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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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IOC Circular Letter No 2706
(Available in English only)

IOC/VR/TA/BA/
5 January 2018

- To :** Registered Tsunami National Contacts (TNC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) of the following countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China (Peoples Republic of), Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam
- cc. :** Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
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Directors of UNESCO and IOC Regional Offices in the Asia/Pacific Region
Regional Organizations cooperating with UNESCO/IOC
Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center
Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC)
Director, International Tsunami Information Center
IOC Tsunami Unit

Subject : Starting of trial operations of the South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (SCSTAC) on 26 January 2018

As early as 2008, Member States around regional seas were encouraged to actively promote the development, establishment and sustained operation of national and sub-regional Tsunami Warning and Mitigation Systems within the framework of Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs) (Resolution EC-XLI.6).

In February 2009, a sub-regional Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the South China Sea region was established within the framework of the ICG/PTWS, together with the Working Group for the South China Sea (WG-SCS) (Recommendations ICG/PTWS-XXIII.4 and 5).

At its 25th session (Vladivostok, September 2013), the ICG/PTWS agreed on forming a Task Team on the Establishment of a South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Centre (SCSTAC), and accepted the offer of the Government of China to host the SCSTAC at the National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center (NMEFC).

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At its 27th session (Tahiti, April 2017), the ICG/PTWS decided to commence the trial operation of SCSTAC in late 2017, with specific date to be decided by the PTWS Steering Committee. At its virtual meeting on 11 September 2017, the PTWS SC accepted the proposal by Mr S. Tick Chan (China), Chair of WG-SCS, to start the trial issuance of SCSTAC products in January 2018. It will be effective on 26 January 2018.

Detailed information about SCSTAC products, geographical coverage, bulletins, forecast points and other technical aspects is available from the enclosed *Technical Document: Tsunami Advisory Products for the South China Sea Regional Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System*, October 2017. More information can be found at www.scstac.org.

During the trial issuance of SCSTAC products, you are welcome to send comments or suggestions via email (until end of May 2018) about the enclosed Technical Document or the SCSTAC products, to Dr Ye Yuan, Head for Tsunami Warning Division at NMEFC (yuanye@nmefc.gov.cn), and Mr Bernardo Aliaga, Programme Specialist at IOC Headquarters (b.aliaga@unesco.org)

The National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center (NMEFC) of the State Oceanic Administration of China (SOA), and the Secretariat will work together to make training available on the SCSTAC products to ensure that the products are understood, and that Member States know how to modify their Tsunami Warning Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) accordingly. It is anticipated that a training will be hosted by NMEFC in the week of 7–11 May 2018. Details will be announced in due time.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosure (1):

Technical Document: Tsunami Advisory Products for the South China Sea Regional Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, October 2017