
5-3. National Assessment Mission conducted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO/IOC)

In April 2005, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO held the “Second International Coordination Meeting for the Development of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean” in Mauritius. The Meeting adopted the Mauritius Declaration, which invited the countries of the Indian Ocean rim region to complete an assessment of their requirements and capacity needs for an effective national tsunami warning and mitigation system, with the support of the UNESCO/IOC. 16 countries requested IOC’s assistance for the national assessments. Upon these requests, IOC, together with UN/ISDR and WMO, dispatched assessment missions composed of relevant experts to the countries.

ADRC participated in the mission and made a presentation on the comprehensive overview of the tsunami disaster management system in Japan, and actively joined the discussion about the situation of tsunami warning system, along with questionnaires made by the mission.

Some of the questionnaires were;

- (1) Authority and Coordination
- (2) Tsunami Warning and Monitoring
- (3) Tsunami Warning Response and Emergency Preparedness
- (4) Tsunami Hazard and Risks
- (5) Tsunami Public Awareness/Preparedness and Community Level Activities.

These are to identify the problem and assess the capacity for the implementation of a tsunami early warning and mitigation system.

ADRC sent its staff members to the missions to 7 countries as follows;

19-21 May	Srilanka
10-12 June	Myanmar
13-15 June	Pakistan
17-21 August	Thailand
21-24 August	Bangladesh
24-27 August	Malaysia
29 August - 2 September	Indonesia

Mission report is available in the UNESCO/IOC website. It provides a summary of the types of guidance documents and capacity building activities that will help to catalyze national actions.