IOC Circular Letter No. 2623
(Available in English only)

To: ICG/IOTWMS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)
    ICG/IOTWMS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP)

Cc: Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC Member States
    Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
    IOC Officers
    ICG/IOTWMS Chair and Vice Chairs
    ICG/IOTWMS Working Group Chairs and Vice Chairs
    Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC)

Subject: 2nd March 2016 Southwest of Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami Event
Post-Event Assessment of the Performance of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System

The magnitude 7.8 earthquake that occurred to the southwest of Sumatra, Indonesia on 2nd March 2016 met the criteria established by the IOC Working Group on Tsunami and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (IOC/TOWS-WG-VIII/3) and adopted by the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) to conduct a post-event assessment of the performance of the IOTWMS. These criteria are:

- One or more Tsunami Service Providers (TSP) predicted tsunami waves of at least 1 metre amplitude for one or more countries, or
- Waves of at least 1 metre amplitude were observed but not predicted by any TSP.
- Over and above this trigger level, the final decision to implement a survey should be decided by the regional Tsunami Information Centre (TIC) in consultation with the ICG Steering Group and Secretariat taking into consideration whether the tsunami resulted in a national response in one or more countries.

In the case of the 2nd March event, one or more TSPs predicted tsunami waves of at least 1 metre amplitude for one or more countries resulting in a national response in one or more countries. The Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC), the IOTWMS Steering Group and the IOTWMS Secretariat have therefore decided to initiate a post-event performance survey.
We have designed an online post-event assessment questionnaire to help us to evaluate the performance of the IOTWMS and to provide a benchmark of the present status of the system. **We seek your support and cooperation to complete this questionnaire as fully and accurately as possible.** This may involve obtaining input from several different organizations in your country but we believe that the effort involved will have direct benefits for the entire Indian Ocean community at regional, national and local levels.

The online post-event survey will be coordinated by the IOTIC office in Jakarta, Indonesia. **You are requested to email the name, email address, and phone number of the person who will be responsible for coordinating the completion of the survey questionnaire in your country to iotic@unesco.org.** IOTIC will then send this person a link to the online questionnaire. The link will be unique to your country and can be shared with other people who will contribute to the completion of the survey.

The questionnaire addresses six main areas of an end-to-end warning system, including upstream and downstream components. These are:

- The IOTWMS Tsunami Service Providers (TSP)
- National Actions
- National Response
- Monitoring and Modelling
- Community Preparedness
- Capacity Development Requirements

After we have received completed questionnaires from the Member States we will compile the information and publish a report, which will be circulated to all stakeholders and will be published on the IOTIC website. We would also welcome any other information you would like to send us to help us in the production of the report, such as photographs, national reports of the event or any comments on the system and areas in need of improvement.

Our timeline for the assessment is to have **all questionnaires completed by 30 April 2016** and to publish the report as soon as possible thereafter.

I am confident that all Member States will understand the importance and value of conducting this assessment. We were fortunate that the event of 2\textsuperscript{nd} March did not generate a destructive tsunami. It is vital that we use such events to measure the performance of the IOTWMS in order to test it and improve it for future events, which could be more destructive.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary