ITIC Engages in the Following Activities:

Tsunami Education

ITIC's public education program is directed towards coastal residents, their local officials, school teachers, the mass media, policy makers, and the general public. It includes lectures, audio-visual aids, seminars, posters, photographic displays, television and radio coverage, and publications. ITIC's ICG/ITSU Training Programme provides opportunities for scientists to work on tsunami-related problems and familiarize themselves with the TWSP and Civil Defense procedures.

ITIC facilitates the exchange of scientific and technical personnel between ICG/ITSU Member States for the purpose of providing familiarization with automation equipment, new instrumentation, and new methods and procedures of the TWSP and the Civil Defense. Additionally, ITIC provides information to many visiting scientists from Member States.

Tsunami Research

For each tsunami, ITIC assists the World Data Centre (Solid Earth Geophysics-Tsunamis) in soliciting and collecting seismic information and tsunami wave records, together with supplementary data and descriptive information on tsunami damage. ITIC prepares and disseminates a report on the tsunami through its Tsunami Newsletter and Annual.

ITIC maintains an extensive data file and library on tsunamis. ITIC identifies research needed to improve tsunami prediction and the International Warning System. It cooperates with national, international, and professional organizations in encouraging and applying tsunami research. ITIC facilitates and participates in field investigations of destructive large tsunami, and distributes a Post-Tsunami Survey Field Guide that provides survey procedures and instructions.

Tsunami Technology and Information

ITIC arranges for the availability of technical information on equipment required for an effective tsunami warning system. It ensures that knowledge of new technology is made available to all Member States. It arranges for the provision of advisory and consultative services to Member States wishing to initiate or upgrade their warning system capability. In close cooperation with the International Tsunami Warning System and ad hoc committees of ICG/ITSU, ITIC seeks technical improvements to the TWSP and for Member States. It provides tsunami data and information to scientists, engineers, administrators, and the general public throughout the world.

Public Relations

ITIC maintains good working relationships with national and and international organizations participating in the International Tsunami Warning System, Good public relations are also maintained with the media and the general public.

Publications

ITIC prepares and publishes tsunami research reports and papers, newsletters, historical tsunami catalogs, glossaries, bibliographies, books, and educational materials. It maintains a web site with information on the International Tsunami Warning System, with FAQs on tsunamis, and a Tsunami Newsletter covering recent events and operations of the TWSP. It publishes an Annual that brings to tsunami researchers, engineers, educators, and government officials a summary of the past year's tsunamis and other activities related to the Tsunami Warning System. It is distributed to approximately forty countries.

Further Information

on the International Tsunami Information Centre and the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific may be obtained from:

Director
International Tsunami Information Centre
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3213 USA

Tel: <1> 808-532-6422
Fax: <1> 808-532-5576
E-mail: itic.tsunami@noaa.gov

http://www.tsunamiwave.info
http://www.prh.noaa.gov/itic/
http://ioc.unesco.org/itsu/

The PTWC is operated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service. NOAA also hosts the ITIC on behalf of the IOC of UNESCO.

Revised, October 2004

INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTRE (ITIC)

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC)

Located in Honolulu, the International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) was established in November 1965 by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 1968, the IOC formed an International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (ICG/ITSU). The present Member States are:

