

Brief Summary of "National Tsunami Evacuation Planning Workshop"

Date: 13 September, 2022

Venue: INCOIS, Hyderabad, India

Mode: Hybrid

Background:

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) of IOC/UNESCO has a proposal to develop tsunami-ready communities along the Indian Ocean rim countries. In this regard, the IOTWMS finalized 11 tsunami-ready best practice indicators to be implemented to prepare the coastal communities for tsunamis. Two communities (Venkatraipur and Noliasahi) from the Odisha coast of India are the first pilot areas in the region and country. Currently, UNESCO-IOC is implementing a multi-national project “Strengthening tsunami early warning in the Northwest Indian Ocean region through regional cooperation”, funded by United Nations ESCAP Trust Fund. A National Working Group for Tsunami Evacuation Planning (NWG-TEP) is constituted (Annexure-3) as part of the project, supporting the “Tsunami Ready” Program. The first meeting of the Tsunami Working group was held online on 04 August 2022.

Further, it was decided to have a National Tsunami Evacuation Planning Workshop inviting the members of the NWG-TEP and the nominations from the state/provincial disaster management organizations. Hence, this workshop was scheduled to have deliberations on selecting the tsunami-ready communities and gaps, if any. In this regard, nominations were sought from relief commissioners of all the states of India except Kerala, Odisha and Andaman, as they were already members of the NWG-TEP.

Discussions:

The list of participants in the workshop is provided as Annexure-1. Dr. T. Srinivasa Kumar, Director, INCOIS, welcomed the participants and briefed them on the background of the tsunami-ready program and the workshop's agenda (Annexure-2).

Dr. Balakrishnan Nair, Group Director, O-MARS presented an overview of various activities such as services, modeling, observations and training facilities. Mr. B. Ajay Kumar made a presentation on the Tsunami ready program. Mr. R.S. Mahendra illustrated essential procedures/checklists for Tsunami evacuation planning. Further, Dr. Gyan Das, IAS, Executive Director, OSDMA, Odisha, talked about the case studies of the tsunami-ready communities of Odisha and disaster management plans. Dr. Alfred Johny, Hazard Analyst, KSDMA, Kerala, delivered a talk on the Kerala state's preparedness and disaster management plans.

Mr. TKS Ajayan, Assistant Director, DDM-Andaman and Nicobar Administration, expressed their willingness to pilot the tsunami-ready communities in Carnicobar Island. He brought to the audience's notice that the Islands are situated right on the tsunami sources, will have a very short response time, and may require issuing a warning immediately after feeling the earthquake without waiting for a tsunami advisory from INCOIS. Further, he requested to make a recommendation from IOTWMS so that administration can issue a warning based on the earthquake's initial indicators (earthquake shocks felt local).

Dr. Sudha Arlikatti, Professor, Amrutha University, Kerala, stressed the importance of signages as one of the essential components of evacuation planning. She suggested the global standardization of the tsunami evacuation signages in view of global coastal tourism.

Further, the representatives discussed the funding required to implement the tsunami-ready program in detail. Mr. Nawal Prakash, Joint Advisor, NDMA, New Delhi, informed that sufficient funds are available for disaster management in the country. Dr. Gyan Das, OSDMA, mentioned that they are meeting the funds required for the tsunami-ready program from the capacity-building funds under National Disaster Relief Funds (NDRF). These funds are adequate and can be used for this purpose. In addition, Dr. R. Muruganandh, Consultant TNDRA, Tamil Nadu, shared their experiences of the NE-flood disaster management along the Tamil Nadu coast.

Outcomes

After detailed deliberations on coastal disaster management and tsunami evacuation planning, the following outcomes emerged in the workshop.

- The KSDMA and DDM-Andaman Nicobar Administration are willing to pilot the tsunami-ready communities in Kerala, and Andaman Nicobar states, respectively.
- A suitable mechanism may be worked out between KSDMA, Amrutha University and INCOIS to proceed with the pilot program in Alappad, Kerala.
- Odisha is interested in extending the tsunami-ready program to more villages
- Standardization of the tsunami signages is required to be done across the globe.
- The representatives proposed a national tsunami-ready board meeting before the SOP workshop to discuss and incorporate additional pilot areas from coastal states.

Annexure-1: List of Participants

1. **Dr. T Srinivasa Kumar**
Director INCOIS, India
2. **Dr. Gnana Das, IAS**
Executive Director, OSDMA, Odisha, India
3. **Dr. T M Balakrishnan Nair**
Group Director, INCOIS, India
4. **Dr. Sudheer Joseph**
Division Head, INCOIS, India
5. **Dr. Alfred Johny,**
Hazard Analyst, KSDMA, Kerala, India
6. **Dr. Sudha Arlikatti,**
Professor, Amrutha University, Kerala, India
7. **Mr. Nawal Prakash**
Joint Advisor, NDMA, New Delhi, India
8. **Dr. R. Muruganandh**
Consultant TNDRRA, Tamil Nadu, India
9. **Mr. R S Mahendra,**
Scientist-E, INCOIS, India
10. **Mr. B. Ajay Kumar**
Scientist-D, INCOIS, India

Participants Joined online

1. **Col. Nadeem Arshad**
Consultant (Operations), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
2. **Dr. Maneesha V Ramesh**
Provost, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
3. **Mr. TKS Ajayan**
AD, DDM- Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Port Blair, India
4. **Mr. Rick Bailey**
Head of ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat. Melbourne, Australia
5. **Mr. Harald Spahn**
Consultant UNESCAP
6. **Mrs. Nora Gale,**
Assistant Programme Specialist, ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat, Perth, Australia

Annexure-2

Agenda

National Tsunami Evacuation Planning Workshop

13 September, 2022

Time (IST)	Program	
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome Remarks	Director, INCOIS
10:10 – 10:30	Overview of INCOIS	Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair
10:30 – 11:00	Tsunami Ready	Shri Ajay Kumar
11:00 – 11:15	Tea Break	
11:15 – 11:45	Tsunami Evacuation Planning	Shri R S Mahendra
11:45 – 12:15	OSDMA Evacuation Plans (Tsunami Ready)	Representative from OSDMA
12:15 – 12:45	KSDMA Evacuation Plans (For Proposed Pilot Areas)	Representative from KSDMA
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 15:30	Tsunami Evacuation Planning Discussions on Questionnaire	Involving IOTWMS delegates
15:30 – 16:00	Discussions & Conclusion	All
16:00-16:05	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Sudheer Joseph
16:00 – 17:00	Lab Visits	