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МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

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(Available in English only)

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- To** : Registered Tsunami National Contacts (TNC) of the following countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China (Peoples Republic of), Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap), France (French Polynesia), Indonesia, Korea (Republic of), Malaysia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Viet Nam
- cc.** : Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center
Director, International Tsunami Information Center
IOC Tsunami Unit

Subject : Starting of issuance of experimental NWPTAC Enhanced Products on 20 December 2017

Through [IOC Circular Letter 2535](#) dated 4 September 2014, States members of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System were informed of the start of issuance of PTWC Enhanced Products for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS) on 1st October 2014.

In pursuit of continuous improvement for PTWS tsunami warning products, Japan announced the same year at the IOC Executive Council that the North West Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC) would also be developing new products based on the requirements of user countries. The PTWS Steering Committee (PTWS SC) agreed shortly after on a timeline targeting full transition to NWPTAC Enhanced Products by 2018. It also recommended that the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) continue the process of developing NWPTAC Enhanced Products for PTWS.

At its 26th session (Honolulu, April 2015), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the PTWS (ICG/PTWS) agreed that NWPTAC should proceed with its development of Enhanced Products for the Northwest Pacific region. Accordingly, Exercise Pacific Wave 2016 (PacWave16) and Exercise Pacific Wave 2017 (PacWave17) were conducted to evaluate NWPTAC Enhanced Products.

At its 27th session (Tahiti, April 2017), the ICG/PTWS agreed that NWPTAC should start issuance of its experimental NWPTAC Enhanced Products in parallel with its existing products in the second half of 2017 and set a target change-over date for around six months to a year from the date of introduction.

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At the virtual meeting of the PTWS SC on 11th September 2017, Mr Satoshi Harada indicated that JMA proposed 20th December 2017 as starting date for experimental products. He noted that NWPTAC will extend its area of service with full changeover with the following improvements from previous products: new forecast points, 5 categories of tsunami amplitude classification and 3 graphical products.

The PTWS SC agreed to start the experimental issuance of NWPTAC Enhanced Products on 20 December 2017.

A draft Users' Guide based on the document "[Operational Users Guide for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System \(PTWS\)](#)" (IOC Technical Series No 87, 2nd Edition—mainly section 6) has been prepared and is attached to this circular letter. We kindly ask Member States to review the products and provide feedback on the products and on the draft Users' Guide. The plan is to issue the Users' Guide as a new volume of the IOC Technical Series.

Please send your opinion and evaluation about the NWPTAC Enhance Products and/or the draft Users' Guide to the following email addresses hokusei@eqvol2.kishou.go.jp, b.aliaga@unesco.org and/or Fax number: +81 3 3215 2963 by 31st May 2018.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2):

[Sample of the NWPTAC Enhanced Products](#) (*zip file available online*)
Draft Users' Guide for the NWPTAC Enhanced Products for the PTWS