



81st Session of ESCAP Side Event

“Resilient Coasts: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness through Regional Collaboration”

Date/Time: 25 April 2025 (Friday), 12:45-13:45 (Bkk time)

Venue: Conference Room 4, UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand & Microsoft Teams

Overview

Coastal regions of Asia and the Pacific represent complex disaster riskscapes whereby cascading hazards compound with increasing vulnerabilities exacerbated by unplanned urban expansion, coastal erosion and environmental degradation. ESCAP’s multi-donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness was established to promote regional cooperation that advances multi-hazard early warning systems, with a focus on high-risk, low-capacity coastal countries.

Since 2019, the Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster, and Climate Preparedness has supported the “Strengthening Tsunami Warning in the North-West Indian Ocean through Regional Cooperation” programme, implemented by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. This initiative, with participation from India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and a self-financed participation of the United Arab Emirates and Oman, demonstrates the importance of regional cooperation in advancing scientific hazard modeling, strengthening national early warning systems (EWS), and promoting community-level preparedness to safeguard urban and coastal resilience.

The side-event will showcase the collaborative leadership of India and the broader North-West Indian Ocean region, through the Trust Fund, to strengthen shared early warning solutions. It will also provide a platform for sharing strategies, experiences, and commitments to enhance disaster resilience in coastal cities. By highlighting achievements and future plans of the “Strengthening Tsunami Warning in the North-West Indian Ocean through Regional Cooperation” programme, the event will enhance regional cooperation opportunities with other relevant initiatives such as the Tsunami Ready Programme, the Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition, and Early Warnings for All.

Objectives

The objectives of the session are as follows:

1. Showcase the collaborative leadership of India and the broader North-West Indian Ocean through the Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness, to strengthen present and future shared early warning solutions
2. Foster a shared understanding of strengthening the tsunami early warning value chain to enhance multi-hazard coastal resilience, particularly in urban development context.
3. Raise awareness on complementary urban resilience programmes and initiatives, including those aligned with the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, such as the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme and the Cities with the Ocean Platform.

Registration details:

Online and in-person participants are requested to register via [the event website here](#). In-Person participants will also need to register via [Indico](#) to receive the security pass at the venue.

Expected Participants

- Representatives from UNESCO-IOC and partners of the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and Early Warnings for All initiative.
- Members of the Advisory Council to the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness - India, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, and Thailand
- Observers of the Advisory Council to the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness – Philippines, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Mexico, Chile, Asian Development Bank, etc
- Programme participants from India, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Pakistan and the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System

Proposed Agenda:

Time	Agenda
12:45	Welcome Statement by Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
12:50	Statement on India's renewed contribution to the Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness by His Excellency Nagesh Singh, Ambassador of India to Thailand and Permanent Representative to ESCAP
13:00	Presentation on the “Strengthening Tsunami Warning in the North-West Indian Ocean through Regional Cooperation” as funded through the Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness on behalf of UNESCO-IOC, INCOIS, ESCAP by Ms. Temily Baker , Programme Management Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, ESCAP
13:10	Panel discussion on “Enhancing coastal Urban Disaster Risk Resilience through Regional Cooperation” moderated by Ms. Sunanda Manneela , Chair of the North West Indian Ocean Working Group of the ICG/IOTWMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tsunami preparedness as a basis for multi-hazard coastal preparedness by Mr Nasser Said Al-Ismaili, Director of Forecasting and Early Warning System National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre, Oman & Vice Chair of North West Indian Ocean Working Group of the ICG/IOTWMS ▪ Tsunami Ready Programme and advancing urban resilience by Dr Sudheer Joseph, Scientist 'G' & Division Head of Applied Research and Research to Operations (ARO), INCOIS ▪ Ocean Decade programming complementing coastal urban resilience by Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala, Head of the ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat, UNESCO-IOC
13:25	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statements and Reflections from fellow Trust Fund Advisory Council members –Italy, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, and Thailand ▪ Open Q&A
13:40	Closing Remarks by founding representative of the Advisory Council to the Trust Fund (tbc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refreshments and light lunch offered outside of the venue

Website Brief:

Coastal cities of Asia and the Pacific face complex disaster risks due to cascading hazards and increasing vulnerabilities from unplanned urban expansion, coastal erosion, and environmental degradation. This side event will showcase the achievements of the Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster, and Climate Preparedness, particularly through the “Strengthening Tsunami Warning in the North-West Indian Ocean” programme and showcase insights into multi-hazard approaches to urban resilience. Join us as we learn about the significant strides undertaken by coastal cities to enhance their resilience to ocean and coastal hazards.