

**UNESCO-IOC/NOAA
ITIC TRAINING PROGRAMME (ITP) - REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP
PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES (PICT)**

**TSUNAMI EVACUATION MAPS, PLANS AND PROCEDURES (TEMPP 2):
Tsunami Evacuation Maps and Community Response Plans
13-17 April 2026, Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji**

SPEAKER AND RESOURCE PERSON BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID COETZEE

Emergency Management Specialist
Retired from the New Zealand National Emergency Management Agency
Past National Controller. Current Alternate National Controller, Member of the Scientific
Committee of the UN Ocean Decade IOC Tsunami Program, E-mail: dzcoetzee@gmail.com

David Coetzee retired from the New Zealand National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in 2023 after 22 years' service. From 2020 to 2023, he was the Manager, Regional Partnerships, where he was responsible for the NEMA's work with emergency management in the 16 domestic regions and in Pacific Island Countries. From 2008 to 2020, David was the National Operations Manager, responsible for the development of NEMA's response capability, New Zealand's Tsunami Risk Management Programme, and the National Warning System. David also held the position of National Controller for 13 years, making him responsible for leading the national level response to civil defence emergencies in New Zealand.

David left a legacy of enduring programmes and projects, including the establishment of a National Crisis Management Centre, revisions of the Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS), establishing a national exercise programme, and uplifting the national warning system - including establishing the arrangements for tsunami warnings and a national cell broadcast public alerting system. He was awarded the Minister's Gold Award for significant contribution to Civil Defence Emergency Management.

At the international level David served as a Vice-Chair of the Pacific Tsunami Warning System (PTWS) under the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO until 2023. He served for more than 10 years as the Chair of the ICG/PTWS Working Group on Disaster Management and Preparedness and was called upon to assist with tsunami capability building in several regions. On behalf of the IOC, he also chaired the world-wide TOWS Task Team on Disaster Management and Preparedness from 2018 to 2022, and served on the Scientific Committee for the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme until 2025. As an independent contractor, David is currently supporting countries in the Pacific Islands towards Tsunami Ready recognition, as well as advising projects in the Middle East.

MARIE C. EBLÉ

Tsunami Ready Project Manager, UNESCO/IOC – NOAA International Tsunami Information
Center (ITIC), 1845 Wasp Blvd, Bldg 176, Honolulu, HI, 96818
Retired as Deputy Director from NOAA National Center for Tsunami Research
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Marie Eblé earned a Master of Science in Physical Oceanography from Texas A&M University in 1984. After completing her degree, she worked two years with the consulting firm of Northern Technical Services, Inc. where she conducted oceanographic and hydraulic field and numerical modeling studies. She joined the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1986 as research oceanographer to develop processing and analysis software for interpretation of bottom pressure recorder and sea level time series data in support of a newly established tsunami research effort. In the mid-1990's, Ms. Eblé engaged with Pacific Marine Environmental

Laboratory (PMEL) engineers to develop and test a Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) measurement capability. In 1999, she served as DART Project Manager to ensure that engineering design efforts met research needs, to oversee web display and distribution of bottom pressure data from PMEL servers, and, beginning in 2002, to coordinate transition of DART array operations and maintenance to NOAA's operational National Data Buoy Center. In 2008 until retirement, Ms. Eblé served as Deputy Director of the NOAA Center for Tsunami Research. Her responsibilities included liaison between NOAA Center for Tsunami Research and all partner agencies, representing NOAA on the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program Mapping & Modeling Sub-committee, and engaging in scientific research, presenting scientific findings at national and international scientific venues. Currently, Ms Eblé continues work with a USGS Powell Center sponsored Tsunami Sources project as co-principal investigator and now serves on the NOAA Tsunami Science Technical Advisory Panel.

DR. LAURA S. L. KONG

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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.

JIUTA KOROVULAVULA

National Professional Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction & Tsunami Warning
Tsunami Resilience Section, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO,
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Mr. Korovulavula is the National Programme Officer for the IOC Tsunami Resilience Section based in Suva, Fiji since 2018. As NPO, he coordinates efforts of the 46 Member States of the Intergovernmental Co-ordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System especially the 21 Member States of the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories in the Southwest Pacific. In this capacity, he is the technical secretariat for the ICG/PTWS Pacific Islands Countries and Territories Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation

System. He works closely with PICT National Tsunami Warning Centres and National Disaster Management Office in collaboration with the NOAA International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) to strengthen national and regional tsunami warnings systems and preparedness arrangements. He works closely with the Oceania Regional Seismic Network (ORSNET) on the strengthening earthquake and tsunami monitoring and detection through the PTWS WG 2 Task Team Seismic Data Sharing in the Southwest Pacific. He closely collaborates with ITIC on the review and update of National Tsunami Warning SOP and National Tsunami Response Plan. Previously, he worked with National Disaster Management Office and communities among PICTs through Regional and National NGOs to develop community disaster risk management plans and national community-based disaster management frameworks. This includes development of ICT and space-based application to strength disaster resilience of communities. He is a graduate of the University of South Pacific with a Bachelor of Marine Science in 2004.

DR. NATALIA SANNIKOVA

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Dr. Natalia Sannikova is a hydrodynamical numerical researcher with the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research at the University of Hawaii and the NOAA Center for Tsunami Research (NCTR), Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, Washington. She holds a PhD in Geophysics and a Master's degree in Computer Science. With over 18 years of experience in numerical modeling of hydrodynamical processes, she has extensive expertise in tsunami modeling and hazard assessment. She serves as the research coordinator for the Common Analytic System – a unified modeling system under development to ensure consistency between the two U.S. Tsunami Warning Centers (NTWC and PTWC). She has collaborated for five years with the International Tsunami Information Center, conducting tsunami hazard assessments for sites across the Caribbean and Pacific Ocean, including Barbados, the Marshall Islands (Majuro Atoll), the Federated States of Micronesia (Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk), Palau, Aneityum (Vanuatu), and Tarawa (Kiribati). She is actively involved in developing and applying numerical models to support real-time tsunami forecasting and risk mitigation, and contributes to international efforts in tsunami hazard evaluation and preparedness.

KALIOPATE TAVOLA

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DR. JAI TIARKS

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Dr. Jai Tiarks is a GIS Analyst working with the Tsunami Ready program. They received their PhD in Environment and Natural Resources in 2024 from The Ohio State University. Jai's modeling and GIS expertise were honed through their doctoral research, and they have received numerous educator awards for the ways they make technical information engaging. Their teaching and mentoring experience includes facilitating hands-on workshops and demonstrating practical application of GIS, including collecting data, utilizing common GIS interfaces and platforms, and interpreting a variety of spatial information. Since completing their PhD, they worked as an International Activities Knauss Fellow for NOAA Research in which they served as an international liaison for NOAA Research in various multilateral relationships. Dr. Tiarks has extensive experience in project management and implementation, US federal and international relations, and specialized experience in remote sensing and the use of geospatial tools. Their current work with the Tsunami Ready program sits at the intersection of tsunami hazard preparedness and spatial analysis.