



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION Océanographique Intergouvernementale
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO - 1, rue Miollis - 75732 Paris Cedex 15
cable address: UNESCO Paris - telex: 204461 Paris - fax: (33) (0)1 45 68 58 12 - contact phone: (33) (0) 1 45 68 39 83/84
E-mail: w.watson-wright@unesco.org

IOC Circular Letter No. 2557
(Available only in English)

IOC/WWW/TA/BA/ba
18 December 2014

To : ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP)
ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)
ICG/CARIBE EWS Chair and Vice-Chairs

cc. : Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC in the IOC Member States
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Directors of UNESCO and IOC Regional Offices in the Caribbean Region
Regional Organizations cooperating with UNESCO/IOC
Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center
Director, USA National Tsunami Warning Center

Subject: Joint CARIBE WAVE and LANTEX 2015 Exercise in the Western Atlantic, Caribbean and Adjacent Regions on 25 March 2014

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions at its eighth session (ICG/CARIBE EWS-VIII, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 29 April–1 May 2013), decided to conduct exercises named CARIBE WAVE on an annual basis leaving each Member State to define its level of participation. The Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS-IX), St Thomas, US Virgin Islands, 13-15 May 2014, recommended that that a joint Exercise Caribe Wave/Lantex 15 takes place on **25 March 2015**, with two hypothetical scenarios: An earthquake located offshore eastern Panama, and a submarine landslide off the East coast of the United States of America:

- The Caribe Wave/Lantex 15 Caribbean tsunami scenario simulates a tsunami generated by a magnitude 8.5 earthquake with epicenter at 10.3°N, 78.8°W, just north of Panama in the southwest Caribbean Sea. Event origin time: **25 March 2015 at 14:00 UTC**.
- The Lantex 15 Florida landslide Scenario simulates a magnitude M 6.8 earthquake off the east coast of Florida which triggers a large slump and tsunami. Event Origin Time: **25 March 2015 at 13:00 UTC**.

.../...

Chairperson

Dr Sang-Kyung BYUN
Principal Research Scientist
Climate Change & Coastal Disaster
Research Dept.
Korea Institute of Ocean Science
and Technology (KIOST)
787 Haeanlo
Ansan 426-744
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Executive Secretary

Dr Wendy WATSON-WRIGHT
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15,
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Prof. Peter M. HAUGAN
Director, Geophysical Institute
University of Bergen
Allegaten 70
5007 Bergen
NORWAY

Dr Atanas PALAZOV
Director, Institute of Oceanology – Varna
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
P.O. Box 152
Varna 9000
BULGARIA

Capt. Frederico Antonio SARAIVA
NOGUEIRA
Directorate of Hydrography
and Navigation
Rue Barão de Jacaguai, s/n°
Ponta da Armação
Niterói, Rio de Janeiro
CEP 24.048.900
BRAZIL

Prof. Yutaka MICHIDA
University of Tokyo
Member of National Committee for IOC
Kashinoha 5-1-5
Kashiwa 277-8564
Chiba
JAPAN

Prof. Adoté Blim BLIVI
Chef de Recherche
Head of CGILE
Ministère de l'Enseignement
Supérieur et de la Recherche
University of Lomé,
B.P. 1515
Lomé 228
TOGO

The initial dummy messages will be issued by the US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) and the US National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) on 25 March 2015 at 14:05 UTC (Universal Time Coordinated) for the offshore eastern Panama scenario and at 13:02 UTC (Universal Time Coordinated) for the Florida scenario. These messages will be disseminated through their standard broadcast channels. The dummy message is issued to test communications with Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) and Emergency Management Organizations (EMOs), to start the exercise. It will be the only exercise message broadcast from the PTWC/NTWC, excluding special email messages which will be made available to the officially designated TWFP.

The ICG/CARIBE-EWS of UNESCO/IOC, the Caribbean Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Coordination Centre for Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) are providing the framework for this exercise as a means for emergency responders throughout the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions to test and update tsunami response plans. High levels of vulnerability and threat in many Caribbean and North-western Atlantic nations should provide a strong incentive for local jurisdictions to prepare for a tsunami.

The attached [Exercise Caribe Wave/Lantex 15, SW Caribbean Scenario, A Caribbean and Northwestern Tsunami Warning Exercise, 25 March 2015. Volume 1: Participant Handbook. IOC Technical Series, 118 vol.1](#), provides the framework for this exercise as a means for emergency responders throughout the Caribbean to test and update tsunami response plans. Detailed coordination for this exercise will be organized through national Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) and Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs) who will decide on their level of participation. The participant handbook for the LANTEX 15 Florida Scenario as well as other updates, registration and information on the exercises are available thru <http://www.caribewave.info>.

Online seminars in English, French and Spanish to orient participants on the exercise are planned on January 21-22 and February 24-26, 2015. If you intend to participate in these seminars please register at <http://www.caribewave.info>. For further information on the exercise, contact Ms Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade, Manager US NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program and Chair of ICG/CARIBE EWS (Email: christa.vonh@noaa.gov), Alison Brome, Interim Director Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (Email: a.brome@unesco.org) and/or the Technical Secretary ICG/CARIBE EWS Mr Bernardo Aliaga (Email: b.aliaga@unesco.org).

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[Signed

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC

Enclosure (1):

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. 2014. [Exercise Caribe Wave/Lantex 15. A Caribbean and Northwestern Atlantic Tsunami Warning Exercise, 25 March 2015. Volume 1: Participant Handbook. IOC Technical Series, 118 vol.1](#). Paris: UNESCO (English)