, 14 to 18 March 2015.

The moderators of the panel discussions in each session will summarise the outcomes of their respective sessions and a statement will be framed for conveyance to the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, 14 to 18 March 2015. The statement will recognise the achievements of the IOTWS in the last 10 years and record the commitment of the IOTWS Member States, UN agencies and other international partners to sustain and strengthen the IOTWS through regional cooperation.

Who Should Attend?

- IOTWS Member State government representatives and Tsunami National Contacts.
- IOC Member State government representatives with special interest in the IOTWS.
- Donor country and Aid agency representatives
- UN Agencies.
- Regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.
- Technical partners that have provided technical support to the IOTWS.

Registration

The conference is open attendance and there is no registration fee. Registration can be completed online at: www.ioc-unesco.org/IOTconference2014.

Organising Committee

- IOC UNESCO Secretariat for the ICG/IOTWS
- Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG)
- UNESCO Office Jakarta
- Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC)

Further Information

More information about the conference programme, speakers and practical arrangements will be made available at: www.ioc-unesco.org/IOTconference2014. The next announcement will include details of the programme, speakers and panellists and will be issued by 27th October.

Contact

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