Regional Initiatives in Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

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IOTWS Program Objective

Strategic support under UNESCO ICG/IOTWS towards the development of an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS)

- Total USG IOTWS budget: $16,596,000
- Program period: August 2005 – September 2007
- USAID provides management and coordination from Bangkok office
- ADPC Working as a Program Integrator with IRG-TetraTech
Geographic Focus

- Focus on Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, and the Maldives
- Regional-level activities encompass all 28 Indian Ocean countries
US IOTWS Program Approach

- Integrated “end-to-end” system, inter-operable with international systems
- Regional, national, and local level interventions
- Multi-hazard, addressing tsunami and other coastal hazards simultaneously
- Replication of best practices
- Catalytic impact and leveraged resources
Developing an “End-to-End” Tsunami Warning System for the Indian Ocean

The U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) program is providing technical assistance to the region using an integrated, “end-to-end” approach. In addition, the approach is multi-hazard in that it simultaneously addresses tsunami hazards and a number of other critical coastal hazards such as cyclones, sea swells, floods, and earthquakes.

www.iotws.org
Expected Outcomes for US IOTWS Program

• US leadership provided & capacity strengthened via IOC process:
  ◆ Conceptual design of end-to-end system & “IOTWS Master Plan”
  ◆ Seismic and sea-level detection, communications systems
  ◆ Tsunami and hazard modeling/mapping
  ◆ “Concept of operations”

• Capacity strengthened in national governments and all-hazards disaster warning centers

• Coastal preparedness and mitigation significantly improved

• Technology transfer provided in combination with training

• Regional institutions strengthened for long-term IOTWS support
Progress and Plans

- IOC/IOTWS conferences and technical working groups
  - Technical direction and leadership, facilitation, technical assistance
  - IOC National Assessments
    - USG expert participation in 4 national assessments
    - USAID rushed to prepare comprehensive report (16 assessments) for IOC/IOTWS-II in Hyderabad

- National government & warning center capacity building
  - Incident Command System launch/ training in Sri Lanka
  - Tsunami alert rapid notification system (“TARNS”) in Thailand
  - Tsunami Resilient Communities initiative starting up (i.e. Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia)
  - Seismology exchanges and equipment upgrades (i.e. 5 countries)
Progress and Plans
National warning formulation & communication

• Global Telecommunications System (GTS) upgrade
  ♦ Upgrade GTS and WAN systems for Sri Lanka, Maldives and Thailand
  ♦ Late 2006 – GTS upgrade contracts initiated

• Radio and Internet Communication (RANET)
  ♦ A community-based communications program to reach the “last mile” in remote locations
  ♦ Collaborative with met services, related national agencies and NGOs for all kinds of messages relevant for local communities
  ♦ Mid 2006 - Country discussions and site selection (e.g.Sri Lanka, Thailand)
  ♦ Early 2007- RANET deployment
Progress and Plans

National warning formulation & communication

- Concept of Operations (CONOPS) capacity building
  - Conceptual design training and information
  - Strategic support on how best to manage national warning centers and to formulate and communicate warnings
  - Select countries to apply CONOPS and prepare operations manual
  - June 2006 – all hazards CONOPS regional workshop
  - End 2006 – selected countries conduct trainings
Progress and Plans
Local preparedness and mitigation

- Tsunami Resilient Communities (TRC) Program and Integrated Coastal Management for Disaster Mitigation
  - Standard criteria, benchmarks, and planning for better coastal management and disaster preparedness
  - Local government, NGOs, and tourist industry as partners
  - May-Aug 2006 - guidebook developed
  - Sept 2006 or later - orientation trainings in Sri Lanka
Information Resources

• http://www.us-iotws.gov
  ♦ Fact sheets, outreach materials, events calendar,
  ♦ Technical information, links to U.S. program partners
  ♦ Contact information, etc.

• http://ioc3.unesco.org/indotsunami
  ♦ ICG/IOTWS official site
  ♦ Key decisions, working group documents, calendar of upcoming events
Thank You