

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION of UNESCO  
INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER  
U.S. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

**Tsunami Ready Philippines National Workshop  
Park Inn North EDSA, Metro Manila, Philippines  
8 to 11 December 2025**

**INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE PERSON BIOGRAPHIES**

**DR. LAURA S. L. KONG**

Director, UNESCO-IOC / NOAA International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)  
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Dr. Kong has been the Director of the ITIC since 2001. As Director, she oversees a Centre that supports the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in its efforts to deploy tsunami warning and mitigation systems globally, and that works directly with the 46-nation Intergovernmental Co-ordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System to strengthen national tsunami warnings and preparedness. In this capacity, the ITIC works closely with the USA Pacific and National Tsunami Warning Centers, Japan Meteorological Agency NWPTAC and other Tsunami Service Providers, and national tsunami warnings centres. The ITIC has been primary provider of information and expertise for technology transfer, awareness, training and capacity building in tsunami warning and mitigation for the IOC. Since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Dr. Kong has been actively involved as part of the IOC's coordination and development of systems in the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and adjacent regions, and Mediterranean Seas and the north Atlantic Ocean. ITIC is the primary developer of IOC trainings conducted globally on tsunami warning and emergency response standard operating procedures (IOC MG 76) and tsunami evacuation planning (TEMPP, IOC MG 82). Currently, ITIC-CAR and ITIC lead efforts to implement the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme in the Caribbean and Pacific, and Dr. Kong is the inaugural Chair of the IOC Special Coalition on Tsunami Ready. Dr. Kong also supports the efforts of the ITU/WMO/UNESCO-IOC Joint Task Force on SMART Subsea Cables as a co-Chair of its Science and Society Committee. Within the United States, serves as the Hawaii State Tsunami Advisor, and supports the US National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. She is the former Chair of the Hawaii State Earthquake Advisory Committee. Previously, she was with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, the University of Hawaii's Hawaii Institute of Geophysics, the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, and the University of Tokyo's Earthquake Research Institute. She is a graduate of Brown University and received PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1990.

**ARDITO M. KODIJAT**

Retired, Former Head, UNESCO-IOC Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC)  
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He joined UNESCO in 2006 as the National Professional Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction and Tsunami Information Unit (DRRTIU) in the UNESCO Jakarta Office, coordinating, managing, and implementing programmes of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO-IOC). IOTIC supported the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System of UNESCO-IOC (ICG/IOTWMS) on tsunami risk reduction for

Indian Ocean at-risk communities through capacity building in tsunami hazard, awareness, preparedness, education, and mitigation measures. Mr. Kodijat had been actively involved in programmes and activities on UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready; Tsunami Warning and Emergency Response SOP; Tsunami Risk Reduction Policy; Tsunami Exercises; and Tsunami Evacuation Maps, Plans, and Procedures. He initiated an innovative approach to game-based learning for Tsunami Ready by developing the Tsunami Ready Boardgame and the RUNAMI Boardgame. He also initiated the programme on Preserving Past Tsunami Information for Future Preparedness, resulting in more than 400 stories of survivors and eyewitnesses from 16 tsunamis before 2004 being documented. He further initiated the TSUNAMI UNITED programme to raise tsunami awareness among high school students in the Indian Ocean, connect schools across the region, and foster meaningful conversations among youth on tsunami preparedness. Under the UNESCO Science Sector, Mr. Kodijat coordinated the disaster risk reduction programme of the UNESCO Jakarta Office covering Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste, focusing on advocating for youth and young professionals in Science, Engineering, Technology, and Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction and strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in UNESCO Designated Sites. Prior to joining UNESCO, he was the Head of the Training Centre for the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology of Indonesia and the Deputy Assistant for International Research Cooperation of the Ministry for Research and Technology of Indonesia.

Mr. Kodijat retired from UNESCO in November 2025.

#### **DR. CHARLES MCCREERY**

Director, NOAA Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)  
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Charles McCreery was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, but moved to Honolulu when he was 17 to attend the University of Hawaii. As a freshman, he took a job as a student assistant at the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics where he had his first introduction to tsunamis. They were a topic of much research because the state had been struck five times by destructive tsunamis over just the past 22 years. Several of the geophysics graduate students were members of the “Suicide Squad” for measuring tsunamis. They had Civil Defense passes and were supposed to rush to the beach if there was a tsunami warning, erect a measuring staff, and observe the height of the waves while a partner waited nearby in a car in case a quick escape was necessary. Over the next twenty years, he continued to work at the Institute on a variety of research topics and completed a Ph.D. in Geophysics in 1992. He got involved with tsunamis again as part of a project to investigate whether underwater sound from earthquakes could be used to detect tsunamigenesis. Based on limited data, the results were only suggestive. This topic has resurfaced later as a potential way to detect undersea landslide tsunami sources. In 1993, he left the University and joined the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center where he learned about the challenges of operations in contrast to research. In 1995, he moved to the International Tsunami Information Center as its Director in support of the international cooperation that is essential to the warning system. Then in 1997, he returned to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center as its Director. On December 26, 2004, the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster demonstrated the terrible effects this hazard can render, especially when communities are not prepared. Then on September 29, 2009 the most destructive tsunami to strike the U.S. since the 1964 hit American Samoa as well as Samoa and Tonga. In 2010 and in 2011, major Pacific-wide tsunamis struck again in the Pacific coming from Chile and then Japan re-emphasizing the overall need to stay prepared and to operate ocean-wide warning systems. Since 2004, his efforts and those of the Center have been focused on improving the tsunami warning system for the U.S. as well as the rest of the world.

