



**Acronym:** UNESCO/IOC  
**Full Name:** Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
**Website:** [www.ioc-tsunami.org](http://www.ioc-tsunami.org)  
**Established:** 1960  
**Location:** Paris, France

**Areas of expertise:** Coordination of the establishment of Early Warning Systems (EWS) for tsunami and other ocean-related hazards.

**Main Partners and collaborations:** Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC), Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)

**Short Description:**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO was created in 1960 and promotes international cooperation and coordinates programmes in marine research, services, observation systems, hazard mitigation and capacity development.

One of its main mandates is the coordination of the development of tsunami early warning and mitigation systems in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, the North-eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and the Caribbean. Thus, UNESCO/IOC has established advisory systems in cooperation with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) from the USA and the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) from Japan to provide immediate interim coverage for tsunami warnings in all other oceans.

**Main activities:**

UNESCO/IOC coordinates the Early Warning Systems (EWS) for tsunami and other ocean-related hazards. These Tsunami Warning Systems (TWS's), owned and operated by Member States, collect, distribute and interpret continuously all available seismic and sea level data for the existence and propagation of a tsunami. They issue timely and clear warnings for their area of operation and exchange these data and information with other national and international centers.

Also, the UNESCO/IOC coordinates activities and action to establish a Tsunami Warning System (TWS) in the Indian Ocean after the undersea earthquake in 2004 and the subsequent strongest tsunami.

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**Source:** Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission