

Caribbean World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) / Media advisory

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Venue Headquarters of the ACS Secretariat, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Spokespersons

Regional level:

- **June Soomer**, Secretary General, Association of the Caribbean States (ACS)
- **Ronald Jackson**, Executive Secretary, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- **Noel Barillas**, Advisor, Executive Secretariat of the Specialized Institution of the Central American Integration System for Natural Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (CEPREDENAC)

National level:

- **Stephen Ramroop**, Director, Office for Disaster Preparedness and Management, Trinidad and Tobago
- **Mitsuhiko Okada**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- **Richard Blewitt**, Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Trinidad and Tobago

Why cover this event?

The Caribbean region is vulnerable to destructive tsunamis generated by shallow earthquakes; 3.000 people have been killed by these events over the past 500 years. Based on historical evidence, the Caribbean is expected to experience approximately one destructive tsunami every fifty years.

Within this context and for the first time, the World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) will be commemorated in order to raise awareness on the importance of tsunami preparedness. The focus of the WTAD 2016 is on effective education and evacuation drills. Although Tsunamis do not occur very frequently, they can cause huge disasters; as did the 2004 Indian Ocean which affected 14 different countries and resulted in more than 227.000 casualties.

As a unique event, the Caribbean WTAD will provide an opportunity to reaffirm the inherent links between disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. It also will be the occasion to enforce awareness related to tsunami risk in the region and to define regional and national activities for the observation of upcoming World Tsunami Awareness Days (2017-2022) in the Caribbean.

Participants are comprised of representatives from ACS member states and the Government of Japan; regional and United Nations organizations; Intergovernmental Organizations such as ACS, CDEMA and CEPREDENAC; representatives from the University of the West Indies. These stakeholders will work together to identify activities for upcoming WTADs in the Caribbean region – opportunities at regional, national and local level.

Related links

[World Tsunami Awareness Day website](#)
[International Tsunami Early Warning Center](#)
[Caribbean Tsunami Smart Initiative](#)
[Caribbean Tsunami Information Center](#)

[UNISDR – The Americas](#)
[UNESCO/IOC](#)
[CDEMA](#)
[Association of Caribbean States \(ACS\)](#)

About the event organization

The Caribbean WTAD will be organized back-to-back to the Special Committee Meeting of the Disaster Risk Reduction, annually organized by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). The event is jointly organized by UNISDR, UNESCO/IOC, the ACS, CDEMA as well as CEPREDENAC and made possible thanks to the financial support by the Government of Japan.