



World Tsunami Awareness Day 2020

Concept Note: CARIBE EWS Regional Webinar

Organization: UNESCO-IOC / UNDRR

CARIBE EWS World Tsunami Awareness Day 2020 Webinar

The 2020 edition of the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Early Warning System (CARIBE EWS) World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) Webinar will be jointly organized by UNDRR and UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission together with its regional CARIBE EWS Intergovernmental Coordination Group and Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre (CTIC); in collaboration with other UN and external partners under the sponsorship of the Government of Japan.

WTAD 2020 will be structured as a 30-day “campaign” with three key pillars/events focused on Global Target E of the Sendai Framework:

Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

*Without forgetting the rated Target G on multi-hazard systems.

A key pillar will be the regional webinars to be convened October to November focusing on the need to mix state-of-the-art scientific expertise with indigenous knowledge and the community’s collective experience of tsunamis to ensure multi-hazard early warning systems that translate into effective and widespread community preparedness. The CARIBE EWS webinar is one of four being convened by regional IOC-led coordinating teams for its tsunami early warning systems. Similar webinars are being organised for the North Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean and Connected Seas, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

Caribbean Webinar

Responsible: [Alison Brome](#)

A. **Proposed Date:**

- 03 November 2020, 10:00am - 12:15pm (AST)



B. Umbrella Theme: “Tsunami Ready Programme – A Key Paving Stone along the Pathway to a Resilient Caribbean?”

C. Objectives of the CARIBE EWS Webinar:

1. To outline the history, tenets, requirements and impact of the Tsunami Ready programme including its utility as a multi-hazard disaster risk reduction tool based on US and Caribbean experiences; and
2. To reflect on and discuss the multi-sector stakeholder nature of the Tsunami Ready Programme together with the extent of its contribution towards the development of national and regional resilience in fulfilment of Targets E and G of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030

D. Audience:

Policy makers and elected officials, scientists, emergency management agencies, sector leaders (including education, tourism, maritime, agriculture and fisheries), local government, NGOs, development partners, donors, communities and community-based organisations, regional and national media

E. Background:

In December 2004, 226,096¹ people lost their lives and around US\$10 billion were estimated as overall economic losses in the 13 countries affected by the 9.1-magnitude Indian Ocean earthquake². After the gigantic losses caused by the earthquake and consecutive tsunami, the international community reinforced their initiatives to reduce the tsunami-related risk of coastal communities worldwide. In response, the Tsunami Unit of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO/IOC) aims to prevent the loss of lives and livelihoods that are caused by tsunamis, offering its support to IOC Member States in assessing tsunami risk, implementing Tsunami Early Warning Systems (TEWS) and in educating communities at risk about preparedness measures.

Recent tsunamis worldwide confirm that when a tsunami arrives and communities are ready to respond, lives are saved and fewer people die. Based on the tsunami risk to the Caribbean and its adjacent regions, it is vital that communities be prepared. UNESCO/IOC and the US NOAA NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program (CTWP) therefore initiated efforts to implement the Tsunami Ready Pilot Programme in the Caribbean from 2011. Since 2015, the UNESCO/IOC has been promoting the Tsunami Ready recognition program as an international performance-based community recognition pilot consisting of key actions that help to reduce tsunami-related risks to individuals and communities. Through the Tsunami

¹ EM-DAT Database.

² IFRC, 2013.



Ready recognition program, communities become aware of the risks they face from tsunamis and, consequently, take steps to address them.

Coastal communities have been better prepared for tsunamis and other hazards through the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme. It involves planning, education and awareness, and the strengthening of local emergency actions representing a high level of achievement, as recognised communities must meet all the required elements of the programme. Against the background of the programme review and forthcoming launch of the standardised international Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme guidelines being developed by UNESCO/IOC, the appreciation of the programme's contribution to overarching regional multi-hazard disaster risk reduction frameworks, as well as the continuous high uptake and interest in the programme implementation by Caribbean governments, UNDRR and UNESCO/IOC are organising the regional CARIBE EWS Webinar on the Tsunami Ready Programme.

F. Activity:

The virtual webinar is proposed in 2 parts - a presentation that provides a factual account of the programme and experiences in its application to other hazards, and a cross-section panel presentation/discussion which evaluates the Tsunami Ready Programme's contribution at various levels and potential support to a resilient region.

Chairperson/Moderator - UNDRR and UNDP Barbados & OECS representatives

Presentation Segment:

- Tsunami Ready Programme: What is it?"
- A brief reflection of the history of Tsunami Ready and Tsunami Ready Guidelines
- Tsunami Ready Programme - Supporting the Multi-Hazard Approach?
- Questions and Comments

Presenters:

Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade, Chair, ICG/CARIBE EWS WG4 and Manager, CTWP
Sharleen Dabreo-Lettsome, Permanent Secretary, British Virgin Islands

Panel Segment:

- **Mr. Cleveland Webster**, Mayor, Corn Island, Nicaragua: "Tsunami Ready - Who does it target? Who benefits? Does it Reach the Last Mile?"
- **Senator, The Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway**, National Tsunami Ready Board Chair, Minister with Responsibility for Disaster Management, Grenada: "Tsunami Ready Programme - What are the national-level implications including policy? Is the Programme a Driver of Country-Level Resilience?"
- Regional Partners - **Elizabeth Riley**, Executive Director (Ag) CDEMA and **Licda. Claudia Herrera Melgar**, Executive Secretary, CEPREDENAC: Tsunami Ready Programme - How does it Contribute to the Achievement of regional frameworks and Targets E and G of the



Sendai Framework? What are the Overall Benefits and Opportunities - impact on enhancement of national and community level capacities, prioritizing in multi-hazard strikes, application of Tsunami Ready as a community-based multi-hazard tool for building national and regional resilience?

- Questions and Comments
- ◊ ~~**Jasen Penn**, Co-Chair Tsunami Ready Task Team and Deputy Director (Ag), Department of Disaster Management, British Virgin Islands and **Claricia Langley Stevens**, Co-Chair Tsunami Ready Task Team and Deputy Coordinator, National Emergency Management Agency, St. Kitts and Nevis~~
- Brief summary
- Considerations, Challenges, Gaps - political will, funding, enhanced integration of vulnerable populations (gender, youth, disabled)
- Next Steps for Tsunami Ready along the Pathway ... enhanced Tsunami Ready Guidelines

Audience participation will be facilitated through the submission of written comments or questions as well as verbal contributions. The CARIBE EWS webinar is expected to benefit from the overall WTAD 2020 social media and communications campaign as well as recent virtual public awareness and education materials developed by UNESCO/IOC-CTIC and the European Commission to highlight the various components of the Programme.

G. Available Media/Media or to be produced for the webinar:

CTIC media products, TR Flyer, Mass Media - Government Information Systems, national radio and TV stations, Social Media- Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, Mobile Networks [SMS Mass Notification], Flyers, Promo [short video clips]

H. Budget:

GoToMeeting/GoToWebinar (UNESCO/IOC accounts). Platform enable online panelists and Q&As sessions.

In addition to the regional webinars, the other 2 pillar events are:

- **13 October (International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction)** - screening at UNESCO HQ of an ARTE documentary with field activities facilitated by UNESCO's IOC on the scientific investigations in the aftermath of the 2018 Palu tsunami, followed by a panel discussion with the documentary director and top experts
- **5 November (WTAD):** A virtual high level event at the Third Tsunami Museum Conference to showcase how museums contribute to keeping the memory of past disasters and lessons learned alive.