IOC Circular Letter No 2685

To: ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP)
ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs)
ICG/NEAMTWS Steering Committee
ICG/NEAMTWS Chair and Vice-Chairs

cc: Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC in Member States
Permanent Delegation/Observer Mission to UNESCO and National Commission for UNESCO in IOC Member States of the ICG/NEAMTWS

Subject: Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas – NEAMTWS Tsunami Exercise – ‘NEAMWave17’, 31 October – 3 November 2017

At its 13th session, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas (ICG/NEAMTWS, Bucharest, Romania, 26-28 September 2016) decided to establish a Task Team on NEAMWave17 to organize and conduct a tsunami exercise named “NEAMWave17” in the fourth quarter of 2017 in order to test the readiness of the System and participating Member States bordering the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas.

Conduct of the Exercise

The exercise will mobilize the designated Tsunami warning focal point (TWFP), the National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) and the Disaster Management Organizations (DMO) or Civil Protection Agencies (CPA) in your country who will be required to implement the procedures laid out in the NEAMTWS Interim Operational Users Guide (2012). Member States are encouraged to extend exercises to community level and include critical infrastructure in exercises (e.g. hospitals, fire stations, police stations, electric power plants, airports, ports and harbours). NEAMWave17 will also simulate the “Request of international assistance” through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the Emergency Response and Coordination Centre (ERCC) of the European Commission.
Date of the Exercise

The exercise will take place on 31 October, 1 November, 2 November and 3 November 2017, and will run in real time. The Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) and a future Candidate TSP will issue exercise messages.

Exercise Documents

NEAMWave17 Exercise Manual will be available online at: http://www.ioc-unesco.org/NEAMWave17-Exercise-Manual. The Manual details the scope and objectives of NEAMWave17, description of NEAMWave17, exercise scenarios, participation forms, description of roles, conduct of NEAMWave17, evaluation of NEAMWave17 as well as media arrangements. In order to participate in the NEAMWave17 the designated national institution is kindly asked to fill out the participation form available in the Manual and email it to the ICG/NEAMTWS Secretariat at IOC.

NEAMWave17 National Contact Nomination

In order to ensure that the commitment of participating Member States is fully coordinated, we seek your nomination of a National Contact for the NEAMWave17 tsunami exercise with whom IOC will communicate about planning for the conduct of the exercise. The designated National Contact will be expected to confirm the accuracy of existing tsunami warning arrangements within your country, including the identification of operational points of contact for receipt and dissemination of tsunami warnings downstream from the National Tsunami Warning Centre. The designated National Contact will also be responsible for coordinating input to the exercise evaluation, details of which can be found as part of the NEAMWave17 Exercise Manual.

Over the last two years several Tsunamis have been recorded in the NEAMTWS region e.g. Aegean Sea (21 July 2017), in Alboran Sea (25 January 2016) and in the Ionian Sea (17 November 2015). The NEAMWave17 tsunami exercise will provide the NEAMTWS Member States an opportunity to evaluate their readiness for the forthcoming service. We would therefore encourage all NEAMTWS Member States to participate in the NEAMWave17 Exercise.

We invite you to provide the details of your National Contact for Exercise ‘NEAMWave17’ and complete participation form by 24 August to the ICG/NEAMTWS Secretariat by e-mail (d.chang-seng@unesco.org). We also encourage you to disseminate copies of this letter to the appropriate organizations and authorities within your country. In the meantime, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary