

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)**

**UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme  
1st Regional Training for Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT)**

**Nadi, Fiji, 30<sup>th</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2023**

**RESOURCE PERSON BIOGRAPHIES**

**LITEA BUIKOTO**

Team Leader, Disaster Risk Reduction  
The Pacific Community (SPC), Suva, Fiji, E-mail: [liteab@spc.int](mailto:liteab@spc.int)

Litea is a Fiji national and has over 15 years of experience working in the region with Pacific Island Countries providing disaster risk management capacity support. She has worked with technical experts at SPC, from countries, research and technical institutes and development partners to expand the use and application of risk information and assessment tools. These applications include early warning, post disaster assessments, risk reduction interventions and planning. Litea is involved in global and regional expert groups including the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and its related activities in the Pacific.

**HERVE DAMLAMIAN**

Team Leader, Oceanography  
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Herve Damlamian is an experienced oceanographer leading a team to provide ocean and coastal monitoring and prediction services in coastal inundation hazard and risk assessments, ocean forecast systems and coastal monitoring and management. Herve works closely with meteorological services and response agencies to strengthen multihazard early warning capability with the use of high resolution forecast systems. The systems are contextualised for the Pacific and include upskilling and providing capacity support to the meteorological services and tsunami warning centres. Through his work, Herve has worked closely with disaster risk management practitioners to generate risk information and curate these for decision makers. His advice and support has been sought by Pacific Island Countries wanting to develop probabilistic inundation hazard models to inform risk reduction interventions. Herve is also involved in global and regional expert groups including the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and its related activities in the Pacific

**MARIE C. EBLE**

Deputy Director (retired), NOAA National Center for Tsunami Research, Pacific Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA, USA, E-mail: [marie.c.eble@gmail.com](mailto:marie.c.eble@gmail.com)

Marie Eblé earned a Master of Science in Physical Oceanography from Texas A&M University in 1984. After completing her degree, she worked two years with the consulting firm of Northern Technical Services, Inc. where she conducted oceanographic and hydraulic field and numerical modeling studies. She joined the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1986 as research oceanographer to develop processing and analysis software for interpretation of bottom pressure recorder and sea level time series data in support of a newly established tsunami research effort. In the mid-1990's, Ms. Eblé engaged with Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) engineers to develop and test a Deep-

ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) measurement capability. In 1999, she served as DART Project Manager to ensure that engineering design efforts met research needs, to oversee web display and distribution of bottom pressure data from PMEL servers, and, beginning in 2002, to coordinate transition of DART array operations and maintenance to NOAA's operational National Data Buoy Center. In 2008 until retirement, Ms. Eblé served as Deputy Director of the NOAA Center for Tsunami Research. Her responsibilities included liaison between NOAA Center for Tsunami Research and all partner agencies, representing NOAA on the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program Mapping & Modeling Subcommittee, and engaging in scientific research, presenting scientific findings at national and international scientific venues. Currently, Ms Eblé continues work with a USGS Powell Center sponsored Tsunami Sources project as co-principal investigator and now serves on the NOAA Tsunami Science Technical Advisory Panel.

### **CAROLINA HINCAPIE-CARDENAS**

Oceanographer, UNESCO/IOC – NOAA International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)  
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Carolina Hincapié-Cárdenas was born and raised in Colombia, and graduated from the University Jorge Tadeo Lozano as a Marine Biologist. In 2003, she moved to Puerto Rico and received her master's degree in Marine Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico (PR), Mayagüez Campus. She then worked at the Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN) for ten years in different areas: Research Assistant for projects as "Installation of Six Tsunami Ready Tide Gauges in Puerto Rico, FEMA-USA", "Modeling of Tsunami Behavior - Tsunami Guideline Plan for Operators of Caribbean Ports, NSF-USA", Data Analysis Assistant to support the technical operations, detecting and processing seismic and sea-level data for the PRSN's Area of Responsibility: Puerto Rico, US and British Virgin Islands. Her last position at PRSN was as the Coordinator of the NWS TsunamiReady® Program in Puerto Rico, where she advised PR Emergency Managers and non-government organizations with their tsunami maps (inundation/evacuation), emergency response plans, evacuation routes and signage, outreach, development of educational materials, etc. Between 2011 and 2015, Carolina participated as Invited Expert for the IOC/ICG/CARIBE EWS Preparedness, Readiness and Resilience Working Group. From 2015 to 2017, she worked as a USA NOAA/NWS contractor to support the International Tsunami Information Center Caribbean Office and its numerous projects throughout the Caribbean Region. Currently she is based in Honolulu, HI-USA filling the position as Oceanographer at the ITIC since July, 2021.

### **ARDITO KODIJAT**

Head, Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Center (IOTIC)  
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Ardito M. Kodijat joined UNESCO in 2006. He is currently posted as the National Professional Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction and Tsunami Information unit (DRRTIU) in UNESCO Jakarta Office. His role is under two sectors in UNESCO and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO). Under IOC-UNESCO he is coordinating, managing, and implementing programmes of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC) of IOC-UNESCO. He initiated the partnership between IOC-UNESCO and the Government of Indonesia through BMKG to implement the IOTIC-BMKG 5 years programme (2017-2022 and 2022-2027). In his capacity, through the IOC-UNESCO Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, he works closely with the ICG/IOTWMS technical secretariat, the steering group, and the tsunami assessment and preparedness working group (WG-1) and the Tsunami Ready Working Group (WG-3) of the IOTWMS. He focuses on capacity building on tsunami preparedness, as of the tsunami early warning chain, of the Indian Ocean Member States. He has been actively involved in programs and activities on

IOC-UNESCO Tsunami Ready; Tsunami Warning and Emergency Response SOP; Tsunami Risk Reduction Policy; Tsunami Exercises; and Tsunami Evacuation Maps, Plans, and Procedures. Under the UNESCO Science Sector, he is coordinating the disaster risk reduction program in UNESCO office Jakarta focusing on advocating the Youth and Young Professionals in Science, Engineering, Technology, and Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction focusing on Futures Thinking on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resiliency. In addition, he is also focus on strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in UNESCO Designated Sites in Asia-Pacific and UNESCO-UDINE University's VISUS Methodology for School Safety. Prior joining for UNESCO he was the head of Training Centre for the Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology of Indonesia and the Deputy Assistant for International Research Cooperation of the Ministry for Research and Technology of Indonesia.

**DR. LAURA S. L. KONG**

Director, UNESCO/IOC – NOAA International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)  
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Dr. Kong has been the Director of the ITIC since 2001. As Director, she oversees a Centre that supports the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in its efforts to deploy tsunami warning and mitigation systems globally, and that works directly with the 46-nation Intergovernmental Co-ordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System to strengthen national tsunami warnings and preparedness. In this capacity, the ITIC works closely with the USA Pacific and National Tsunami Warning Centers, Japan Meteorological Agency NWPTAC and other Tsunami Service Providers, and national tsunami warnings centres. The ITIC has been primary provider of information and expertise for technology transfer, awareness, training and capacity building in tsunami warning and mitigation for the IOC. Since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Dr. Kong has been actively involved as part of the IOC's coordination and development of systems in the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and adjacent regions, and Mediterranean Seas and the north Atlantic Ocean. Within the United States, serves as the Hawaii State Tsunami Advisor, and supports the US National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. She is the former Chair of the Hawaii State Earthquake Advisory Committee. Previously, she was with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, the University of Hawaii's Hawaii Institute of Geophysics, the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, and the University of Tokyo's Earthquake Research Institute. She is a graduate of Brown University and received PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1990.

**JIUTA KOROVULAVULA**

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Mr Korovulavula is the National Programme Officer for the IOC Tsunami Unit based in Suva, Fiji since 2018. As NPO, he coordinates efforts of the 46 Member States of the Intergovernmental Co-ordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System especially the 21 Member States of the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories in the Southwest Pacific. In this capacity, he is the technical secretariat for the ICG/PTWS Pacific Islands Countries and Territories Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System. He works closely with PICT National Tsunami Warning Centres and National Disaster Management Office in collaboration with the NOAA International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) to strengthen national and regional tsunami warnings systems and preparedness arrangements. He works closely with the Oceania Regional Seismic Network

(ORSNET) on the strengthening earthquake and tsunami monitoring and detection through the PTWS WG 2 Task Team Seismic Data Sharing in the Southwest Pacific. He closely collaborates with ITIC on the review and update of National Tsunami Warning SOP and National Tsunami Response Plan. Previously, he worked with National Disaster Management Office and communities among PICTs through Regional and National NGOs to develop community disaster risk management plans and national community-based disaster management frameworks. This include development of ICT and space-based application to strength disaster resilience of communities. He is a graduate of the University of South Pacific with a Bachelor of Marine Science in 2004.