



# February 2007 US IOTWS Program Update

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

## Thailand Conducts Tabletop Tsunami Warning Exercise

February 6-8, 2007, Nakorn Nayok, Thailand

The Government of Thailand through the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) conducted a tabletop tsunami warning exercise during the Third Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System (TARNS) workshop held in Nakorn Nayok from February 6-8, 2007. This workshop was organized under the TARNS program as part of the US government's support to develop the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) in collaboration between NDWC, USAID, the US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (USDA/FS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Rear Admiral Thaworn Chareondee, Vice Executive Director of NDWC, and Dr. Smith Dharmasaroja, Chairman of the National Disaster Warning Administration, NDWC, opened the workshop. Approximately 80 government officials from all levels, private sector, and local organizations received training and learned about US experiences on warning simulations. Participants then conducted a tsunami warning exercise for Thailand.

## First Incident Command System (ICS) Course Taught by Sri Lankan Trainers

February 20-23, 2007, Sri Lanka

More than 40 representatives from Sri Lankan government emergency response agencies and non-governmental organizations came together February 20-23, 2007 to attend the first Incident Command System (ICS) course taught by Sri Lankan master trainers. This significant milestone marks the culmination of a series of eight train-the-trainer Incident Command System courses in Sri Lanka and several study tours hosted by the US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (USDA/FS) in the United States. The series of trainings comes under the USAID-funded US IOTWS Program. The training process has established linkages with key counterparts in the Sri Lankan government and non-governmental organizations. Several dignitaries, including Mr. P. D. Amarasinghe, Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster



Sri Lankan Master Trainers with the chief guest, Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights (middle), and USDA/FS resource advisers Ms. Trudie Mahoney (second from right) and Ms. Janice Gauthier (second from left)

SHM Fakhruddin



Management and Human Rights, and Major General Gamini Hettiarachchi, Director General of the Disaster Management Center, were present at the February session. Major General Hettiarachchi stated in his opening remarks, “This is the first training course taught by the locals and it will help us to develop a better emergency management system. The more we are prepared, the quicker we can restore normalcy and infrastructure.” With US IOTWS Program support, USDA/FS is providing vital skills development through ICS training to build emergency response capacity throughout Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Maldives, and Thailand.



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Participants from Ampara, Kandy, Galle, and Hambantota districts taking part in an ICS exercise

## UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

### ***RANET Training Workshops to Support Site Deployment, March 20-22, 2007***

*Sri Lanka*

For more information contact Indira Fernando, US IOTWS Program, at [indira@iotws.org](mailto:indira@iotws.org)

### ***Basic and Intermediate ICS for District Level, March 20-23, 2007***

*Galle District, Sri Lanka*

For more information contact S.H.M. Fakhruddin, US IOTWS Program, at [fakhruddin@adpc.net](mailto:fakhruddin@adpc.net)

### ***Indonesia National CCR Training, March 26-30, 2007***

*Indonesia*

For more information contact Atiq Ahmed, US IOTWS Program, at [atiqka@adpc.net](mailto:atiqka@adpc.net)

### ***Indonesia National Consultation on Assessment of Policy and Institutional Capacity for Disaster Management, April 3, 2007***

*Indonesia*

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### ***Advanced ICS Course, April 6-22, 2007***

*Nevada, USA*

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### ***Workshop on Local Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), April 10-12, 2007***

*Indonesia*

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### ***Thailand National Consultation on Assessment of Policy and Institutional Capacity for Disaster Management, April 27, 2007***

*Thailand*

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### ***Thailand National CCR Training, May 14-18, 2007***

*Thailand*

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