October 2006
US IOTWS Program Update

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

US IOTWS Program Hosts Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) Sri Lanka National Workshop

October 9-10, Sri Lanka

The US IOTWS program conducted a national Coastal Community Resilience Workshop in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Center (DMC) as part of a process to evaluate and test the program's Guidebook and coastal community resilience framework. The Guidebook will be used to help communities assess and improve their resilience to coastal hazards. Major General Gamini Hattiarachchi, Director General of the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Center (DMC), welcomed participants to the workshop, in which more than 48 professionals from the government, national NGOs, international organizations, and academic institutions. Working groups reviewed guidebook sections, tested the resilience benchmarks through site-specific evaluations and discussed strategies for maximizing impact of the guidebook and the CCR framework in strengthening resilience in coastal communities.

NEW ON THE US IOTWS PROGRAM WEB SITE

The following presentations are included under Workshops and Trainings in the Information Resources section of the web site at www.us-iotws.gov

October 9-10, 2006: Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) National Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka

October 16-20, 2006 - October 24-26, 2006: Incident Command System (ICS) Workshop, Ahangulla and Colombo, Sri Lanka

US IOTWS Program Team Conducts Policy and Institutional Assessment for Disaster Management in Indonesia

October 9-12, Indonesia

A US IOTWS Program team conducted a comprehensive policy and institutional capacity assessment of disaster management in Indonesia, following similar efforts in Sri Lanka and Thailand. The assessment identified gaps and possible program interventions to support improvement of disaster management. The study is one component within a broader regional assessment that is being conducted by the program. The Indonesia assessment was coordinated with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which is also reviewing policy and institutional gaps in the early warning systems in the five US IOTWS Program countries. A total of 26 national and local government agencies and NGOs were interviewed for the study with an expert-level round table focus groups to verify the assessment framework in Indonesia. The results of the study were shared with relevant national authorities.

US IOTWS Program team visited the Wlikota, Padang (Mayor Office) for the early warning chain and disaster management activities.

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

Sri Lankans Strengthen Capacity for Disaster Management at the National and Municipal Level

October 16-20, Ahungalla, Sri Lanka

As part of the US IOTWS Program to help Sri Lanka integrate the Incident Command System (ICS) approach into its national disaster management policy, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) conducted a rigorous five-day train-the-trainer program for Sri Lankan officials that will increase the country's capacity to effectively prepare for and

Members from government and non-government agencies participated in the ICS training workshop.

respond to disasters. Twenty-nine senior government officials from 18 government agencies participated in the course. The Sri Lanka Disaster Management Centre (DMC) under Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights adopted ICS for disaster management and these workshop participants will provide further training and form ICS teams at the district level. This course is the second in a series of eight formal classes covering all aspects of ICS.

Thailand Develops National Warning System Strategic Plan for 2007-08 and Conducts Tsunami Warning Exercise

October 22-25, 2006

The Thai National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), developed a two-year national warning system strategic plan and conducted a tsunami warning exercise this week in Nakonnayok Province, Thailand. Under the USAID-funded US IOTWS Program, representatives from the U.S. Forest Service led participants from government and non-government agencies in a simulation exercise designed to highlight and help participants evaluate the efficiencies and gaps in the country's warning dissemination process.

UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

US IOTWS Program Event: Launch of First DART Buoy in Indian Ocean Region   *December 1, 2006*
Phuket, Thailand
For more information on the event please contact Vivian Raksakulthai at Vivian@iotws.org

ITU/ESCAP Regional Workshop on "Disaster Communications"   *December 12-15,2006*
Bangkok, Thailand
For more information go to *www.itu.int/ITU-D/asp/Events/ITU-ESCAP-BangkokDec2006*

US IOTWS Program Event: Basic and Intermediate ICS Training   *February 20-23, 2007*
Colombo, Sri Lanka
For more information contact Trudie Mahoney, USFS, at tmahoney@fsip.net

US IOTWS Program Event: Basic and Intermediate ICS Training: District Level   *March 20-23, 2007*
Kandy, Sri Lanka
For more information contact Trudie Mahoney, USFS, at tmahoney@fsip.net

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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**.

U.S. Contribution to the
**Indian Ocean
Tsunami Warning
System**