Southwest Pacific Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning & Mitigation

Recommendations for ICG/PTWS-XXVII

1. To re-establish the Working Group

2. To change the name with revised Terms of Reference of the Southwest Pacific Regional Working Group on Tsunami & Mitigation to “Pacific Island Countries and Territories Regional Working Group on Tsunami & Mitigation” to include Pacific Countries and Territories outside the Southwest Pacific.

3. The ICG/PTWS recognize the critical contribution of the Oceania Regional Seismic Network (ORSNET) to the PTWS and appreciate the French government's contribution that helped establish this key network. The ICG/PTWS to requests ORSNET Member Countries to urgently to seek funding resources with relevant development partners to sustain this important network.

4. The ICG/PTWC appreciates NOAA and ITIC development of the TsuCAT tool for hazard assessment, tsunami exercises, and event situational awareness and looks for their continued expertise and support to utilize the tool. PICTWG encourages countries to implement training events with development partners on how to utilize the tool to strengthen their tsunami preparedness and warning operations.

5. To establish a Task Team on Capacity Development under the PICTWG (attached Terms of Reference).

6. Instruct WG2 to develop guidelines on minimum competencies of warning personnel as a matter of urgency for consideration at the next steering committee meeting.
Revised Terms of Reference for Pacific Island Countries and Territories Regional Working Group on Tsunami & Mitigation

1. To continually review and evaluate capabilities of and make recommendations for improvements to countries in the Pacific Islands and Territories (PICT) Region for providing end-to-end tsunami warning and mitigation services.

2. To support the involvement and contribution of PICT countries in the activities of the ICG/PTWS.

3. To promote and facilitate the tsunami hazard and risk studies in the PICT region.

4. To facilitate cooperation in the establishment and upgrading of seismic and sea level stations and networks in the region, and the interoperability of these systems in accordance with ICG/PTWS requirements.

5. To facilitate training and capacity building in the end-to-end tsunami warning and mitigation system in the region.

6. To encourage the sharing of tsunami information in the region, including but not limited to the free and open exchange of data.

7. To facilitate tsunami awareness in school curricula, and development and dissemination of public educational materials.

8. To work in cooperation with PTWS Working Group 2 & 3, and relevant task teams especially on activities which strengthen country capacity in tsunami warning, risk mitigation & emergency response.

The Group to be comprised of representatives from Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) Agencies and WMO Regional Association V (RAV) as members and observers with Chair and Vice Chair to be elected by the members of the Working Group and endorsed by the ICG/PTWS.
Terms of Reference of PICTWG Task Team on Capacity development

1. Carryout a capacity mapping of existing warning and mitigation capabilities in the PICTs and report outcomes to the WG and WG2

2. Develop competency guidelines for tsunami warning personnel for the PICTs and report outcomes the WG and WG2

3. Pilot the tsunami ready program in Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu and others and report outcomes to the WG and Task Team on Tsunami Ready

4. Develop warning guidelines for warning centers in PICTs on local tsunami and report outcomes to the WG and WG2

Members: Australia, France/New Caledonia, Tonga (Lead), Samoa, Vanuatu, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, ITIC, SPREP, SPC, IOC, PTWC