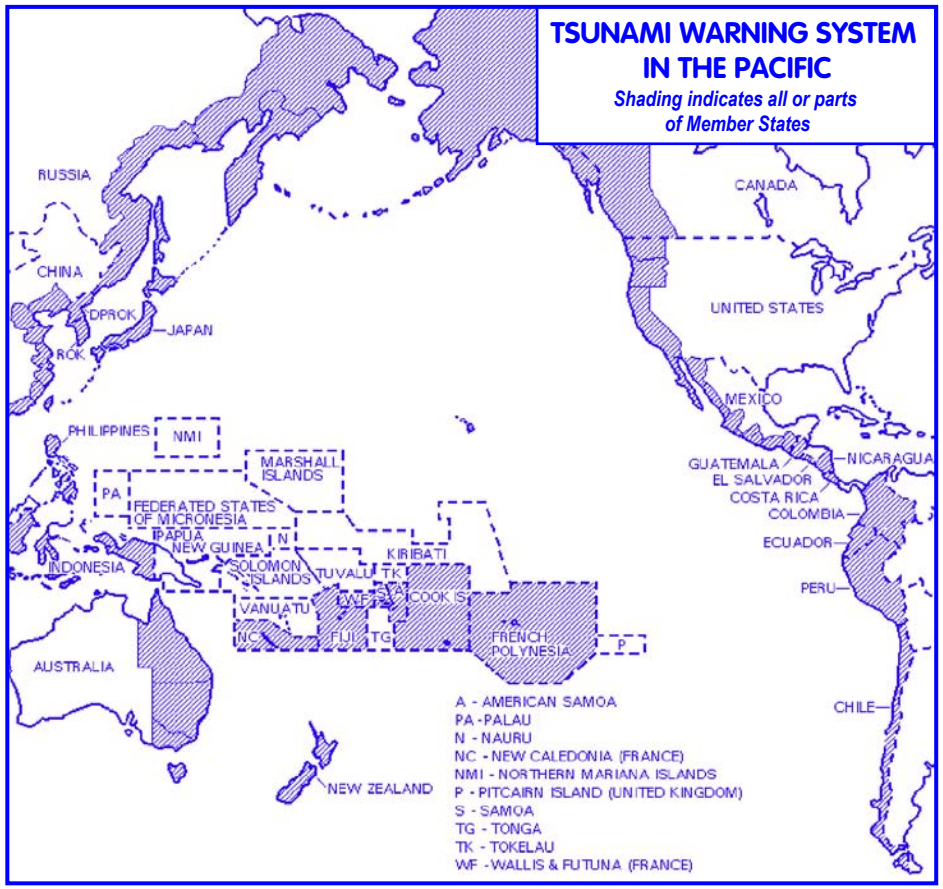
Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States of America.

ITIC supports ICG/ITSU by monitoring the activities of the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (TWSP), coordinating tsunami technology transfer among Member States interested in establishing regional and national tsunami warning systems, and acting as a clearinghouse for tsunami preparedness and mitigation activities. The Richard H. Hagemeyer Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) serves as the operational headquarters for the TWSP. The system makes use of hundreds of seismic stations throughout the world that are available in real- or near real-time to locate potentially tsunamigenic earthquakes. It has near real-time access via satellite and telephone to nearly 100 water level stations throughout the Pacific that can be used to verify the generation and possible severity of a tsunami. The system disseminates tsunami information and warning messages to well over 100 points scattered across the Pacific.

The International Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific is one of the most successful international scientific programmes with the direct humanitarian aim of mitigating the effects of tsunami to save lives and property. ITIC maintains and develops relationships with:

Intergovernmental Organizations

All Member States of the International Tsunami Warning System; UNESCO/IOC; ICG/ITSU; International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG); World Data Centers (WDC-SEG); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); International Council of Scientific Unions (ISCU); and the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO).



Member States

Australia
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Ecuador
El Salvador
Fiji
France
Guatemala
Indonesia
Japan
Mexico
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Peru
Republic of the Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Thailand
United States of America

Non-Governmental Organizations

Research and academic organizations, universities, and institutions worldwide, as well as disaster management, preparedness, and emergency response agencies.

The Scientific Community

Under ITIC's ICG/ITSU Training Programme (ITP) on tsunami warning systems, scientists, engineers, and tsunami programme officials can spend three weeks in Hawaii at the ITIC, PTWC, and with local civil defense agencies learning about tsunamis and the operations of tsunami warning systems. ITIC also conducts the ITP-International, which annually visits at least one Member State to provide in-country tsunami education and technology training. ITIC maintains a comprehensive tsunami library that researchers, government officials, and the public can use.

Local Authorities

ITIC informs local authorities of Member States of developments in tsunami research and education. ITIC initiates, co-ordinates, and/or conducts technical training programs, workshops, and seminars dealing with all aspects of tsunami preparedeness. ITIC aims to make authorities more aware of the tsunami hazard, and assists in planning programs for the protection of life and property and for evacuations from dangerous areas during tsunami warnings.

The General Public

ITIC informs the general public of the tsunami hazard through lectures, publications, educational materials and disaster preparedness programs. ITIC provides information to the public on the latest tsunami warnings provided by the PTWC.