

UNESCO IOC CARIBE EWS and NOAA NWS
Caribbean Pilot Project for the Regional Implementation of the *TsunamiReady* Program

Since June 20, 2001, the National Weather Service (NWS) of the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been implementing the recognition program, *TsunamiReady*TM. This program has helped community leaders and emergency managers strengthen their local operations. As of August, 2011 almost 100 coastal communities have been recognized by the National Weather Service as *TsunamiReady*. These communities are recognized as being better prepared to save lives through better planning, education and awareness. Communities have fewer fatalities and property damage if they plan before a tsunami arrives. No community is tsunami proof, but *TsunamiReady* can help minimize loss to your community.

The UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Intergovernmental Coordination Group for Tsunamis and other Coastal Hazards for the Caribbean and Adjacent regions (CARIBE EWS) has recommended in all its six meetings the need to strengthen tsunami preparedness in the region and adapt and adopt the best practices.

In May 2010, a *TsunamiReady* Summit was held in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Almost 100 participants from the Caribbean also recognized that the *TsunamiReady* program is an effective program to help protect the life, property and livelihood of people from tsunamis in coastal communities by helping emergency managers, government officials and community leaders to recognize hazard areas, improve tsunami warning reception and dissemination capabilities, prepare response plans, and educate residents and visitors. The participants recommended that a strategy be developed to expand *TsunamiReady* to other nations and licensing agreements and verification be managed internationally thru UNESCO IOC and its Intergovernmental Coordination Groups for the Tsunami Warning System and implemented with the support of regional organizations (CDEMA, SRC, CEPREDENAC, PRSN), ICG CARIBE EWS recommended Caribbean Tsunami Information Center and Caribbean Tsunami Warning Center, ITIC and NOAA NWS. The participants also suggested that a pilot community in the region be identified that can be used as an initial rollout for the Caribbean and the international community and noted the need to identify national and international funding for Caribbean communities to achieve *TsunamiReady* status and research.

Responding to these recommendations, the US National Weather Service in coordination with CARIBE EWS and emergency management stakeholders in the Caribbean started in June 2011 the implementation of the pilot project. In December 2011, the UK Territory of Anguilla was recognized as the first joint IOC-NWS *TsunamiReady* community. Additional documents contain the *TsunamiReady* application form and guidelines which outline all the criteria that need to be met to receive this joint NWS and UNESCO/IOC recognition.

For questions regarding this program, contact Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade (christa.vonh@noaa.gov). More information and additional documentation on the *TsunamiReady* Program is also available at http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/ctwp/?n=ctwp_preparedness and <http://www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov/>.