

**Summary of
Eighth meeting of the Working Group on Tsunamis and
Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and
Mitigation Systems,**

12-13 March 2015, Morioka, Japan

Working group on tsunamis and other hazards related to sea-level warning and mitigation systems (TOWS-WG) is a working group of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Tsunami program to advise on coordinated development and implementation activities on warning and mitigation systems for tsunamis and other hazards related to sea level of common priority to all Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG)/Tsunami Warning Systems (TWSs).

Four regional tsunami warning systems have already been established namely, Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE-EWS), Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWS), Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (NEAMTWS) and Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS, formerly ITSU)

Eighth meeting of TOWS-WG was held in Morioka, Japan, on 12-13 March 2015, under the chair-ship of Prof. Yutaka Michida, IOC Vice Chair.

About 20 participants including representatives from these tsunami warning systems, Integrate Coastal Area Management (ICAM) program of IOC, Preparatory Commission from the Comprehensive Nuclear-test-ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Mr. Shin Tani, Chair, GEBCO Guiding Committee Mr. Norio Baba, Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department as a representative of IHO attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed and discussed its activities not only tsunami monitoring and tsunami warning system but also public awareness, tsunami preparedness, post event performance survey, and capacity building etc.

In the activities of the tsunami preparedness, compiling a reference list of tsunami evacuation mapping material, and development of a template for comprehensive mapping guidelines are included. In PTWS, developing tsunami evacuation mapping & planning course for pilot is planned in 205/16.

The meeting highlighted that bathymetry data is an essential for tsunami forecast and inundation modelling, and acknowledged efforts by the IHO and GEBCO to improve the bathymetric data availability.

The meeting decide to request the IOC executive secretariat to invite IMO to participate in the TOWS-WG and the specialized discussions with relevant expert groups of JCOMM, IHO and the TOWS-WG Inter-ICG Task Team on Tsunami Watch Operations, recognizing the importance of developing authoritative and timely tsunami products for shipping in the sea area. WNWNS-Sub Committee will be requested to consider this TOWS-WG decision and discuss at the WNWNS SC meeting possibly having a participation of the representative from the TOWS-WG.

Many National Tsunami Warning Centers (NTWCs) have been established and many Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) have been appointed. Number of NTWCs and TWFPs have been increasing. Hydrographic Offices of IHO will be encouraged to contact them and establish cooperation with them in locally and regionally.

Continuation of the activities including its meetings will be decided at the next IOC Assembly in June 2015 in Paris.

(reported by N.BABA, JHOD)



TOWS-8 in Morioka, Japan