

AN EFFECTIVE NATIONAL TSUNAMI EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

An effective end-to-end tsunami early warning system would have saved many of the lives that were lost in the devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004. The National Tsunami Early Warning System of Malaysian was established as a reaction to that tsunami event when 68 lives were lost in Malaysia. The system provides early warnings on tsunamis generated in the Indian Ocean, South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. This early warning system is target-specific and has been developed to meet local conditions. It forms part of the coordinated network of related tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean and also caters for warning of tsunamis in the Pacific Ocean, South China Sea and western Pacific marginal seas.

In this paper, the effectiveness and challenges of the national tsunami early warning system for Malaysia is discuss. A tsunami warning system can only be successful if it encompasses an end-to-end approach, that is, it needs to encompass risk knowledge, efficient and rapid detection of a tsunami waves and effective dissemination of information as well as a prepared community that is capable of responding appropriately to the warnings.

Keyword: Tsunami, end-to-end tsunami warning system.