### **ANDREW HORAN**

International Affairs Project Manager, NOAA National Weather Service,  
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Andrew Horan is an International Project Manager for the U.S. National Weather Service's Office of International Affairs at NOAA. In this role, he manages funding agreements with the U.S. Department of State that implements projects worldwide to improve early warning system capabilities for a variety of natural hazards. Prior to this role, he worked for eight years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Global Affairs and Policy where he worked on plastic and marine pollution policy worldwide and participated in various multilateral negotiations at the UN supporting solid waste management practices and reducing plastic pollution. Prior to that role, he lived and worked in the Philippines as a Coastal Resource Management Extension Worker Volunteer for the U.S. Peace Corps where he helped coastal fishing villages in Leyte manage their fisheries and marine resources. He holds a BS in Earth and Atmospheric Science from Georgia Institute of Technology and an MS in Geography from the University of Florida. He speaks some Visayan and in his spare time enjoys any outdoor activities, reading, and growing food.

### **PHILIPPINES RESOURCE PERSON BIOGRAPHIES**

Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology  
Department of Science and Technology (PHIVOLCS, DOST), Quezon City, Philippines

#### **DR. MA. MYLENE M. VILLEGAS**

**DIRECTOR III**, E-mail: [mylene.villegas@phivolcs.dost.gov.ph](mailto:mylene.villegas@phivolcs.dost.gov.ph)

Ma. Mylene Martinez-Villegas is currently Director III (Deputy Director) of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) since 2023. She received her BS in Geology from the University of the Philippines, Diliman in 1990. She joined the Geology, Geophysics R&D Division of PHIVOLCS as a Science Research Specialist I in 1991. In 1995, she pursued her MS degree in Geology from Arizona State University. She returned to the Philippines in 1997 and continued to serve PHIVOLCS until she became Chief of the Geologic Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Division in 2001, wherein she focused on strategies for PHIVOLCS' information, education and communication programs on disaster awareness and preparedness for earthquake, tsunami and volcanoes. During this period, she served as component project leader or focal person of several major projects and collaborations focused on earthquake and tsunami such as the following: (1) DOST-GIA funded Tsunami Risk Mitigation Program (2006-2007) – focused on capacity building, and development of tsunami information materials; (2) UNDP-AusAID-funded multi-agency collaboration READY Project – Hazards Mapping and Assessment for Effective Community-based Disaster Risk Management (2006-2011); (3) UNESCO-Jakarta- funded Tsunami Information Materials (2010-2011)- an information sharing for developing tsunami materials among ASEAN countries- Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste; (4) JICA-JST-funded Enhancement of Earthquake and Volcano Monitoring and Effective Utilization of Disaster Mitigation Information in the Philippines (2010- 2014 ) during which 4 comics based on stories of selected 4 Filipino Survivors during the March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake was produced; and (5) DOST-Grant-in-Aid- funded, Establishment of a Cost-Effective Local Tsunami Early Warning System for Selected High-Risk Coastal Communities of the Philippines (TeWS) 2011-2013, focused on capacity and needs assessment, design and facilitation of capacity building activities – including preparation of evacuation plan and maps for selected pilot coastal barangays. She pursued her Master of

Development Communication (finished in 2012) and Doctor of Communication (finished in 2017). Dr. Martinez-Villegas is a licensed Geologist (since 1990) and Professional Teacher (since 2005).

Dr. Martinez-Villegas will be joined by the following PHIVOLCS personnel as resource persons during the workshop:

1. **DR. WINHELLE IAN G. SEVILLA**, Chief Science Research Specialist
2. **ENGR. ANGELITO G. LANUZA**, Supervising Science Research Specialist
3. **JOAN C. SALCEDO**, Supervising Science Research Specialist
4. **JEFFREY S. PEREZ**, Supervising Science Research Specialist
5. **CHARMAINE V. VILLAMIL**, Senior Science Research Specialist
6. **DANIKKO RIVERA**, Senior Science Research Specialist
7. **ROBELYN MANGAHAS-FLORES**, Science Research Specialist
8. **FATIMA M. MONCADA**, Science Research Specialist
9. **RYGIN JOY R. MATIAS**, Science Research Specialist