PTWS WORKING GROUP 3: DISASTER MANAGEMENT, PREPAREDNESS & RISK REDUCTION

Intra-sessional meeting report to ICG/PTWS-XVII

Tahiti

31 March 2017
Attendance

- China
- Colombia
- Cook Islands
- ITIC
- Mexico
- Nauru
- New Zealand
- Palau
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
Terms of Reference

The Working Group noted a suggestion was made that the Terms of Reference (TOR) of Working Group 1 (Hazard Assessment) be incorporated into the TOR of Working Group 3. This suggestion was as a result of a question by WG1 about dissolving that WG recognising its limited activity, yet the need to focus on hazard assessment was also articulated by WG3 as key requirement for risk reduction.

The WG discussed options with the vice chair of WG1. The consensus was that it will be recommended to the ICG that WG1 should continue, but its TOR must be more specific to reflect emergency management needs, and it must maintain a close relationship with emergency management.

Consequently the TORs for both WG1 and WG3 need to be reviewed and adjusted to reflect the above. Draft revised TORs were developed and consulted. They are included in the Recommendations.
The Working Group noted the completion of the Tsunami Evacuation Mapping Plans & Procedures (TEMPP) pilot in Honduras, and discussed the way forward for the Task Team, noting the Task Team reports directly to the PTWS Steering Committee.

The consensus was that the Task Team should continue as a separate capacity, reporting to the Steering Committee. This is to ensure an on-going experienced capacity is available to support countries that wish to conduct TEMPP. The TOR for the Task Team requires review to reflect this on-going focus; a revised TOR is included in the Recommendations.
Tsunami Ready

• The Working Group noted the request of the Steering Committee that countries consider piloting the Caribbean Tsunami Ready guidelines. Countries in the South West Pacific indicated their intent to do this, however they have identified a need to contextualise the material with a view on the unique cultural and other country-specific characteristics, while applying the guidelines on a national scale will also need support.

• The meeting subsequently considered how to best provide the support required and agreed that the TOR of the TEMPP Task Team be broadened to include Tsunami Ready as a logical extension, and that the Task Team works with regional working groups and WG3 in facilitating the required support.

• The proposed TOR for the Task Team on TEMPP and Tsunami Ready is included in the Recommendations.
Training

• The WG noted that there is an on-going need for SOP training in the South West Pacific. Funding will be required to provide further training.

World Tsunami Awareness Day

• The WG noted that Tsunami World Awareness Day (TWAD) is now an annual institution under the auspices of UNISDR. WTAD will be on 5 November 2017. The meeting considered how to demonstrate support of WTAD.

• Some countries noted that they will observe WTAD through national exercises and drills at local/school level. It was also discussed that PacWave19 may be arranged such that it coincides with WTAD in 2019. The ITIC suggested that targeting schools through for example an evacuation drill may be an easier way to obtain media coverage.

• A recommendation is made that a CL Circular be sent to Member States to encourage them to observe WTAD.