

Subject line: Invitation to participate in the “Online Dialogue on Early Warning” facilitated by SEI, ADPC, Macquarie University and RTF/CARE.

Dear Prospective Participants,

We are writing to let you inform about our exciting new initiative of “Online Dialogue on Early Warning”. The 2004 tsunami showed that many countries in the Indian Ocean region needed better systems to warn people of coming hazards. Since then, a number of organisations have been working together to strengthen institutions and policies for managing disaster risks in this region.

You are cordially invited to join this online dialogue about how early warning systems can be improved. ‘Better systems’ for us means that early warning messages are timely, trusted, accurate and able to reach people at risk from hazards, and that they provide clear guidance on what to do when there is an emergency.

Our discussion opens today. You can take part in it by entering the e-forum at www.adpc.net/odew. Here you will be able to post your responses to a number of discussion topics, and read the responses of others. The dialogue runs from 13 May to 30 June. For any enquiry, or technical problem, please drop a mail to odew@adpc.net.

We hope that you will take part, as your experience and knowledge in this area are of value to many. The Online Dialogue on Early Warning (ODEW) is an opportunity for all interested stakeholders to strengthen our networks with each other, so we hope that taking part will benefit you as well. You are also very welcome to extend this invitation to your colleagues and to disseminate it further through your networks.

The Online Dialogue on Early Warning is jointly facilitated by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Macquarie University and the Raks Thai Foundation (RTF), supported by funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The facilitating agencies will produce a synthesis of the discussions to be published online in July.

All the best, and we look forward to seeing you at the Online Dialogue on Early Warning!

Yours sincerely

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