

Fact Sheet: Signing of a Science and Technology Agreement to Support Development of Natural Hazard Analysis and Warning Systems, Including an Indonesian Tsunami Early Warning System



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The U.S. and Indonesia have signed a science and technology agreement for cooperation on natural hazard assessment, analysis, warning, and mitigation systems.

- With the agreement, the U.S. pledged an assistance package that includes joint research to adapt the U.S. DART tsunami detection technology to the region, contribution of a tsunami detection buoy system to Indonesia, and technical assistance to accelerate implementation of the Indonesian Tsunami Early Warning System.
- This agreement will help Indonesia meet its own requirement for an effective tsunami early warning system. Indonesia has recognized that a robust and effective Tsunami Early Warning System is critical to save lives and reduce impacts from possible future tsunamis.
- The agreement follows the \$401 million U.S. tsunami reconstruction package now being implemented in Aceh, and complements the U.S. program to support development of a regional Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS). The goal of the IOTWS program is to support Indonesia and other Indian Ocean nations' efforts to develop operational end-to-end multi-hazard warning and mitigation systems.
- Tsunamis are the most demanding of coastal hazards because experts must issue warnings in minutes for local tsunamis or, at best, hours for regional tsunamis. To maximize warning lead times, vulnerable countries like Indonesia need effective national detection, analysis, warning, communication, and response systems.
- Indonesia is more vulnerable to tsunamis than any other country because of its proximity to sub-sea faults. However, because the tsunami threat is also regional in scope, international cooperation on tsunami warning systems through the IOC is also critical.
- Indonesia was the hardest hit country by the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004 with over 160,000 people dead or missing. Tragedy struck again in July 2006 in West Java, when over 600 were killed.