

Laura KONG

International Tsunami Information Center

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, the Japan Meteorological Agency, and other 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 is 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.