To: ICG/PTWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC) for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)
North West Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC)
Chairman ICG/PTWS
Chairman ICG/IOTWS

cc: Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam
UNESCO Offices in Bangkok, Beijing, Hanoi, Jakarta
International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)
Permanent Observers to ICG/PTWS
IOC Officers and ICG/PTWS Officers

Subject: Call for nominations to the ICG/PTWS Task Team on Establishment of the South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (SCSTAC)

The Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas is the largest, most diverse and most prone to tsunamis of all the Earth's oceans. Pacific nations must be prepared to face the dangers of tsunamis from distant, regional and local sources. In the past, National Tsunami Warning Centres in Pacific Member countries based their warning decisions on tsunami advisory information and alerts provided by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC). However, the reality of the dangers posed by local and regional sources has required Member States to increasingly: (i) address these tsunami risks; (ii) improve and expand the capabilities of their National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) and Disaster Management Offices (NDMO); and (iii) engage in regional collaboration.

.../...
In this context, and following the Recommendation ICG/PTWS-XXV-1, I am pleased to invite South China Sea countries to nominate a member to participate in the ICG/PTWS Task Team on Establishment of the South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Centre (SCSTAC). Nominations should be endorsed by and submitted through the country’s Tsunami National Contact (TNC).

This Task Team will be composed by Representatives of ICG/PTWS and ICG/IOTWS; representatives of PTWC and NWPTAC; representatives of NTWCs in the SCS region (including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), as per the Terms of Reference pasted below. Annual reports should be presented to the Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System in the South China Sea.

The Task Team will work mainly by correspondence, though, it may be possible that the Task Team can meet in Hong Kong, China on April 7th, 2014. Bearing this in mind we kindly ask to forward your nomination by Friday 14 March 2014 to the Chairman of SCSTAC Dr Yuan Ye yuanye@nmefc.gov.cn copied to the ICG/PTWS Technical Secretary Bernardo Aliaga B.Aliaga@unesco.org

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

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

Enclosure (1): Terms of Reference for Task team on Establishment of the SCS Tsunami Advisory Centre
Terms of Reference for Task team on Establishment of the South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Centre (SCSTAC)

Members:

Representatives of ICG/PTWS and ICG/IOTWS; representatives of PTWC and NWPTAC (JMA); representatives of NTWCs in the SCS region (including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)

Mandate:

Under the guidance of the ICG/PTWS WG-SCS, the task team shall strengthen coordination and cooperation among the SCS countries to establish the SCSTAC:

1. Develop capability guidelines and performance indicators for the SCSTAC;
2. Explore ways for facilitating the sharing and exchange of data and relevant information necessary for the establishment of the SCSTAC;
3. Consult with National Tsunami Warning Focal Points to determine appropriate requirements for Tsunami service/products;
4. Develop the SOP and the contents of warning products for the SCSTAC;
5. Keep contact with PTWC and NWPTAC (JMA) for guidance and assistance.

Modus operandi:

The task team will work mainly by correspondence. Annual report is suggested to be prepared for the SCS WG meeting.