



# September 2006 US IOTWS Program Update

**U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program**  
*from advanced technologies to resilient communities*

## **Indian Ocean Scientists Broaden Technical Dialogue on Tsunami Detection Systems during Visit to the United States**

*August 28-September 1, 2006, USA*

In support of a multi-lateral coordination effort for deploying deep-ocean tsunami detection buoys for the IOTWS, a group of 10 Indonesian and Australian marine engineers toured National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and private sector "DART" buoy production and operations facilities in the United States. Under the US IOTWS Program, NOAA representatives provided a detailed technical orientation to DART systems to help the delegations explore opportunities to acquire and deploy DART stations as part of each country's national warning system programs. The exchange provided the technical foundation for each country to develop specific plans for DART system deployments and contribute to the regional buoy array for the Indian Ocean.



*Indonesian and Australian delegations visit NOAA's DART buoy development facilities at the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL), Seattle, Washington. Photo Credit: D. McKinnie/NOAA.*

## **Small Grants Program Underway**

*September 1-30, 2006, Indian Ocean Region*

The Small Grants Program established under the US IOTWS Program provides funding for activities in the Indian Ocean region that support, complement, or enhance the development of "downstream" tsunami and multi-hazard warning system components at national and local levels. The US IOTWS Program received more than 30 applications and has made 12 awards of up to \$25,000 and 6 awards between \$25,000 and \$100,000. These grants represent a vital link between national disaster management efforts and on-the-ground implementation of preparedness activities at the community level. For example, with a \$25,000 grant from the US IOTWS Program, the Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) will help develop a Community Based Disaster Management Plan and examine all of the hazards related to the coastal communities of India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



## Indonesian Communities Help Develop Guidelines to Improve Coastal Resilience

September 12-13, 2006, Jakarta, Indonesia

The US IOTWS Program jointly sponsored a two-day workshop with the Indonesian Society for Disaster Management (MPBI) and International Federation of Red Cross/Indonesian Red Cross (IFRC/PMI) to launch the Indonesian component of a regional Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) initiative. Forty-five community representatives and disaster management specialists representing 35 different organizations participated to support Indonesia's post-tsunami recovery aimed at integrating disaster preparedness, livelihoods, and coastal resources management into a single field guide for training across the region. Several of the international and national NGOs, donors, Government of Indonesia, and UNESCO representatives indicated they plan to use the jointly developed guide in their disaster preparedness training efforts in hundreds of coastal communities in Indonesia.



Workshop participant reports on elements of resilience. Photo credit: A. Ahmed/US IOTWS Program.

## US IOTWS Program Field Visit to Coastal Municipality to Assess Vulnerability

September 14, 2006, Kelurahan, Indonesia

As a follow up to the CCR workshop held in Jakarta on September 12-14, the US IOTWS Program team conducted a field visit to Kelurahan, an urban coastal municipality in north Jakarta bordering Jakarta Bay. The international organization, Action Contra le Faim (ACF) organized the visit to the local disaster management agency offices and local institutional representatives within the community to assess their vulnerabilities and provide solutions to building resilience at the community level in an area that is under constant threat of flooding from tidal inundation and exposure to chronic domestic pollution.

## UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

**US IOTWS Program Event:** National Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka October 9-10, 2006

For more information contact Atiq Ahmed at [atiq@iotws.org](mailto:atiq@iotws.org)

**US IOTWS Program Event:** ICS Training: Planning Section Unit Leader Course, Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka October 16-20, 2006

**US IOTWS Program Event:** ICS Training: Planning Section Chief Course Colombo, Sri Lanka October 25-27, 2006

**US IOTWS Program Event:** ICS Training: Finance/ Admin Section Chief Course Colombo, Sri Lanka November 7-8, 2006

**US IOTWS Program Event:** ICS Training: Operations Section Chief Course Colombo, Sri Lanka November 14-15, 2006

**US IOTWS Program Event:** ICS Training: Incident Commander, Colombo, Sri Lanka November 16-18, 2006

For more information on all ICS trainings, contact Trudie Mahoney at [tmahoney@fsip.net](mailto:tmahoney@fsip.net)

### About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an "end-to-end" approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of national and local stakeholders in the region. For more information please visit [www.us-iotws.gov](http://www.us-iotws.gov).