IOC Circular Letter Nº2402
(Available in English, French, Spanish, Russian) 9 September 2011

To: ICG/PTWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) and Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)
ICG/PTWS Chair and Vice-Chairs

Cc: Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC Member States
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
ICG/PTWS Permanent Observers
PTWS Working Groups and Task Teams Chairs
PTWC/JMA/WCATWC
Director ITIC
UNESCO Offices in Bangkok, Santiago, Lima, Quito, Guatemala


I have great pleasure to send you attached the following documents:

The Operational Users Guide for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS) Second Edition, provides a summary of the tsunami message services currently provided to the PTWS by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC), the NOAA West Cost/Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre (WCATWC) and the Japan Meteorological Agency’s (JMA) Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisor Centre (NWPTAC). The Guide’s primary purpose is to provide a summary of the operational procedures of the Centres, and overview of the seismic and sea level monitoring networks used by the Centres, the criteria for issuing tsunami messages, and the method by which messages are sent.

The Exercise Pacific Wave 11, A Pacific-wide Tsunami and Communication Exercise, is the Manual produced specifically for an ocean wide tsunami exercise planned to happen on November 9-10, 2011. The purpose of the Exercise Pacific Wave 11 is to improve local and regional source tsunami warning and response capability in the Pacific. The exercise provides an opportunity for Pacific countries to exercise their operational lines of communications, review their tsunami response procedures and promote emergency preparedness.
The above documents have been prepared by an extensive network of experts and operational staff of tsunami warning centres and emergency managers that contributed their time towards the noble objective of making progress in the way tsunami risk-prone communities can deal and cope with the risk of tsunamis.

The PTWS Users Guide is a standard reference tool that provides detailed information to operational staff working in tsunami warning centres. It is updated regularly as the system makes technical progress. The Guide is subject to approval of all Member States participating actively in the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.

The Exercise Pacific Wave 2011 (PacWave11) will be an important preparedness activity and we trust that you and your country authorities will support this exercise. There are two main exercise objectives:

1. To validate understanding and use of new PTWS Experimental Products.
2. To validate the readiness of Member States to respond to a local/regional source tsunami.

For more details about the Exercise PACWAVE 11 please see Circular Letter No 2390 dated 13 May 2011.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

Attachments:
