ICG Sessional Meeting of Working Group Two: Tsunami Detection, Warning and Dissemination

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Topics Discussed (1)

- Data sharing in the SWP: 1) Data policy (REC): request that the working group ensure ORSNET provide data to warning centres for tsunami warning products; 2) ORSNET sustainability (refer SWP WG)
- 1. Common Alerting Protocol request TSPs provide messages in CAP format (REC)
- 2. TSP expectorations for local-source tsunami (REC). TSPs issue threat information but the current state of science indicates MS should not rely on TSP messages for local-source events. Natural warnings trump all.

Topics Discussed (2)

- 4. New tsunami sensing platforms (REC); e.g., better use of tide gauges; GNSS technology; sensors of telecom cables.
- Minimum competency required for TWC operations (REC). The working group will formulate a minimum set of competencies required of TWC staff to be presented to the steering committee meeting next year
- Future of working group and task teams (REC); 1) The working group should continue; 2) the task team on seismic Data Sharing in the South West Pacific should continue; 3) The task team on Enhanced Products has completed its work.

Recommendations (1)

- That the Task Team on Data Sharing in the South-west Pacific develop a mechanism to share ORSNET data with national warning centres and TSPs, including non-ORSNET countries, for the purpose of issuing tsunami warning products. On agreement, this data ideally would be shared via the aggregating data centre.
- That the Task Team on Seismic Data Sharing in the Southwest Pacific continues, with a major objective being to formalise data sharing policies to the benefit of all Member States.
- That the ICG recommends TSPs and NTWCs use the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) to facilitate consistent warning messages dissemination simultaneously over many warning communication systems to many applications

Recommendations (2)

- That WG2 is tasked with reviewing the sensing network of the PTWS to develop an optimal (defined by functional, resourcing and capability requirements) multi-instrument design that integrates emerging techniques and sensor technologies (e.g. better use of tide gauges; GNSS technology and processing; sensors on telecom cables) with the existing sensing network to meet tsunami warning service requirements. This investigation should include cost-benefit analysis of the potential technologies being considered.
- ICG instruct Working Group 2 to establish by mid 2018 the minimum competency level for TWC operations, by identifying a) what competencies are required and b) what training schemes are currently in existence and what guidelines and principles can be adapted for this purpose. WG2 to report progress to the Steering Committee.

Recommendations (3)

- ICG/PTWS reaffirms that the best mechanism for alerting and responding to local tsunami events is building community understanding of the natural warning signs. While TSPs will issue threat messages for these events, due to scientific limitations they can not issue timely and accurate threat advice to inform response.
- Recognising the technical limitations of producing timely and accurate forecasts of local tsunami events, WG2 to develop guidelines and SOPs to inform the response to these events.
- We recommend that given the on-going tasks, WG2 continues. Task Team on Enhanced Products will not re-established, and any on-going work on NWPTAS products be absorbed into the WG considerations.