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اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

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IOC Circular Letter No 2896

(Available in English, French, Russian and Spanish)

IOC/VR/BA/eba

11 July 2022

- To :** Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) of ICG/CARIBE-EWS, ICG/IOTWMS, ICG-NEAMTWS, ICG/PTWS
- cc. :** Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
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ICG Tsunami Information Centres (CTIC, IOTIC, ITIC, NEAMTIC)
IOC Technical Secretariats of ICG/CARIBE-EWS, ICG/IOTWMS, ICG/NEAMTWS, ICG/PTWS

Subject: UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme and the establishment of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP): notification to Member States and instructions for launching the recognition process

In June 2021, the IOC Assembly approved, through IOC Decision [A-31/3.4.1\(III\)](#) (Warning Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards), the development of an IOC Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (ODTP) in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030). A Scientific Committee has been established (cf. [Circular Letter 2876](#) of January 2022) and is working on a draft 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan for the ODTP to be presented to the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG) for review at its 16th meeting in February 2023. Once finalized, the plan will be submitted to the IOC Assembly for approval at its next meeting in June 2023.

Last June, the IOC Executive Council at its 55th session, took a major step towards one of the major objectives of ODTP to “make 100% of communities at risk of tsunamis prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030” by approving the implementation of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (UNESCO-IOC TRRP) and similar initiatives (Decision [EC-55/3.5.1\(IV\)](#)). The UNESCO-IOC TRRP is a key contribution to achieving the societal outcome of the ‘Ocean Decade: ‘A Safe Ocean where life and livelihoods are protected from ocean-related hazards’.

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The UNESCO-IOC TRRP is an international, voluntary, community-based recognition programme developed by UNESCO-IOC. It aims to build resilient communities through the promotion and assessment of awareness, preparedness and response strategies that will help to protect life, livelihoods, and property from tsunamis across different regions. For more information I refer you to the [UNESCO-IOC TRRP endorsed proposal](#) that was prepared by the TOWS-WG Task Team on Disaster Management and Preparedness.

The full Standard Guidelines for TRRP are described in [IOC Manuals and Guides No 74](#) on the UNESCO-IOC website with additional information also available on the Tsunami Ready [website](#).

In a very brief summary, UNESCO-IOC TRRP promotes the concept of readiness through community actions to meet [12 key indicators](#) that serve as the standard for reducing tsunami risk and impact at the community level. For a community to be recognized by UNESCO-IOC as Tsunami Ready, all 12 indicators must be met.

The UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Unit oversees the administration of the TRRP, the implementation of which is coordinated by the IOC's Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs) of the four regional tsunami warning systems that are in place for: the Caribbean and Adjacent Region (ICG/CARIBE-EWS); Indian Ocean (ICG/IOTWMS); North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas (ICG/NEAMTWS); and the Pacific Ocean (ICG/PTWS). The respective Tsunami Information Centres (TICs) in each region serve as focal point to help advise Member States on the implementation of Tsunami Ready in their countries.

Through this Circular Letter, Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points in Member States of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS, ICG/IOTWMS, ICG/NEAMTWS, and ICG/PTWS are invited to support the implementation of the UNESCO-IOC TRRP as described above.

Countries that wish to join the UNESCO-IOC TRRP are invited to initiate the recognition process through their Tsunami National Contact (TNC). This includes the establishment of a National Tsunami Ready Board (NTRB) (cf. Section 5 of Manuals and Guides, 74 'Implementation workflow for the recognition process'). The UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Unit (TsunamiReady@unesco.org) and Tsunami Information Centres are available to technically support Member States in the process and provide more information as required.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary