

Recommendation 6 (JCOMM-III)

INTEGRATED STORM SURGE WATCH SCHEME

Noting:

- (1) The *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions and Recommendations of the Second Session of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology* (WMO-No. 995), general summary, paragraphs 3.4 (a) and (c), 5.1.33, 8.1.3, 11.5.11 and 11.5.15,
- (2) The final report of the second session of the JCOMM Expert Team on Wind Waves and Storm Surges (ETWS) (JCOMM/MR-No. 49),
- (3) The final report and recommendations of the JCOMM Scientific and Technical Symposium on Storm Surges (JCOMM/TR-No. 44),
- (4) The request by the WMO Executive Council, at its sixtieth session (Geneva, June 2008), endorsed by the forty-first session of the UNESCO/IOC Executive Council (Paris, June 2008), to implement the recommendations from the Symposium,
- (5) The request by the WMO Executive Council at its sixtieth session (Geneva, June 2008) to the Secretary-General of WMO, in consultation with UNESCO/IOC, to:
 - (a) Facilitate the development of storm surge watch schemes for regions subject to tropical cyclones, and to regional associations concerned to incorporate such schemes in the tropical cyclone advisory arrangements and in the Tropical Cyclone Programme Regional Operating Plans and/or Manual,
 - (b) Promote the participation of space agencies in the storm surge watch schemes,
 - (c) Give high priority to these activities,

Considering:

- (1) That storm surges, both tropical and extra-tropical, represent a major marine hazard, and result in the loss of life and property in many parts of the world on a regular basis,
- (2) That accurate and timely forecasts and warnings would contribute substantially to mitigating the threat to life and property from storm surges,

- (3) That the preparation and issuing of such forecasts and warnings is the responsibility of National Meteorological Services and/or oceanographic agencies in many countries,
- (4) That many such Services and agencies would benefit substantially from storm surge model enhancement, hydrological forecast information and increased data resources, including both in situ and space-based observations in the preparation of forecasts and warnings of storm surges and associated inundation,
- (5) That related activities addressing various components of an Integrated Storm Surge Watch Scheme have recently been initiated, including:
 - (a) A JCOMM/Commission for Hydrology Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project for building improved operational forecasts and warnings capability and service delivery in coastal risk reduction, including for coastal inundation,
 - (b) A UNESCO project on *Enhancing Regional Capabilities for Coastal Hazards Forecasting and Data Portal Systems* for scientific development on enhanced storm surge modelling capabilities,
 - (c) A European Space Agency (ESA) Storm Surge Project to improve storm surge forecasting systems and applications through the innovative use of ocean, land and atmospheric satellite observations,

Agrees that JCOMM should give high priority to the development of demonstration project(s) for building integrated global and regional storm surge watch schemes within a multi-hazard framework, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including with the appropriate WMO technical commissions and programmes, UNESCO/IOC subsidiary bodies, other United Nations agencies and international organizations, and that both WMO and UNESCO/IOC be involved in the storm surge watch schemes and related activities through an open and mutually-agreed workplan in this area,

Requests the Expert Team on Wind Waves and Storm Surges to provide technical advice, guidance and coordination in the development of such demonstration project(s), in close collaboration with WMO regional associations,

Recommends that Members/Member States support the development and implementation of the Demonstration Project(s) by providing extrabudgetary contributions to the JCOMM Trust Fund and seconding experts to work in the WMO and UNESCO/IOC Secretariats to speed up project development and implementation,

Requests the Secretary-General of WMO and the Executive Secretary of UNESCO/IOC to provide adequate budgetary resources to achieve the objectives of the demonstration project(s).
