

**IOC Circular Letter No 2980**  
(Available in English only)

IOC/VR/BA/ah  
19 December 2023

- To : Registered SCSTAC focal points and Tsunami Warning Focal Points of the following countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam
- C.c. : Corresponding Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC  
Corresponding Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and  
National Commissions for UNESCO  
Chair, ICG/PTWS  
Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center  
Director, International Tsunami Information Center  
IOC Tsunami Resilience Section

**Subject: Notification and Instructions regarding the South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (SCSTAC) Communications Test for the Registered SCSTAC Focal Points, 8 January 2024 at 0600 UTC**

By this letter, I wish to inform you that the South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (SCSTAC) will conduct a communications test on **8 January 2024 at 0600 UTC** to verify that the communication channels between the Centre and the recipient organizations of its tsunami advisories are operating properly.

The concerned Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) should expect to receive the test message within a few minutes of issuance through all their designated communication methods. These may include:

1. Global Telecommunication System (GTS) using the World Meteorological Organization product header WESS31 BABJ, the same product header used by SCSTAC to issue an advisory
2. E-mail – sent by [tsu@nmefc.cn](mailto:tsu@nmefc.cn)
3. Telefax – sent by SCSTAC.

The concerned national Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) should verify that the test message is received by all of their designated communication methods. TWFPs are requested to complete and return the acknowledgement form attached hereafter by Telefax to +86 10 6217 3638, and/or by e-mail to [tsu@nmefc.cn](mailto:tsu@nmefc.cn). Prompt responses (preferably by 0700 UTC on 8 January 2024) are highly desirable. The results of this communication test will be processed by SCSTAC.

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Please note that the communication test will be postponed in case actual tsunami advisories are issued in the South China Sea region or if a severe event (also non-tsunamigenic one) occurs in or near the Pacific Ocean, which would require the service of the China National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center (NMEFC) operators. In the event, the test will be conducted on 11 January 2024 at 0600 UTC.

Ensuring the operational functionality of all communication methods is critical to the effectiveness of the Pacific Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System (PTWS) in the South China Sea region. We count on your full participation in the test.

With assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*[signed]*

Vladimir Ryabinin  
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2):    Appendix 1/ Sample of a test message sent by the South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center  
                             Appendix 2/ Acknowledgement form for receipt of the SCSTAC test message

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**TEST for South China Sea Tsunami Advisory (SCSTA)**

Date: 8 JAN 2024

From: South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (SCSTAC)

To : Tsunami Focal Point for SCSTAC, PTWC, JMA (NWPTAC)

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WESS31 BABJ 20 0800

SCSTAC COMMUNICATIONS TEST

ISSUED BY SOUTH CHINA SEA TSUNAMI ADVISORY CENTER (SCSTAC)

ISSUED AT 0600Z 08 JAN 2024

THIS IS A TEST BULLETIN

THIS IS A TEST TO VERIFY COMMUNICATION LINKS AND DETERMINE

TRANSMISSION TIMES INVOLVED IN THE DISSEMINATION OF OPERATIONAL

TSUNAMI ADVICE PRODUCTS FROM THE SOUTH CHINA SEA TSUNAMI ADVISORY

CENTER TO DESIGNATED 24-HOUR TSUNAMI WARNING FOCAL POINTS OF THE SOUTH  
CHINA SEA TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM.

RECIPIENTS ARE REQUESTED TO PLEASE RESPOND BACK TO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA  
TSUNAMI ADVISORY CENTER.

PLEASE RESPOND VIA ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MEANS

\*TEL:+86-10-62104561

\*EMAIL:TSU@NMEFC.CN

\*FAX:+86-10-62173638

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS COMMUNICATION TEST

NNNN

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To: South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (SCSTAC)  
National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center (NMEFC)

Facsimile: +86 10 6217 3638

E-mail: tsu@nmefc.cn

Acknowledgement form for receipt of the SCSTA test message

1. Name of country: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Recipient organization: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Responsible office: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name of officer in charge: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Reception status of the SCSTA test message

(1) GTS

☐ Received (Time of receipt (UTC): h \_\_\_\_\_ m)

☐ Failed to receive

☐ Not registered

(2) E-mail

Registered address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Received (Time of receipt (UTC): \_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_ m)

☐ Failed to receive

☐ Not registered

Registered address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Received (Time of receipt (UTC): \_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_ m)

☐ Failed to receive

☐ Not registered

Registered address 3: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Received (Time of receipt (UTC): \_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_ m)

☐ Failed to receive

☐ Not registered

(3) Facsimile

Registered number 1: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Received (Time of receipt (UTC): \_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_ m)

☐ Failed to receive

☐ Not registered

Registered number 2: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Received (Time of receipt (UTC): \_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_ m)

☐ Failed to receive

☐ Not registered