



# JUNE 2006

## US IOTWS Program Update

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

### Sri Lanka Meets with UNDP and US Representatives to Coordinate Efforts to Strengthen Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Capabilities

May 26, 2006, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan disaster management experts met with UN and U.S. government officials to help coordinate efforts to strengthen multi-hazard warning and communications capability for the country. Representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and USAID Mission met with Sri Lankan counterparts to review the status of specific activities being implemented under the US IOTWS Program. These activities include upgrades to Sri Lanka's connection to the Global Telecommunications System for receiving global hazard and weather data, development of procedures outlining how the warning center will operate, upgrades to existing tide gages, development of warning communication protocols and possible collaboration on developing a coastal community resilience program.

### NEW ON THE US IOTWS PROGRAM WEB SITE

The following documents are included under the Workshops and Training section of the web site at

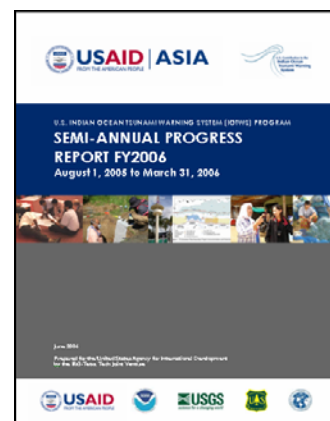
[www.us-iotws.gov](http://www.us-iotws.gov)

- Proceedings from the May 22-23, 2006 Coastal Community Resilience workshop, Bangkok, Thailand
- Proceedings from the May 24-26, 2006 Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System workshop, Hua Hin, Thailand
- *Concepts and Practice of Resilience*: a compilation from various secondary sources

### US IOTWS Program Reports Results for the First Eight Months

June 23, 2006

The US IOTWS Program released its *Semi-Annual Progress Report FY2006* for the period August 31, 2005–March 31, 2006. The document provides an overview of the performance accomplishments of the US IOTWS Program during its first eight months of operation. The report includes a narrative summary of key activities completed as well as quantitative results that address specific performance indicators. To access a copy of the document go to [www.us-iotws.gov](http://www.us-iotws.gov) under What's New.



### Joint NOAA and Southeast Asia Center for Ocean Research and Monitoring (SEACORM) Workshop

June 7–10, 2006, Bali, Indonesia

NOAA and SEACORM hosted a workshop in Bali, Indonesia, to identify opportunities for technical cooperation and scientific exchange in ocean observations. NOAA provided information on the use of Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) data and the use of ocean observations to promote coastal community resilience. Potential NOAA and Indonesia cooperation for DART station deployment was also discussed and will be explored further at the upcoming Intergovernmental Coordination Group/IOTWS-III meeting scheduled for the end of July in Bali.



## Thailand Develops Strategic Action Plan to Enhance Early Warning Capabilities

June 20, 2006, Bangkok, Thailand

The Vice Minister to Thailand's Office of Prime Minister signed an order for the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) to establish three sub-committees for enhancing interagency coordination for early warning communication systems. Under the USAID-funded U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program, representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service (USFS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have been actively working with the NDWC to develop a framework for a rapid alert notification system that integrates warning system components at the national, provincial, district, and community level.

## Sri Lankan Official Briefed on Disaster Response Initiative

June 29, 2006, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), together with the Sri Lanka Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, briefed all of the district secretaries in the country last week at the Conference of Government Agents/ District Secretaries in Colombo. The US IOTWS Program is working closely with the government of Sri Lanka to develop a comprehensive disaster management plan. USFS representatives described disaster management concepts called the Incident Command System (ICS), and discussed how ICS will be adapted to Sri Lanka.

## Seismic Monitoring Stations Upgraded on Sumatra, Indonesia

June 26–July 14, 2006, Sumatra, Indonesia

Researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the California Institute of Technology, in collaboration with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and Indonesia's Meteorological and Geophysical Agency (BMG), have begun upgrading an existing network of earthquake monitoring stations on Sumatra and the small islands off its west coast. As part of the US IOTWS Program, Indonesian disaster specialists will also be trained to analyze the data that is received from the networks.

## UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

### US IOTWS Program: Paleotsunami Field Work, Phang-Nga, Thailand

For more information contact Brian Atwater, USGS, at [atwater@usgs.gov](mailto:atwater@usgs.gov)

July 1–15, 2006

### US IOTWS Program: Second Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System Workshop: Communication, Technology and Media, Hua Hin, Thailand

For more information contact Deanne Shulman, USFS, at [dshulman@fs.fed.us](mailto:dshulman@fs.fed.us)

July 26–28, 2006

### Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS-III), Bali, Indonesia

For more information contact David McKinnie, NOAA, at [david.mckinnie@noaa.gov](mailto:david.mckinnie@noaa.gov) or go to <http://ioc3.unesco.org/indotsunami/>

July 31–August 2, 2006

### US IOTWS Program: Seismology Training Workshop, Maldives

For more information contact Shane Detweiler, USGS, at [shane@usgs.gov](mailto:shane@usgs.gov)

August 27–31, 2006

### 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).