IOC Circular Letter No. 2407  
IOC/TSU/WWW/TA/SB/rs  
5 October 2011

To: Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC Member States in the NEAMTWS region  
Relevant organizations working with the IOC  
IOC Officers

cc: Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States  
ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami National Contacts and ICG/NEAMTWS Officers

Subject: The 8th Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS-VIII), Santander, Spain, 22 – 24 November 2011

We wish to inform you that the ICG/NEAMTWS Officers have decided to organize the next session ICG during three full days, from 22 to 24 November 2011 included, rather than until the morning of the 24th. Please find attached the revised provisional agenda and timetable.

Registration to the next ICG has to be made through the IOC website in order to prepare the badges for the participants; general information including hotel information can be found in the documents section:  

Please note that conference attendees should contact the Hotel Santemar directly for reservations using the following address using the code UNESCO - TSUNAMI in the subject:  
reservassante@h-santos.es
A bus in front of the Hotel Santemar will be provided to bring participants to the venue (Environmental Hydraulics Institute IH Cantabria) in the morning and back after the meeting.

Information about the hotel can be found on this link: [http://www.h-santos.es/en/hoteles/Hotel-Santander-Santemar/](http://www.h-santos.es/en/hoteles/Hotel-Santander-Santemar/)

Sincerely Yours,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

**Attachments:**
- Provisional Agenda
- Provisional Timetable
- General Information about Santander and the Hotel
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS-VII)
Santander, Spain, 22-24 November 2011

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. OPENING

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION
   2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
   2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
   2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
   2.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

3. REPORTS ON ICG/NEAMTWS INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
   3.1 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON
   3.2 REPORT BY IOC SECRETARIAT
   3.3 REPORT BY TOWS-WG
   3.4 REPORT BY THE WORKING GROUPS AND TASK TEAMS
   3.5 REPORT BY OTHER ICGs
   3.6 REPORTS BY OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

4. IMPLEMENTATION
   4.1 ESTABLISHEMENT OF RTWCs and NTWCs
   4.2 TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER (NEAMTIC)
   4.3 UPDATE OF NEAMTWS GUIDING DOCUMENTS

5. PROGRAMME FOR 2012
   5.1 ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR 2012
   5.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS AND TASK TEAMS

6. DATE AND PLACE FOR ICG/NEAMTWS-IX

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9. CLOSING
### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>22 November (Tuesday)</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>23 November (Wednesday)</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>24 November (Thursday)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-10:00</td>
<td>Registration, logistics</td>
<td>09:00-11:00</td>
<td>4.3 Update of NEAMTWS guiding documents</td>
<td>09:00-11:00</td>
<td>SESSIONAL WORKING COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10:00-11:00 | **1. OPENING**  
Spanish Authorities  
ICG/NEAMTWS Chairperson  
**2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**  
2.1 Adoption of the agenda  
2.2 Designation of the rapporteur  
2.3 Conduct of the session, timetable and documentation  
2.4 Establishment of sessional committees and working groups | 11:00-11:30 | COFFEE BREAK | 11:00-11:30 | COFFEE BREAK |
| 11:00-11:30 | COFFEE BREAK | 11:30-13:00 | SESSIONAL WORKING/DRAFTING GROUPS MEETINGS | 11:30-13:00 | WORKING GROUP REPORT TO THE ICG AND DISCUSSIONS |
| 11:30-13:00 | **3. REPORTS ON ICG/NEAMTWS INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**  
3.1 Report by the Chairperson  
3.2 Report by IOC Secretariat  
3.3 Report by TOWS-WG | 13:00-14:00 | LUNCH BREAK | 13:00-14:00 | LUNCH BREAK |
| 13:00-14:00 | LUNCH BREAK | 14:00-16:00 | SESSIONAL WORKING COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS | 14:00-16:00 | **5. PROGRAMME FOR 2012**  
5.1 Activities scheduled for 2012  
5.2 Establishment of intersessional working group and task teams  
6. DATE AND PLACE FOR ICG/NEAMTWS-IX | 16:00-16:30 | COFFEE BREAK | 16:00-16:30 | 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS |
| 14:00-16:00 | 3.4 Report by the Working Groups and Task Teams  
3.5 Report from other ICGs  
3.6 Reports by other intergovernmental organizations | 16:00-16:30 | COFFEE BREAK | 16:00-16:30 | 8. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS |
| 16:00-16:30 | COFFEE BREAK | 16:30-18:00 | SESSIONAL WORKING COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS | 16:30-18:00 | (Cont.) |
| 17:00-18:00 | **4. IMPLEMENTATION**  
4.1 Establishment of RTWCs and NTWCs  
4.2 Tsunami Information Center (NEAMTIC) | 17:00-18:00 | RECEPTION | 17:00-18:00 | 9. CLOSING |

**Restriction:** Restricted Distribution
Santander

Santander is a port city, capital of the Autonomous Community of Cantabria and located on the northern coast of Spain.

With its tradition for tourism thanks to the variety of its landscapes, its beautiful beaches and promenades and its important cultural and gastronomic offer, Santander is today a modern and cosmopolitan city with a rich historical past, chosen by many professionals for holding conventions, congresses or company meetings.

A complete social and cultural infrastructure combined with a large variety of services have made of the capital of Cantabria a welcoming city for travellers who arrive just to visit it and to professionals who come to our city for work but also to enjoy its charm, its culture, its people and its atmosphere. The beautiful environment that surrounds the city never leaves the visitor indifferent.

Among its many tourist attractions we must highlight its wonderful bay, which bathes the southern part of the city and is considered one of the most beautiful bays in Spain. We cannot forget the Lighthouse or the magnificent Sardinero, which make our city one of the best venues in the world for holding a congress or a conference.

The climate, the quality of life and the friendliness of its inhabitants are very important assets in our city. The possibilities offered by Santander to the delegates and the accompanying persons are endless.

Tourism: [www.turismodecantabria.com](http://www.turismodecantabria.com)

IH Cantabria

The Conference will be held in Spain at the facilities of the Environmental Hydraulics Institute IH Cantabria, located just outside Santander, and a short taxi drive (10 min) from the beach and city centre. A bus will be provided for conference attendees between the hotel and the conference venue both in the morning and in the afternoon on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of November.

IH Cantabria is located at its new facilities in the Parque Científico y Tecnológico de Cantabria (PCTCAN - Cantabria Scientific and Technological Park). IH Cantabria’s new center, two office and lab buildings, has been designed to create a node of scientific and technological expertise, allowing the incorporation of new companies that may be established as spin-offs in the maritime engineering or environmental hydraulics fields, all of which will be closely linked with IH Cantabria.

The most representative building, with over 2200 m², will be that of the Cantabria Coastal and Ocean Basin (CCOB) a large scale wave basin with advanced instruments, capable of simulating the natural wave conditions, currents and wind which occur along the coast with a depth of up to 1000 meters. The CCOB sets out a global concept made up of three integrated systems: a physical modeling system, a computer generated modeling systems which acts as a “numerical mirror” of the physical tests, and an experimental management allowing the basin to function remotely. The CCOB is a scientific-technical facility jointly funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the Regional Government of Cantabria.
Accommodation

The Hotel Santemar, is located in the heart of "Sardinero", very close to the beach that carries the same name, the Palace of Magdalena and the Casino with a wide variety of possibilities that allow you to enjoy the North of Spain. The Hotel Santemar, located on the exquisite beach of "El Sardinero" in a privileged environment, combines tradition and modernism, experience and efficiency and is distinguished by the style of the North in all its splendor.

The price of the room is 65.97€ for a single occupancy double bed room with breakfast included.

The rooms are blocked until the 10th of November.

Conference attendees should contact the hotel directly to book the room using the following address reservassante@h-santos.es with the code UNESCO--TSUNAMI in the title of the email.

The following is the hotel website:
http://www.h-santos.es/en/hoteles/Hotel-Santander-Santemar/

WEATHER

Santander is under the influence of the oceanic or Atlantic climate, characterized by mild temperatures all year around, with a limited thermal variation. The average temperature in November is approximately 10ºC.

How to reach Santander

BY AIR

SANTANDER AIRPORT

The venue is only 5 km away from Santander airport. The operating airlines are RYANAIR (providing direct connections with Madrid, Barcelona, Reus, Alicante and Málaga, as well as with Brussels, Dublin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, London, Milan, Paris, Pisa and Rome) and AIR NOSTRUM.

Interesting links:
Santander Airport: (+34) 942 202 100     www.aena.es
Ryanair 807 220 032       www.ryanair.com
Air Nostrum: 902 400 500   www.airnostrum.es
Serviberia: 942 400 500     (domestic calls only)

BILBAO AIRPORT

Bilbao’s International airport is only 100 Km away from Santander and provides direct and regular connections to the main European capitals.

Bilbao airport is situated in Loiu, 12km from the Basque capital. There is a transfer service from the airport to the bus station in Bilbao. The airport bus leaves from the arrivals area of the terminal. Buses leave from the airport every 20 minutes from 06:20 to 24:00.

Bus Tickets
Standard tickets can only be purchased on the bus.
A bus leaves every hour from Bilbao bus station to Santander. (The price is about 20€)

BY SEA

Santander Maritime Terminal. It is at short walking distance from the Pereda Gardens, right in the city centre. It offers one weekly connection with Plymouth (Great Britain) and three weekly connections with Portsmouth.
The traveller can also embark in Roscoff and Saint Melon (Great Britain) and in Cherbourg and Caën Normandy. The trip can be extended to Cork (Ireland).

Brittany Ferries: +942 360 611 www.brittanyferries.es www.brittany-ferries.co.uk

BY TRAIN
RENFE Station. It is located at Plaza de las Estaciones, in the city centre. It offers a daily ALVIA train to Madrid and Alicante, as well as Intercity services to Albacete, Palencia and Valladolid.

RENFE: (+34) 902 240202 www.renfe.es
FEVE Station. It is also located at Plaza de las Estaciones and offers regional train services, as well as three daily trains to Bilbao and two daily trains to Oviedo.
FEVE Cantabria: (+34) 942 209522 – 942 209566 www.feve.es

BY COACH
Bus station. Located at Plaza de las Estaciones, in the city centre. Tel.: (+34) 942 211995 www.santandereabus.com Bus companies:

Alsa Grupo: 902 42 22 42 www.alsa.es
Madrid, Burgos, Barcelona, Bilbao, Sevilla, Salamanca, Valladolid and Palencia Internacional Conexions: Paris, Bruselas, Ginebra and Zurich
Bilmanbus: + 34 942 319 906 www.bilmanbus.es

BY CAR
From Bilbao, on the A-8.
From Madrid on the A-1 to Burgos and the N-623 road across the Puerto del Escudo (mountain pass).
From Barcelona on the N-II to Logroño linked with Bilbao by the A-8.
From Oviedo on the A-66 to Unquera and on the A-8 to Torrelavega. Then, on the A-67 to Santander.
From Leon, on the N-621, across the Puerto de S. Glorio (mountain pass).
From Palencia on the Meseta Motorway, on the route to Reinosa and Torrelavega.
www.viamichelin.com