IOC Circular Letter No. 2415  IOC/WWW/TA/CH  
(English only)  
Paris, 2 December 2011  

To : National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States  
cc : Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC  
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States  
Organizations working with the IOC  
IOC Officers  

Subject: The Japan –UNESCO/UNU Symposium on The Great East Japan Tsunami on 11 March 2011 and Tsunami Warning Systems: Policy Perspectives, 16–17 February 2012, United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan  

- Symposium organized by the  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO –  

We are pleased to inform you that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) will be organizing the Japan –UNESCO/UNU Symposium on The Great East Japan Tsunami on 11 March 2011 and Tsunami Warning Systems: Policy Perspectives, at the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan, on 16–17 February 2012.  

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on 11 March 2011, many national and international post-tsunami field surveys have been carried out. Performance analyses of tsunami early warning systems in place at the time of this event have also been done. Based on these surveys and performance analyses the symposium will offer a number of invited high level perspectives from decision makers and scientists and address topics including:  

- Event facts and analysis  
- Tsunami Warning Systems, Tsunami preparedness and event experiences  
- What has been learned from this event and policy implications  

The symposium will be opened by Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO.

Chairperson  
Dr Sang-Kyung BYUN  
Principal Research Scientist  
Climate Change & Coastal Disaster Research Dept.  
Korea Ocean Research & Development Institute  
Ansan, P.O. Box 29, 425-600 Seoul  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA  

Vice-Chairpersons  
Prof. Peter M. HAUQGAN  
Director, Geophysical Institute  
University of Bergen  
Allegaten 70 5007 Bergen  
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Prof. Atanas PALAZOV  
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Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
P.O. Box 152  
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Capt. Frederico Antonio SARAIVA  
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Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation  
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Executives Secretary  
Dr Wendy WATSON-WRIGHT  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission — UNESCO  
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Prof. Adoté Blim BLIVI  
Chef de Recherche  
Head of CGILE  
Ministère de l’Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche  
University of Lomé,  
B.P. 1515  
Lomé 228  
TOGO
Venue and Date
- United Nations University (5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan)
- 16–17 February 2012

Symposium Language
English and Japanese. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided throughout the symposium.

Optional Field Excursion
Following the symposium an optional two-day excursion is planned on 18–19 February 2012 in the Tohoku region. The cost will be around 600 US$. The departure date and time from Tokyo Station will be around 19 p.m. on 17 February 2012. The precise cost and schedule for the optional excursion will be available in the third circular announcement on 10 January 2012.

Venue of Symposium
U Thant International Conference Hall
United Nations University
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925
Tel: +81 (0)3 5467 1212
Fax:+81 (0)3 3499 2828

Accommodation
There is no special arrangement for lodging. Participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservation.

Poster Session
A Poster Session is planned. Participants who wish to make a poster presentation should email Masahiro Yamamoto (m.yamamoto@unesco.org) with the Title and Abstract of poster by no later than 31 December 2011.

Further Information about the symposium, programme and excursion
More information about the logistical arrangements, including registration, are available on the following website: http://ioc-tsunami.org/tohokusymposium. More information about the programme of the symposium and the field trip will be available in the third circular announcement, to be issued on 10 January 2012.

I look forward to your participation.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

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

**Tentative Programme**

[Some titles and presenters are still to be confirmed]

### 16 Feb 2012  DAY 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| 09:00 | Opening | Moderated by Wendy Watson-Wright (Executive Secretary of IOC and Assistant Director-General of UNESCO)  
- Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO  
- Rector of UNU  
The Great East Japan Tsunami (Video prepared for the Symposium by NHK (Japan Public Broadcasting)) |
| 09:45 |         | [For Press: Photo session with Ms Irina Bokova] |
| 10:00 | Session 1: What happened? What was unexpected? What is a new strategy to prepare for the unexpected?  
Moderator: Eddie Bernard, PMEL, NOAA, USA |  
What happened at that time? Report from affected areas.  
The impact of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake tsunami disaster –Lessons towards tsunami-resilient communities: Mr Shunichi Koshimura, Tohoku University  
Retaining the essential services and functions in coastal municipalities? Representative from Fire and Disaster Management Agency  
How did coastal infrastructure hold up and function? Representative from Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism  
Management and Response actions by Japan Government  Representative from Cabinet Office  
Panel Discussion on Session 1 |
| 15:00 | Session 2: Run away from the Tsunami!  
**Why do some people not evacuate? Education in schools and communities.**  
Moderator: Mr Ardito Kodijat, JTIC, UNESCO |  
Tsunami evacuation from a socio-psychological point of view. Mr Naoya Sekiya, Toyo University  
Implementation of Tsunami disaster education in schools and community. Representative from Kamaishi City Government  
Community Preparedness near high Potential Earthquake and Tsunami Source areas: The example of Shizuoka prefecture. Representative from Crisis Preparedness and Management Department  
How to enhance public awareness at community level? Representative from Asian Disaster Reduction Center  
Panel Discussion on Session 2 |
| 18:00- | Poster Session | |

### 17 Feb 2012  DAY 2

| Time  | Session 3: Towards the Improvement of Standard operational procedure (SOP) of Tsunami Warning Centres. What is an understandable and effective Tsunami Warning?  
Moderator: Mr Rick Bailey, Australia |  
What was the great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami? Mr Kenji Satake, University of Tokyo  
Enhancement of tsunami warnings through the use of geodetic observations on land and on the bottom of the ocean: Mr Hiroshi Yarai, Geospatial Information Authority  
JMA's response to the Off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku Earthquake and planned Improvements of Tsunami Warning: Mr Osamu Kamigaichi, Japan Meteorological Agency |
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<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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| 13:00 | **Session 4: The Role of Mass-Media: Global media collaboration in response to natural hazards and preparedness**  
Invited Panelists from the global Mass-Medias |                                                                                 |
| 14:30 | **Session 5: Strengthening International cooperation: Role of International Organizations**  
Moderator: Ms Wendy Watson-Wright (IOC/UNESCO)  
Current status of international coordinating structure of tsunami warning and mitigation systems: towards establishment of globally harmonized system.  
Mr Yutaka Michida, Vice-Chair of IOC, Tokyo University  
Recovery of the Tsunami Affected Areas and Building a Nature Harmonious Society: Mr Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice-Rector, United Nations University  
International Cooperation and Development Partnership: Representative from Japan International Cooperation Agency | Panel Discussion on Session 5 |
| 16:00 | **Round Table Discussion and Summary** |                                                                                   |
| 17:00 | Closing, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Former Director-General of UNESCO and Special Advisor to the Rector of UNU |                                                                                   |