United Nation’s Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (ICG/IOTWS) Endorses DART II Stations for the Indian Ocean
May 1-2, 2006, Melbourne, Australia
At a technical working group meeting of the ICG/IOTWS in Melbourne, Australia, officials from Indian Ocean governments endorsed a U.S. offer for two deep-ocean tsunami detection stations (DART II). NOAA presented the U.S. proposal for contributing two DART II stations that will serve as important models and reference points for additional deployments by Indian Ocean countries and other partners. NOAA will be providing technical training to Indian Ocean countries that will be operating the buoys. The working group endorsement is a major step forward for the USAID-funded US IOTWS program to support tsunami detection and warning system development in the region.

Indonesia and Thailand Receive Seismology and Tsunami Warning Training
May 15-19, Bangkok, Thailand/May 8-19, Jakarta, Indonesia
The U.S. Geological Survey, UNESCO/IOC, and USAID jointly conducted trainings in Bangkok and Jakarta to build capacity of disaster management specialists in seismology and tsunami forecasting, detection, and warning. These trainings are part of a series USAID is supporting in tsunami-affected countries.

Asian Disaster Management Experts Developing Region-wide Preparedness Guidelines for Coastal Communities
May 23-25, 2006, Bangkok, Thailand
Disaster and coastal management experts from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, and the Maldives worked with specialists from USAID, NOAA, and the University of Rhode Island to begin developing a regional “coastal community resilience” guidebook. A key component of the US IOTWS Program, the guidebook will support ongoing post-tsunami recovery efforts by providing a comprehensive set of tools that disaster management trainers and local authorities can apply simultaneously in communities across the region. In particular, the guidelines will show how coastal communities can conduct self-assessments and strengthen their resilience to tsunamis and other hazards while supporting local livelihoods and natural resource conservation.
Thailand Works to Enhance Rapid Communications for Early Warning
May 24-26, 2006, Hua Hin, Thailand
The Government of Thailand, in collaboration with U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service (USFS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and USAID conducted a three-day workshop in Hua Hin, Thailand, to coordinate and enhance the early warning communication strategies in Thailand. As a first step, an interim Interagency Workgroup was formed, chaired by Dr. Smith Dharmasaroja, Vice Minister to the Office of the Prime Minister. The Interagency Workgroup will develop a comprehensive integrated plan for effective disaster warning dissemination and strategies for developing the conceptual framework model for the rapid notification system in Thailand.

UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Joint NOAA and South East Asia Center for Ocean Research and Monitoring (SEACORM) workshop, Bali, Indonesia June 7–10, 2006
For more information contact David McKinnie, NOAA, at david.mckinnie@noaa.gov

For more information contact Brian Atwater, USGS, at atwater@usgs.gov

For more information contact Deanne Shulman, USDA/FS, at dshulman@fs.fed.us

Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS-III), Bali, Indonesia July 31–August 2, 2006
For more information go to http://ioc3.unesco.org/indotsunami/

For more information contact Shane Detweiler, USGS, at shane@usgs.gov

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.