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اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO – 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France
<http://ioc.unesco.org> - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 03 18
E-mail: v.ryabinin@unesco.org

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IOC/VR/ON/ah
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To : CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) CARIBE-EWS
National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) CARIBE-EWS
Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)
ICG/CARIBE-EWS Chair and Vice-Chairpersons

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Regional Organizations cooperating with UNESCO/IOC
NAVAREA Coordinators
Chair IHO/IMO/WMO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee
Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center
Director, Central America Tsunami Advisory Center

**Subject: Announcement of the CARIBE WAVE 24 Tsunami Exercise
in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions on 21 March 2024**

At its eighth session in 2013, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions decided to conduct tsunami exercises named CARIBE WAVE. They are supposed to take place on an annual basis leaving each Member State to define its level of participation.

The objectives of this exercise are to:

- (1) practice and evaluate communications between Regional Tsunami Service Provider and Members States/Territories, and
- (2) evaluate the tsunami procedures and programmes within Members States/Territories.

The ICG/CARIBE-EWS at its 16th session (San José, Costa Rica; 25–28, April 2023) recommended that the Exercise CARIBE WAVE 24 would take place on **21 March 2024 at 15:00:00 UTC** with the following two hypothetical scenarios:

- A tsunami generated by a magnitude Mw 8.7 earthquake located in the Puerto Rico Trench.

Chairperson

Dr Yutaka MICHIDA
Professor
Atmosphere and Ocean Research
Institute, The University of Tokyo
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5
2778564 Kashiwa
JAPAN

Executive Secretary

Dr Vladimir RYABININ
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Dr Marie-Alexandrine SICRE
Directrice de Recherche
Centre national de la recherche scientifique
(CNRS)
3 rue Michel Ange
75016 Paris
FRANCE

Dr Nikolay VALCHEV
Director
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
40 Parvi May Str.
9000 Varna
BULGARIA

Mr Juan Camilo FORERO HAUZEUR
Executive Secretary
Colombian Ocean Commission (COO)
Avenida Ciudad de Cali No. 51 – 66
Edificio WBC, Oficina 306
111071 Bogotá, D.C.
COLOMBIA

Dr Srinivasa Kumar TUMMALA
Director
Indian National Centre for Ocean
Information Services (INCOIS)
Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO)
Hyderabad 500090
INDIA

Prof. Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA
President
National Institute of
Oceanography and Fisheries
(NIOF)
Qaitbay, Al-Anfoshi
Alexandria
EGYPT

- A tsunami generated by a magnitude Mw 8.47 earthquake located in the North Panama Deformed Belt.

Each Member State is invited to select one scenario by completing the following survey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CW24_ScenarioSelection) by 7 March 2024.

Regular exercising of response plans is critical to maintain readiness for an emergency. The CARIBE WAVE 24 exercise also supports the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme goal that 100% of communities at risk from tsunamis are prepared and resilient to tsunamis and the implementation of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme. It is up to each country to decide the extent of its participation in the exercise.

The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) and the Nicaragua Central America Tsunami Advisory Centers will issue an initial dummy message on 21 March 2024 at 15:00 UTC and disseminate over all their standard Tsunami Warning Centre broadcast channels. This dummy message shall be issued to test communications with Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) and National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC), and to launch the exercise. The PTWC and CATAAC will then email the simulated tsunami products to the officially designated TWFPs and NTWCs according to the chosen scenario. Each TWFP/NTWC will decide if and how to disseminate the messages within their area of responsibility. In cases where a Member State does not inform of its choice of scenario, the organizers will make the selection.

The ICG/CARIBE-EWS of UNESCO/IOC, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Caribbean Regional Emergency Management Stakeholders (CEPREDENAC, CDEMA, and EMIZA) are providing the framework for this exercise as a means for emergency responders throughout the Caribbean and adjacent regions to test and update tsunami response plans. The participant handbook with details of the exercise will be available online at <http://caribewave.org>. Additional information relevant to the exercise will also be posted on this link in due course.

For CARIBE WAVE 24, ICG/CARIBE-EWS decided to continue to use TsunamiZone for registration (<http://tsunamizone.org/caribbean>). The participants will be able to sign up and see the list of participants. Emergency Management Organizations (EMOs) and exercise coordinators are encouraged to promote this registration system. For CARIBE WAVE 23, over 420,000 participants registered through this platform.

Online seminars for orienting participants on the exercise in English, Spanish and French languages are scheduled for 23–25 January and 27–29 February 2024. As an additional planning tool, the ITIC has produced videos on the PTWC Products and Staging for the Caribbean (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8956022>, request password to itic.tsunami@noaa.gov), as well as a promotional video on CARIBE WAVE (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9334456>). For further information on the exercise, please contact Mr. Antonio Aguilar, Chair of the Task Team CARIBE WAVE 24 (antoniodesastres@gmail.com), Ms Alison Brome, Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (a.brome@unesco.org), Ms Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade, International Tsunami Information Center Caribbean Office (christa.vonh@noaa.gov), and/or the Technical Secretary ICG/CARIBE-EWS, Dr Ocal Necmioglu (o.necmioglu@unesco.org). You are also encouraged to disseminate copies of this letter to appropriate organizations and authorities within your country.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Your sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary