



**EXPERIENCE ON RECENT TSUNAMI**

**PRECAUTIONS AND STRATEGIES TO  
MINIMISE DAMAGE**

LALITH CHANDRAPALA  
DEPARTMENT OF METEOROLOGY



India

Dead: 10,749  
Missing: 5,640  
Displaced: 0\*  
\*112,538 displaced persons have been returned to their cities/villages (GoI)

Sri Lanka

Colombo

Dead: 30,959  
Missing: 5,644  
Displaced: 500,868 (GoSL)

Myanmar

Dead: 61  
Displaced: 2,592 (GoM)

Thailand

Dead: 5,392  
Missing: 3,062 (GoT)

Utapao

Banda Aceh

Malaysia

Dead: 68  
Missing: 6  
Displaced: 8,000 (GoM)

Medan

Meulaboh

Indonesia

Dead: 114,573  
Missing: 127,749  
Displaced: 417,438 (GoI)

Magnitude: 9.0  
Date: 26/12/2004  
Time: 00:58 UTC

Over 300,000 deaths in the region

**TOTAL:**  
from figures shown  
Dead: 162,281  
Missing: 142,285  
Displaced: 942,746



# SRI LANKA

Number dead - 30, 959

Number missing - 5, 644

Number displaced - 500, 669

**Enormous  
property  
damage**

**Over 900 km of  
coastline  
affected**





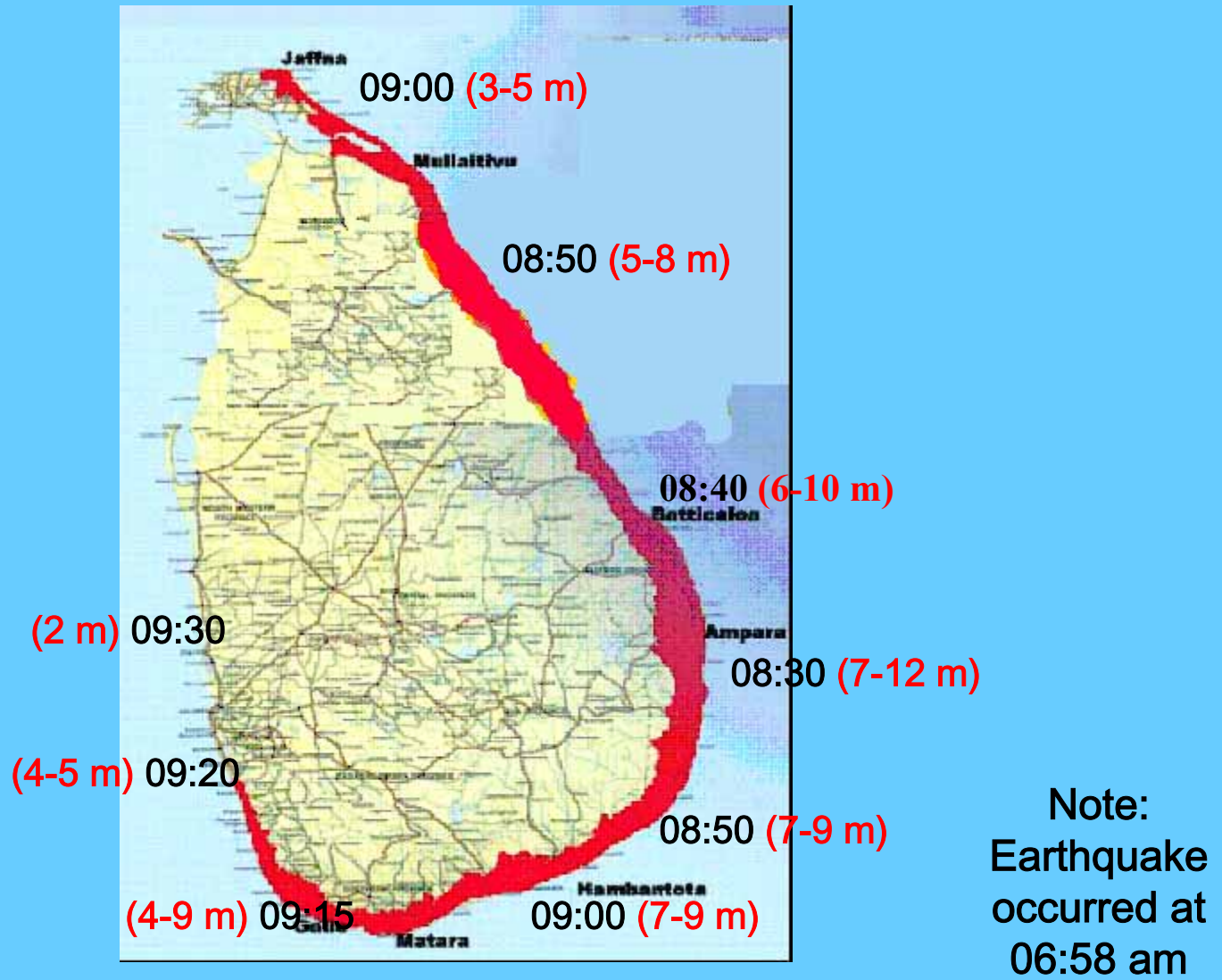
**Almost the entire coastal railway line from Colombo to Matara was severely damaged.**





**A Passenger train with over 1,500 passengers was washed away at Peraliya**

# Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26-12-2004



Time of arrival of first wave and estimated max. wave height

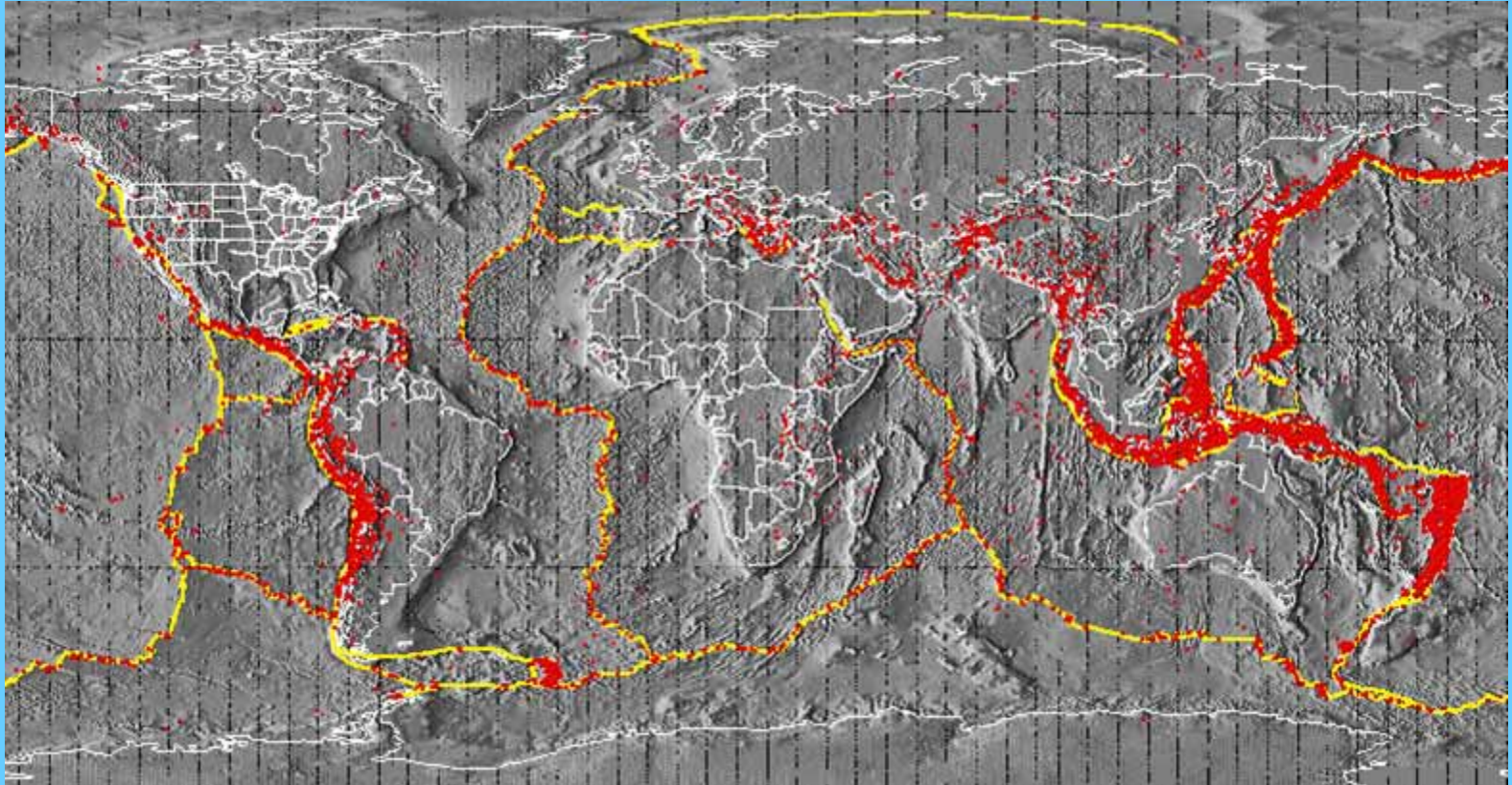
## Tsunami Sources:



- **Generally by strong submarine earthquakes**  
e.g. Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2004
- **Less commonly by submarine landslides**  
e.g. Lithua Bay 1958
- **Infrequently by volcanic eruptions**  
e.g. Karakatoa eruption in 1883
- **Very rarely by meteorite impact**  
None in recorded history



# Crust of the Earth is divided into Plates

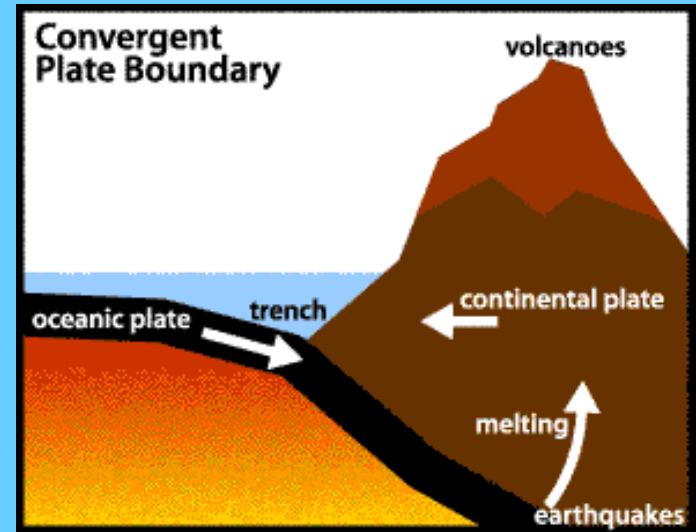


Major earthquakes usually occur at convergent plate boundaries

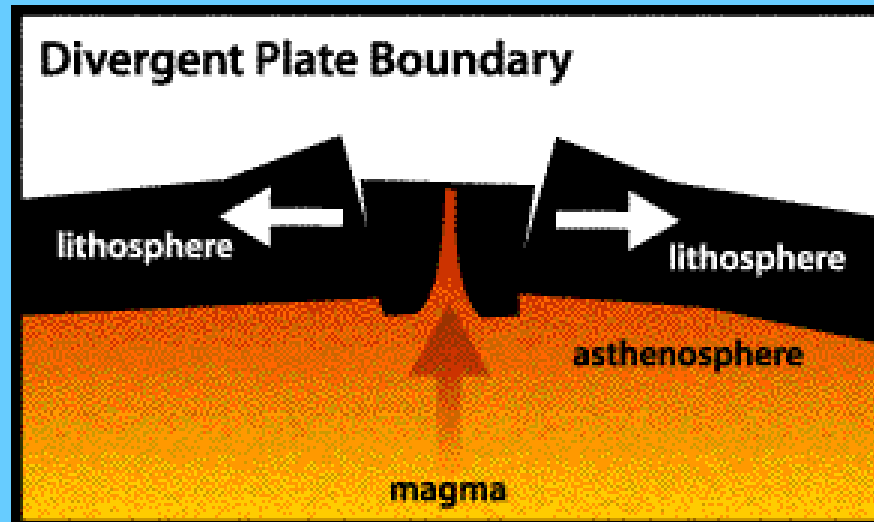
# Three types of plate boundaries



Transform boundaries



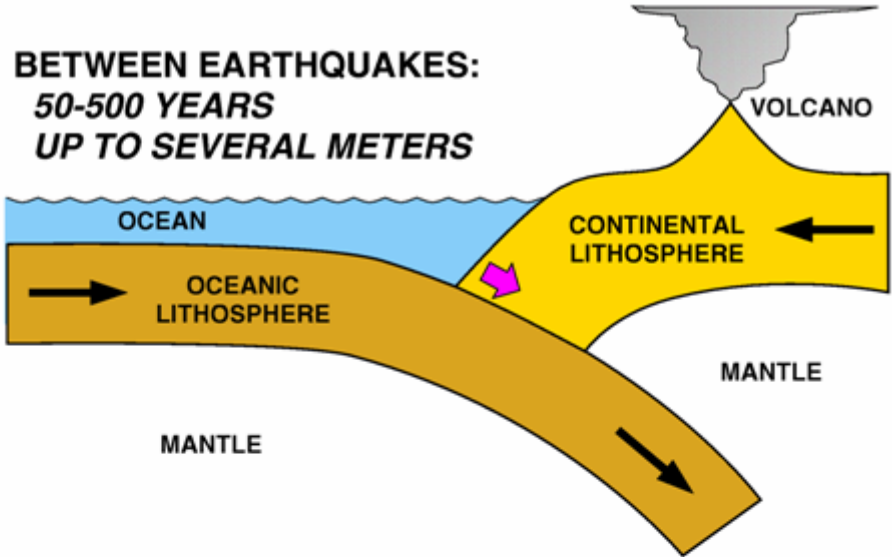
Convergent boundaries



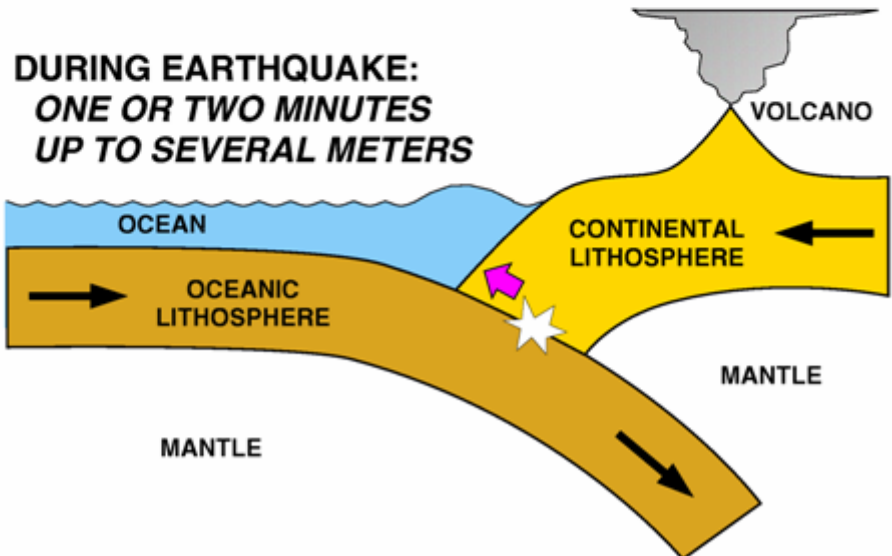
Divergent boundaries

# Tsunamis due to Earthquakes

**BETWEEN EARTHQUAKES:  
50-500 YEARS  
UP TO SEVERAL METERS**



**DURING EARTHQUAKE:  
ONE OR TWO MINUTES  
UP TO SEVERAL METERS**



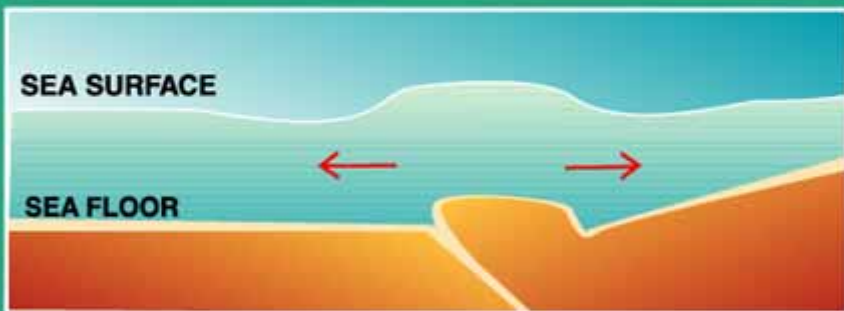
**Usually at convergent plate boundaries**

**Oceanic plate slides underneath continental plate**

**Breakdown of stability**

**Rise of a huge column of water by several meters**

**Generation of the tsunami**



For a tsunami to be generated from an earthquake,

- **Large Earthquakes, at least  $> 7.5 M$**
- **Shallow, close to the sea bottom, about 50 km**

**Earthquake suddenly moves a great column of water upward, generating the tsunami**

Andaman Sea

Banda Aceh

9.3M

Simeulu

BORNEO

SUMATERA

Sumatra Fault

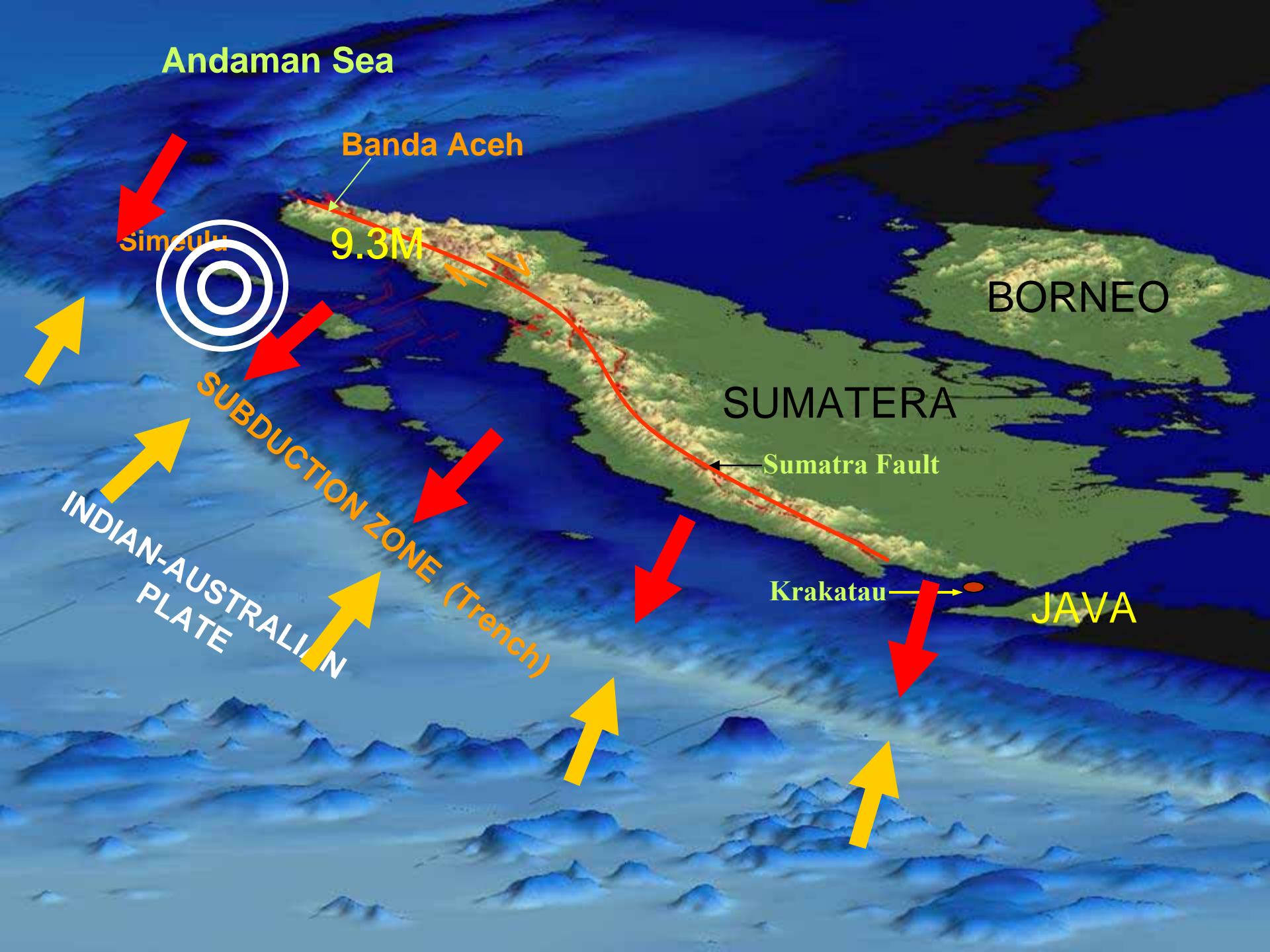
Krakatau

JAVA

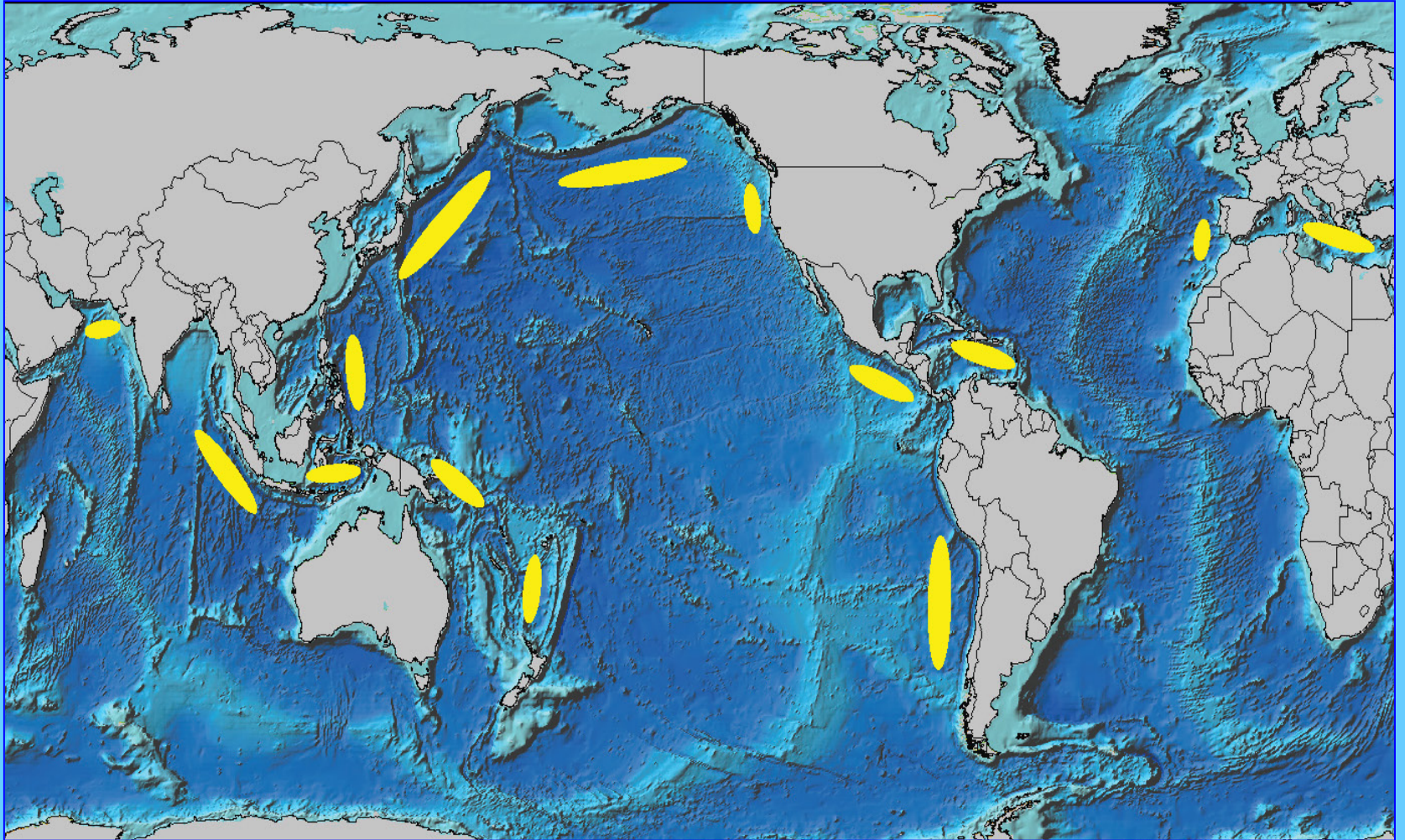


SUBDUCTION ZONE (Trench)

INDIAN-AUSTRALIAN PLATE

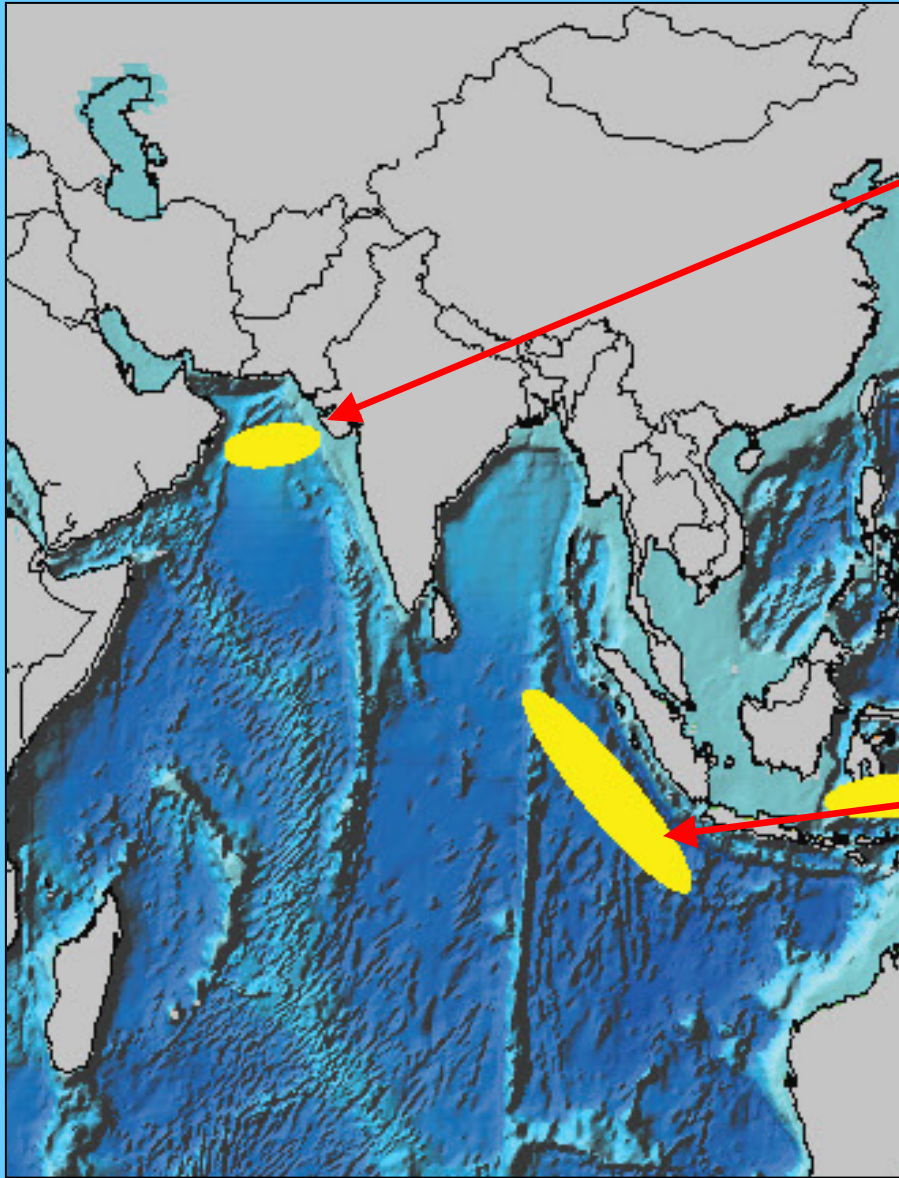


# Tsunamigenic Regions



Large earthquakes generally occur near boundaries of tectonic plates

# Tsunamigenic Regions in the Indian Ocean

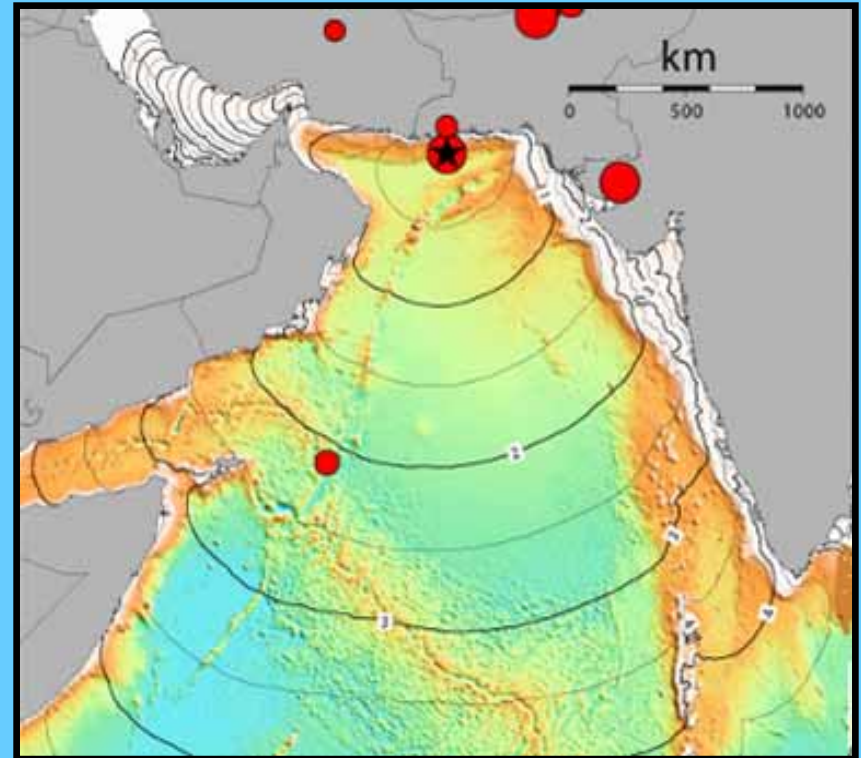
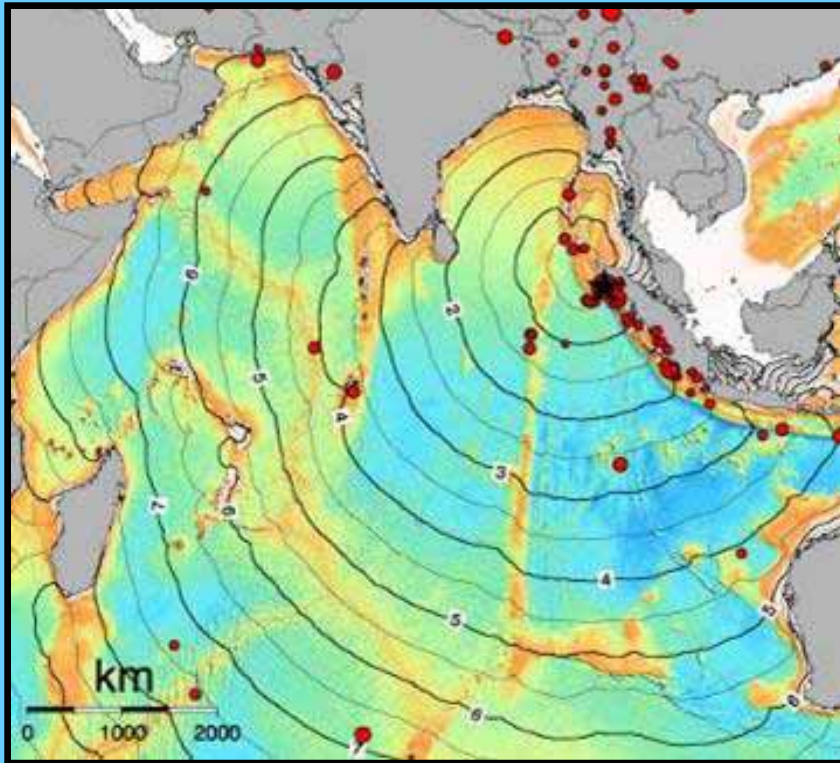


**MAKRAN ZONE  
(Pakistan-Iran border)**

**Last major Tsunami in 1945**

**SUMATRA-INDONESIAN  
ZONE - SUNDA TRENCH**

## Tsunamigenic areas in the Indian Ocean

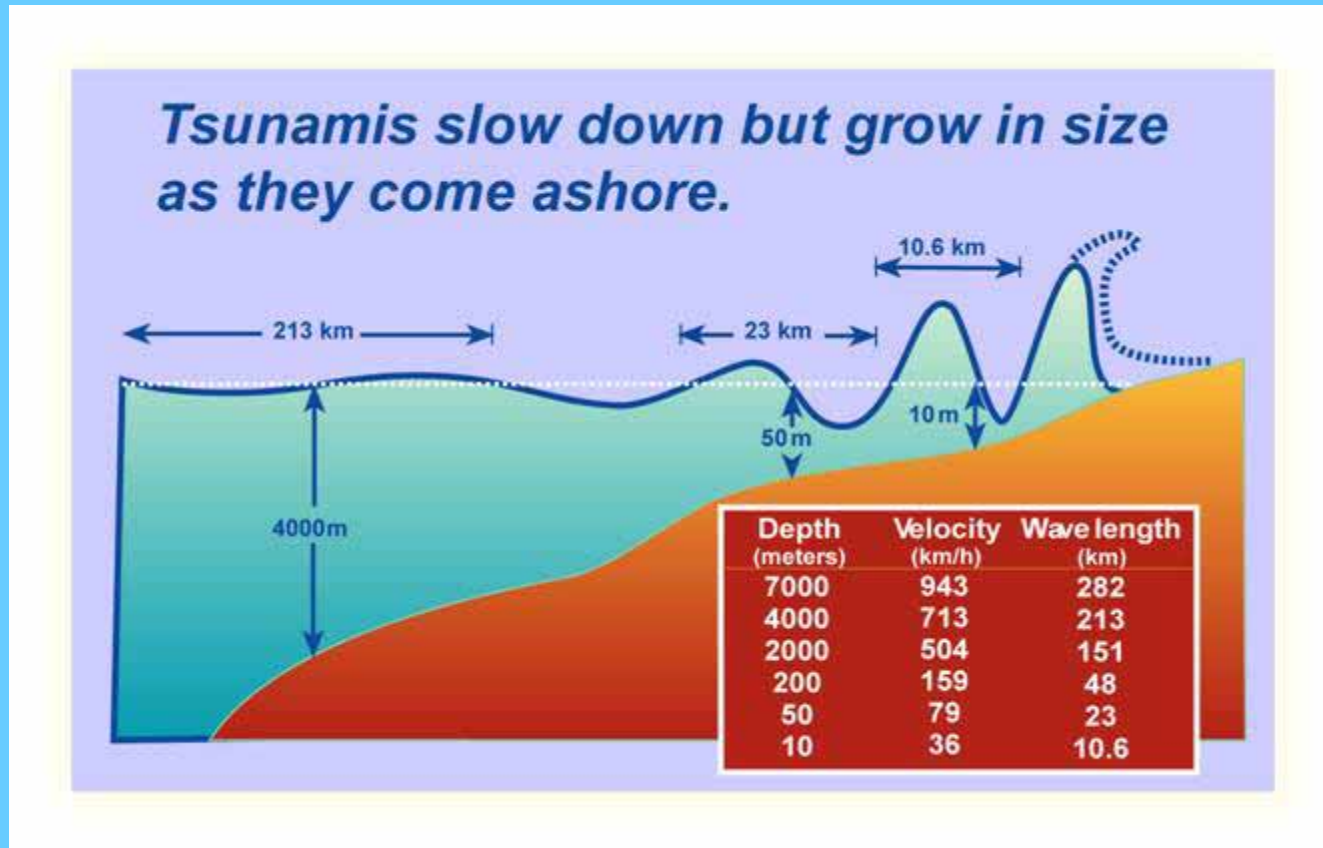


## Tsunami Travel Times

- From Sumatra/Indonesia Zone – approx. 1.5 – 2.0 hours
- From Makran Zone – approx. 4.5 hours



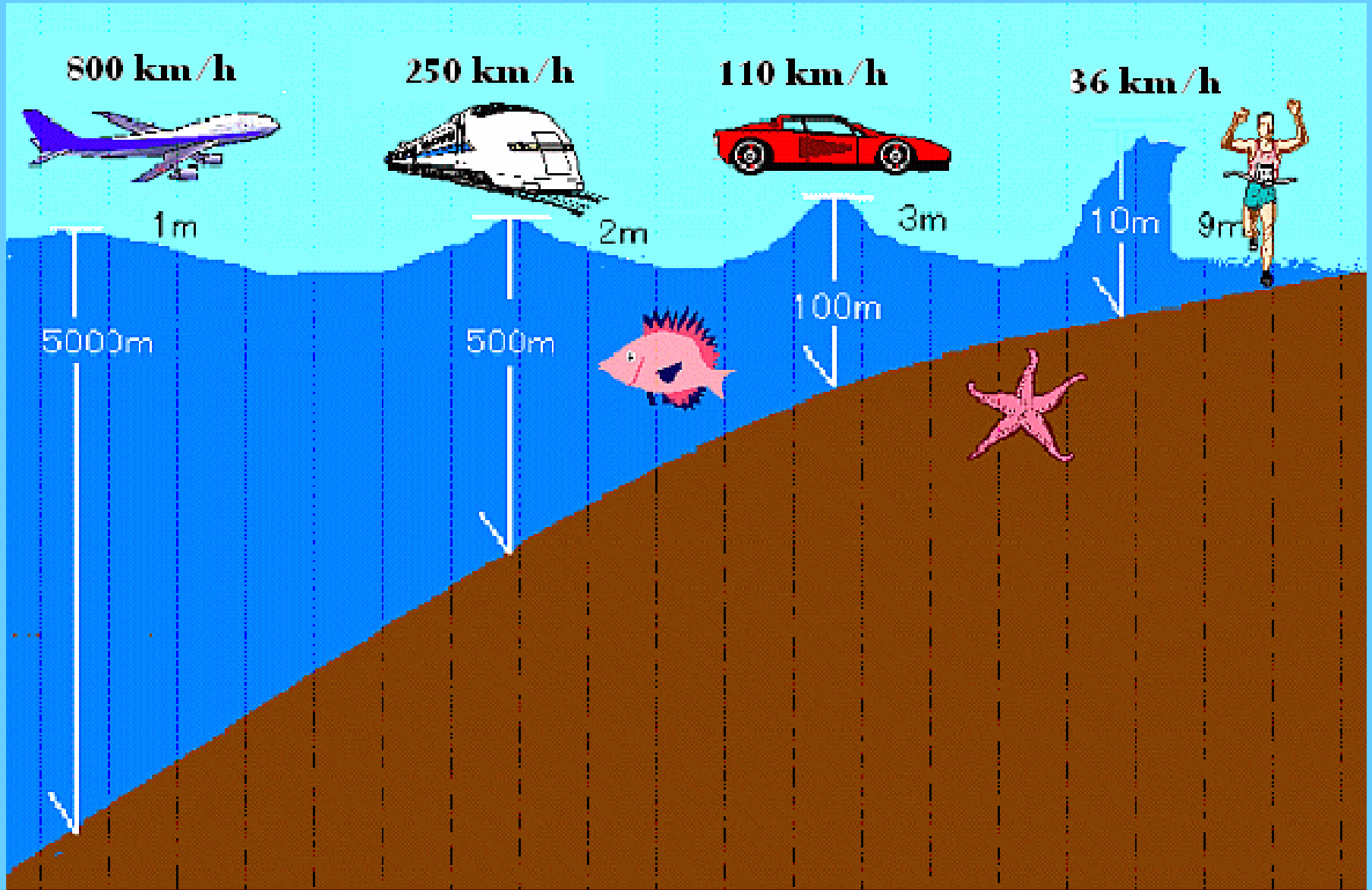
# Propagation of Tsunami Waves



**Wave Speed  $\propto (h)^{1/2}$**   
*Where h is the depth of sea*

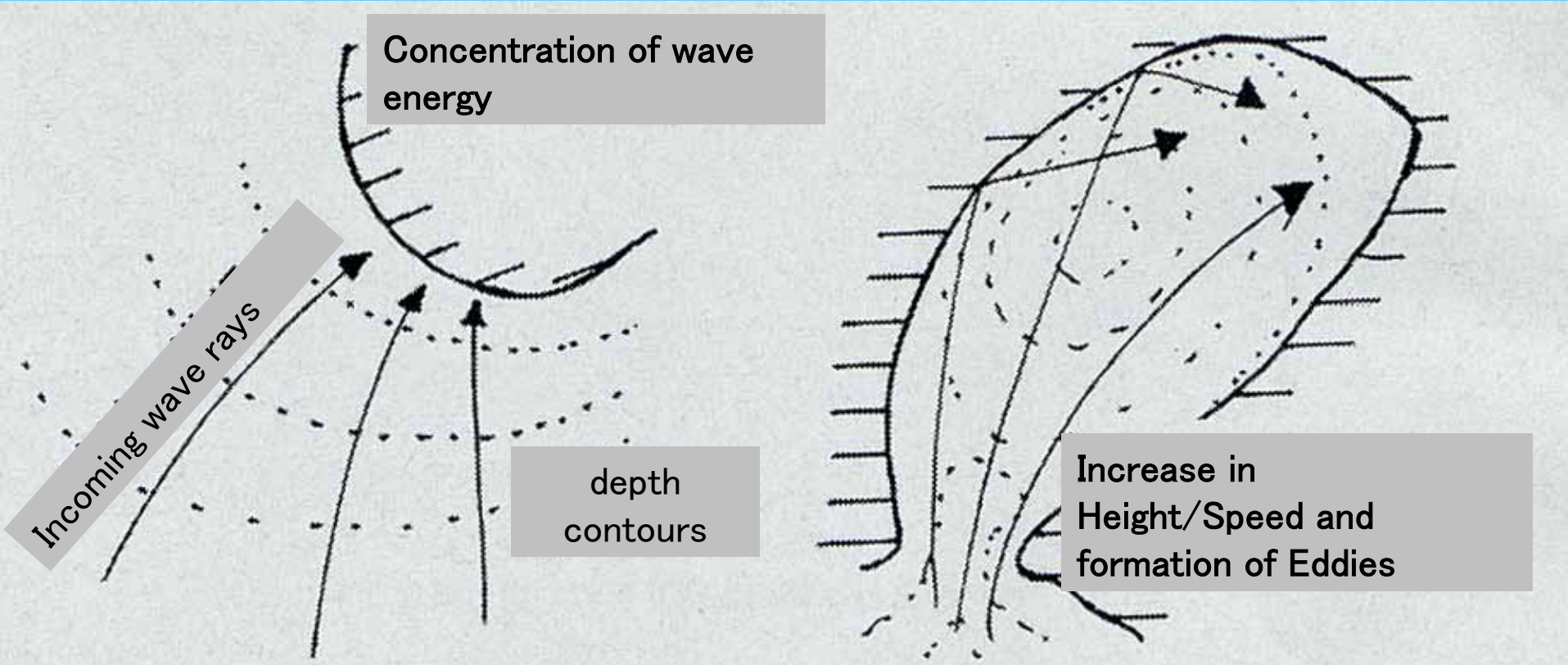
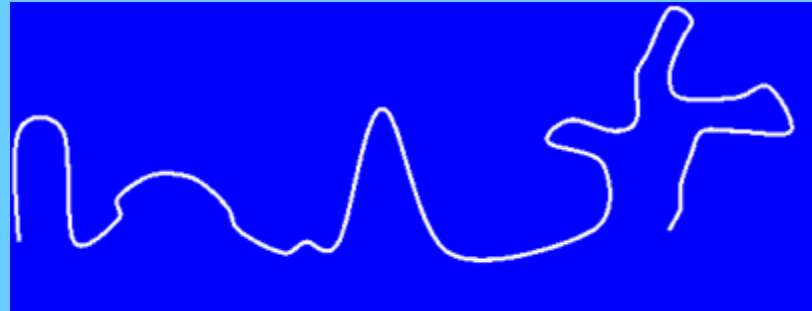
Propagate at high speed in deep sea  
Speed slows down near coastline

# Tsunami Propagation Speed



# Characteristics influenced by the shape and geometry

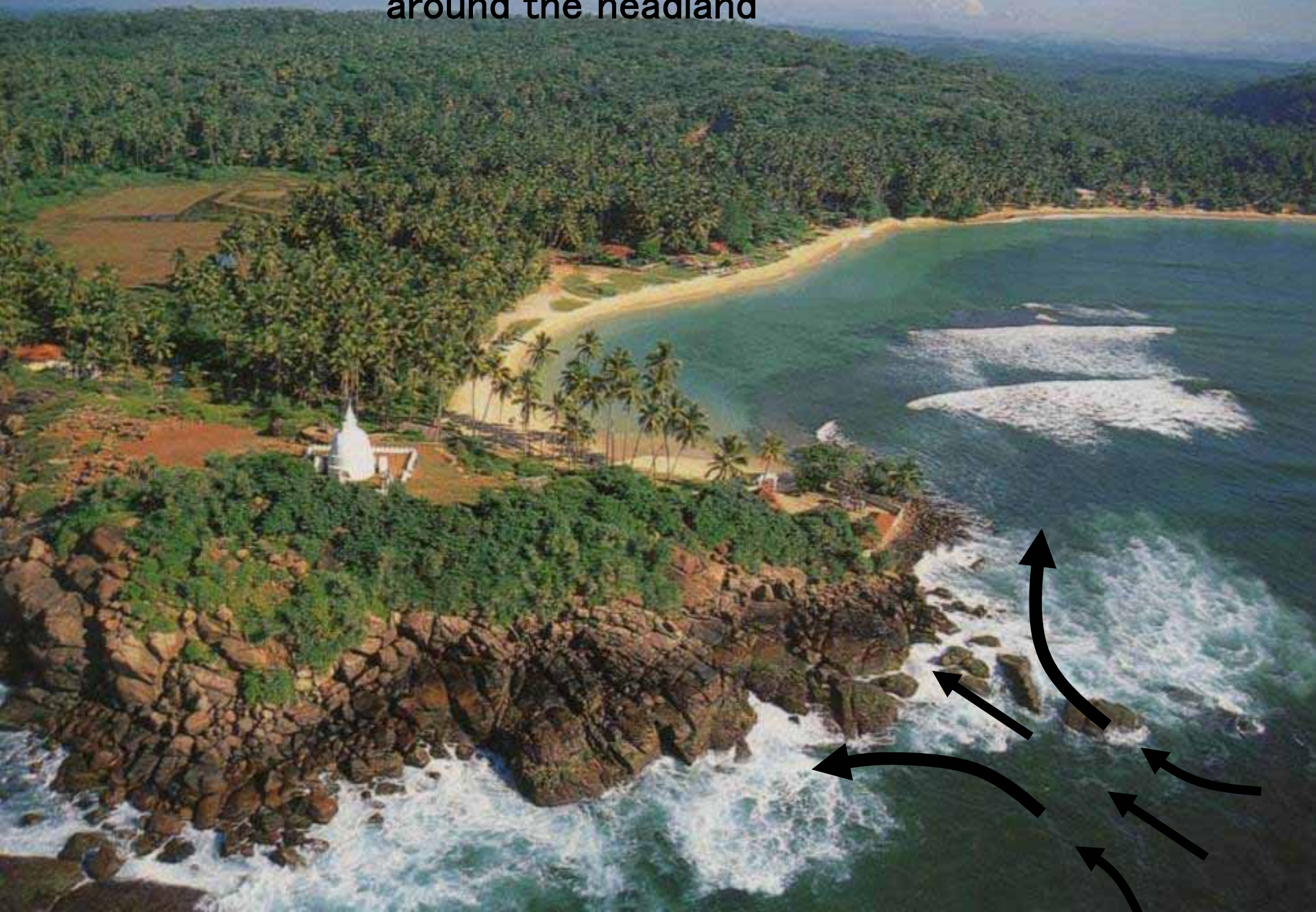
**Energy concentration at headlands and in bays**



# Bay – Increase of Speed & Height



Unawatuna – concentration of energy and spreading around the headland



# Relevance of Tsunami Breakwaters

Bay – increase of speed & height and circulation



Headland – concentration of energy and spreading around the headland

# Identification of Tsunami over deep sea impossible !

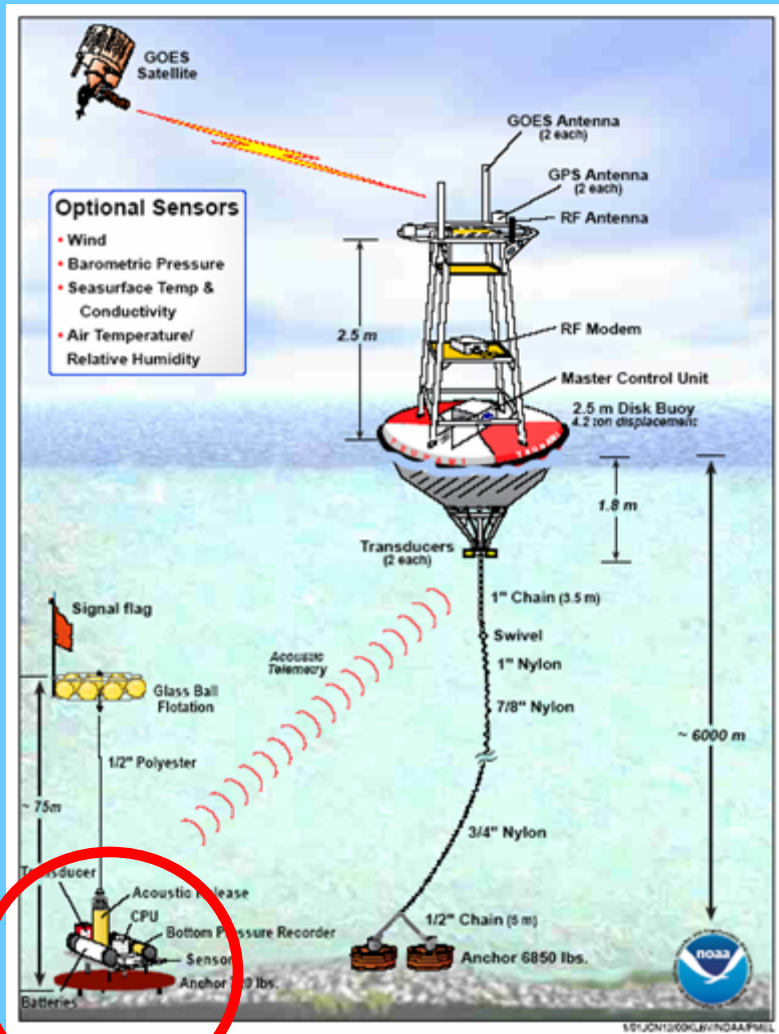
**Over deep sea, the vertical displacement of tsunami waves is small; only a few tens of centimeters.**

**Hence, the identification of tsunami waves in deep sea is not possible with ships, boats or aircrafts.**

**Special instruments are required to identify tsunami waves in deep sea**

**Deep Sea Pressure Sensors (Buoys)**

# Deep Sea BUOYS



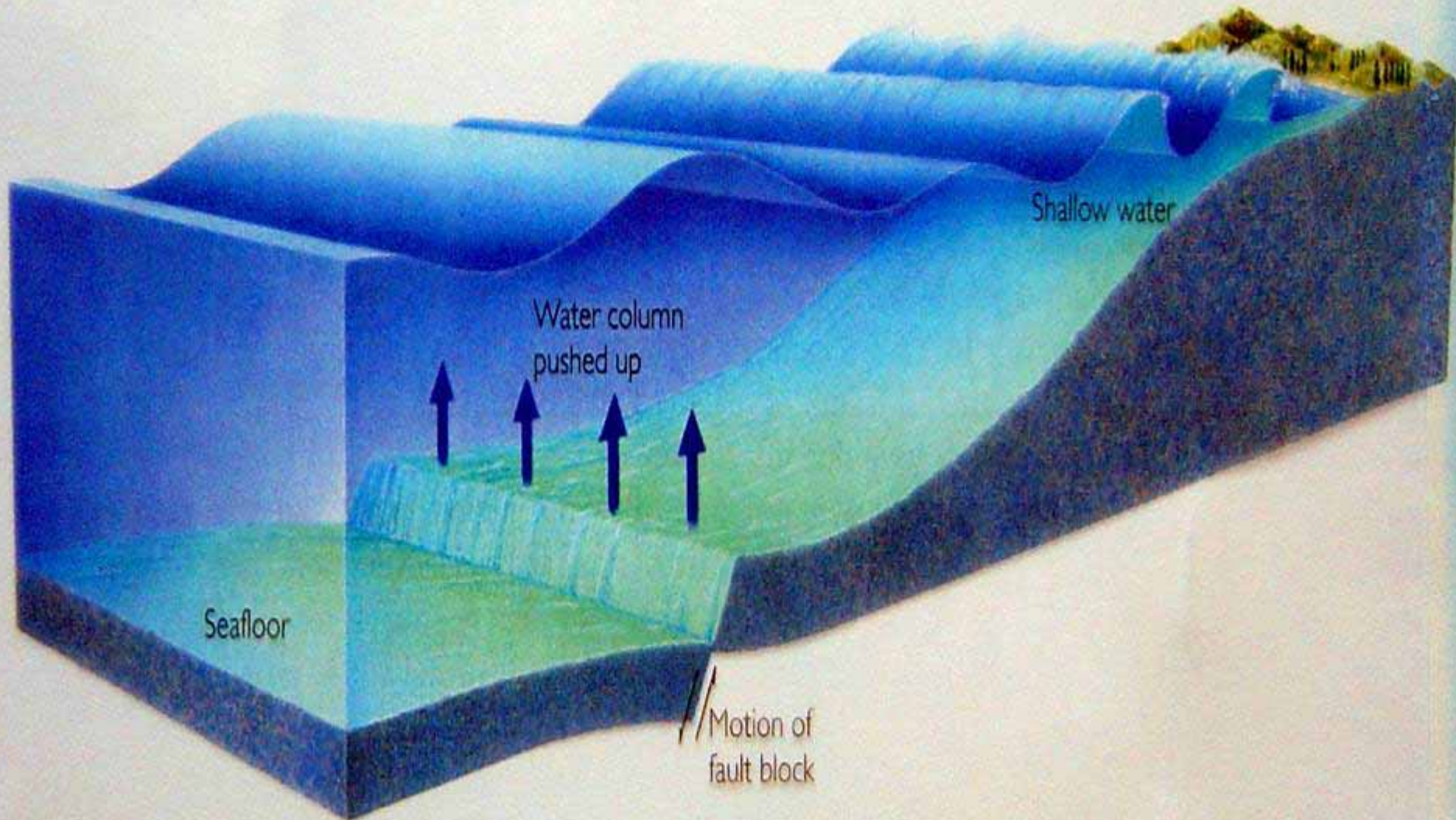
## How the Buoys detect Tsunami Waves

Very expensive instrument  
Costly to maintain

None in operation in the Indian Ocean



# TSUNAMI GENERATED BY AN EARTHQUAKE





**The first wave can be a receding wave**



QuickBird Natural Color Image  
December 26, 2004

Receding waters at Kalutara

On 26<sup>th</sup> December 2004,

No agency in Sri Lanka was responsible for monitoring Tsunami

No Early Warning System existed in the Indian Ocean

No country in the region was prepared

Public awareness was non existent



From March, 2005 Department of Meteorology is functioning as the  
Tsunami Early Warning Centre

**Working on 24 x 7 basis**

**Linked with other centres in the region**



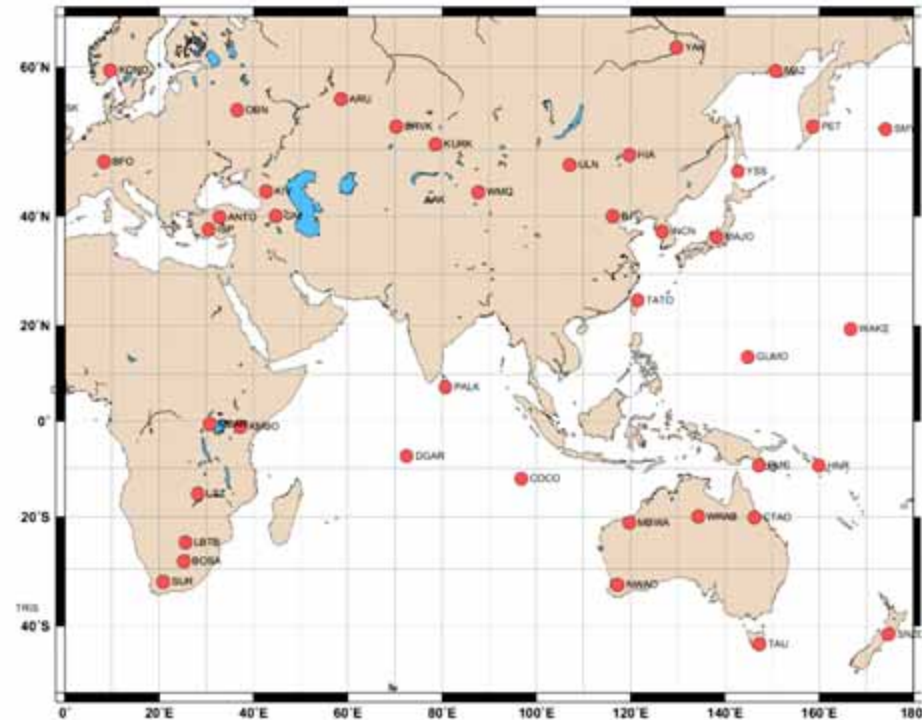
- Linked with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) Tsunami Warning System
- Information regarding major earthquakes in the region are received from Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC), Hawaii and Japan Meteorological Administration (JMA)

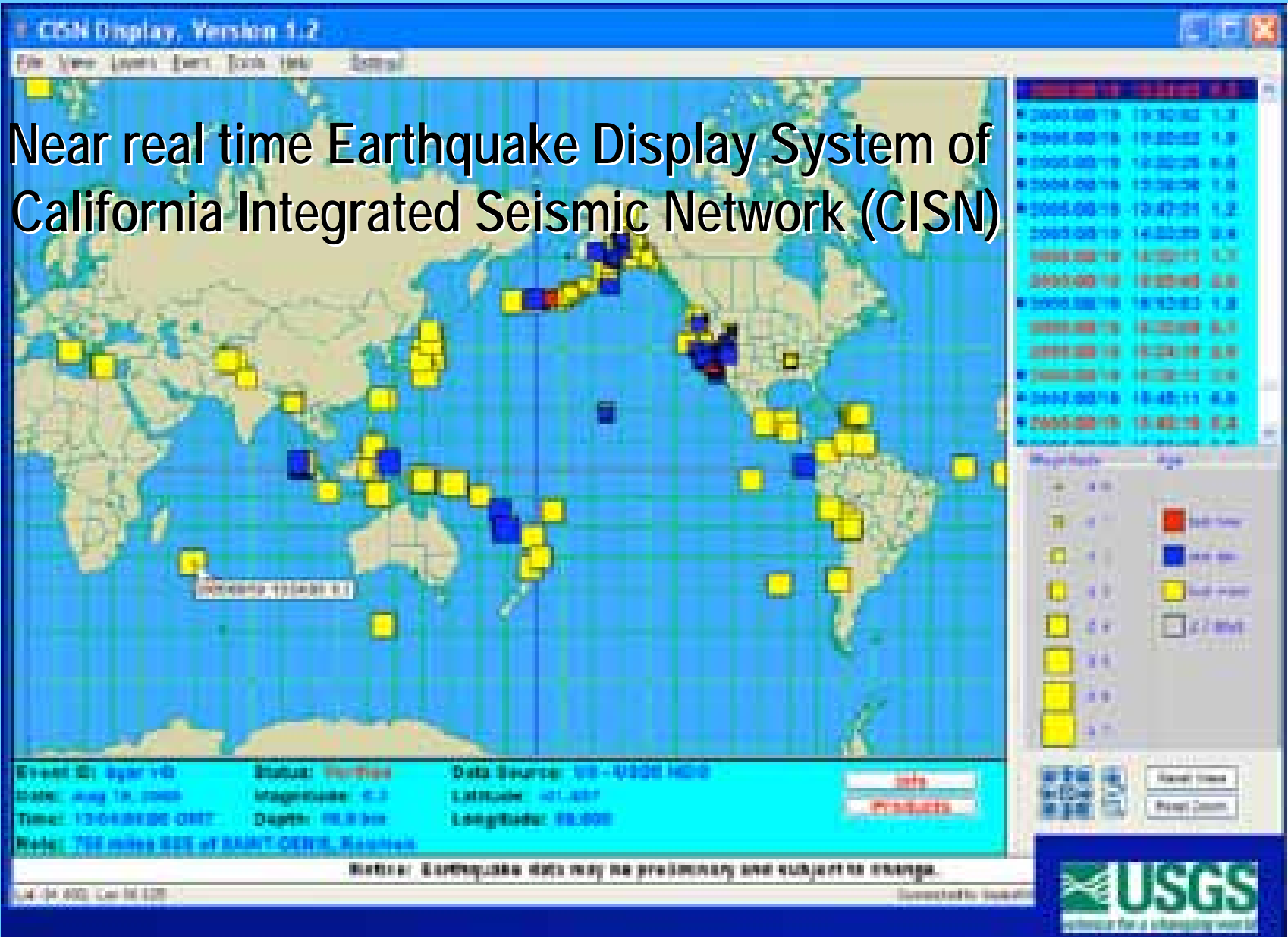
# Seismic Station at Pallekele



Pallekele (PALK)

Geological Survey and Mines Bureau





In addition, Tsunami Early Warning Centre receives earthquake information from California Integrated Seismic Network (CISN) and from USGS

## Oceanic Data:

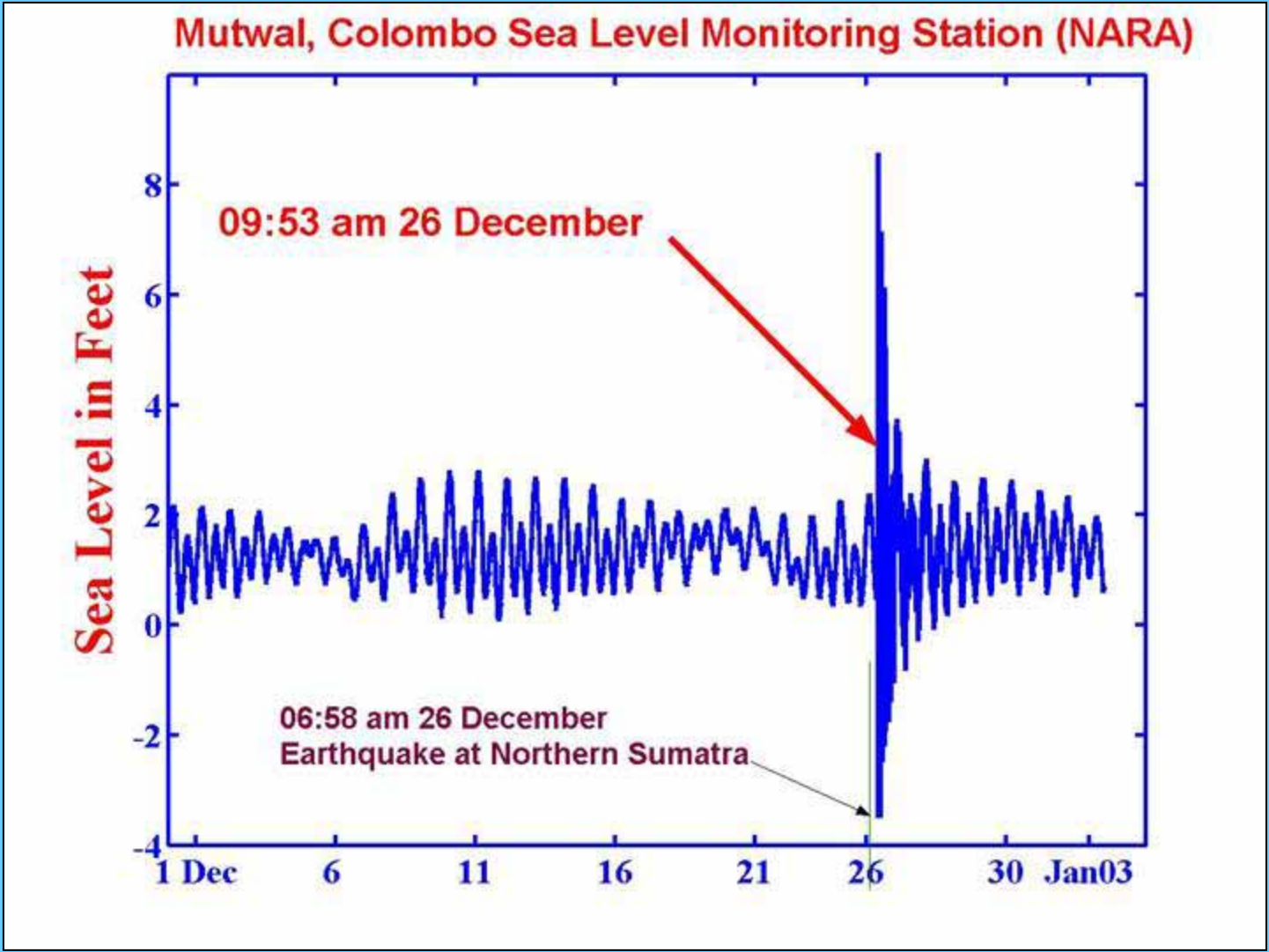
As no buoys are still operational in the Indian Ocean, information from tide gauges are used to identify sea level changes.



Three tide gauges are in continuous operation at Colombo (Mutwal), Trincomalee and Kirinda. Realtime data from these data are available through internet







How the tide gauge at Mutwal recorded the Tsunami

TSUNAMI BULLETIN NUMBER 001  
PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER/NOAA/NWS  
ISSUED AT 0117Z 11 APR 2005

THIS BULLETIN IS FOR ALL AREAS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN.

... TSUNAMI INFORMATION BULLETIN ...

THIS MESSAGE IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

AN EARTHQUAKE HAS OCCURRED WITH THESE PRELIMINARY  
PARAMETERS

ORIGIN TIME - 0100Z 11 APR 2005  
COORDINATES - 1.3 NORTH 97.5 EAST  
LOCATION - NORTHERN SUMATERA INDONESIA  
MAGNITUDE - 6.7

#### EVALUATION

A DESTRUCTIVE WIDESPREAD TSUNAMI THREAT DOES NOT EXIST BASED ON  
HISTORICAL EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI DATA.

HOWEVER - THERE IS A VERY SMALL POSSIBILITY OF A LOCAL TSUNAMI  
THAT COULD AFFECT COASTS LOCATED USUALLY NO MORE THAN A HUNDRED  
KILOMETERS FROM THE EARTHQUAKE EPICENTER. AUTHORITIES IN THE  
REGION NEAR THE EPICENTER SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THIS  
POSSIBILITY.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY BULLETIN ISSUED BY THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI  
WARNING CENTER FOR THIS EVENT UNLESS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
BECOMES AVAILABLE.

THE JAPAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY MAY ISSUE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
FOR THIS EVENT.

PTWC is providing guidance to  
national agencies during emergency  
situations

**A Sample of a Tsunami  
Bulletin issued by the  
Pacific Tsunami  
Warning Centre, Hawaii  
for National Focal  
Agencies in the Indian  
Ocean**

# Warning Dissemination

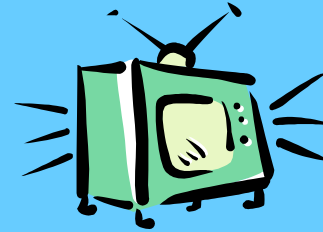
- ❑ Through Mass Media – Radio and Television

*(message passed through telephone)*



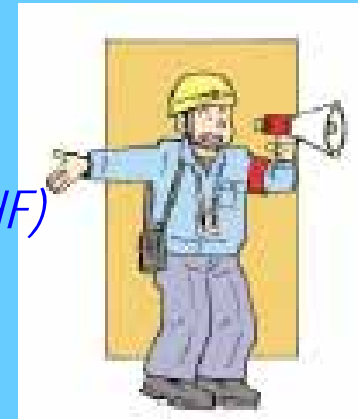
- ❑ Through Local Police Stations

*(message passed through telephone to Mirihana and thereafter HF)*



- ❑ Through Communication systems of Armed Forces

*(Telephone/Telefax)*



- ❑ Through District Units of DMC

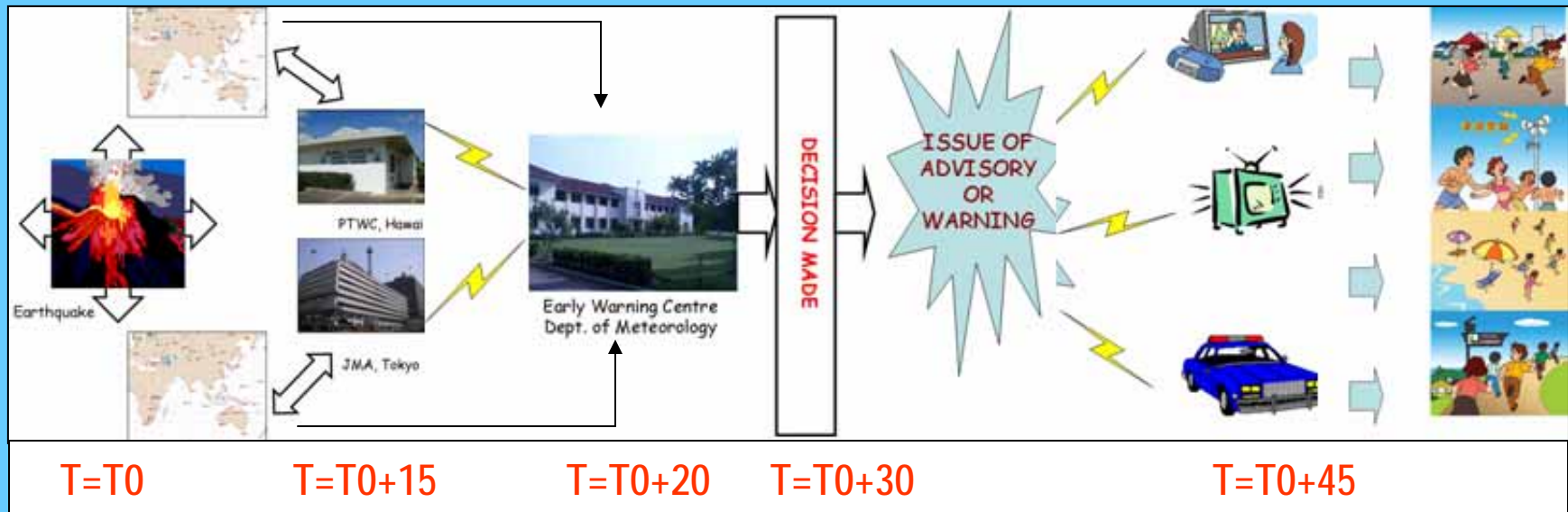
*(Telephone/Telefax)*



***Planned:***

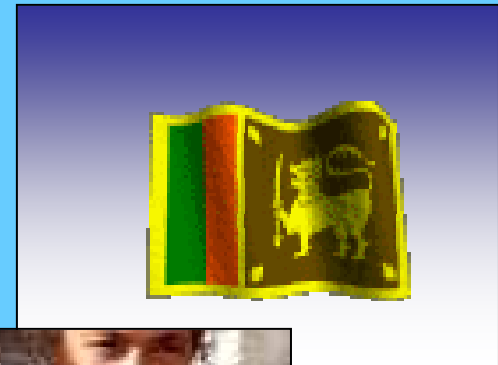
***SMS dissemination***

## Warning Generation and Dissemination



- ❑ Issue of the Advisory/Warning within 30 mnts of the earthquake
- ❑ If the warning reaches the vulnerable communities within 45 mnts., then, for Indonesian earthquake 45 minutes for Makran earthquake 3 hours 45 minutes leadtime.

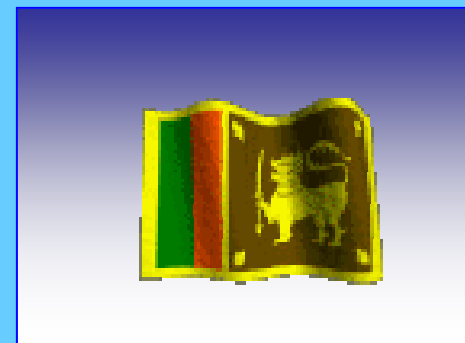
The Tsunami devastation resulted in the recognition of the need for comprehensive disaster risk management, rather than post disaster relief or better response



# Some of the major

## Post-Tsunami Developments in Sri Lanka

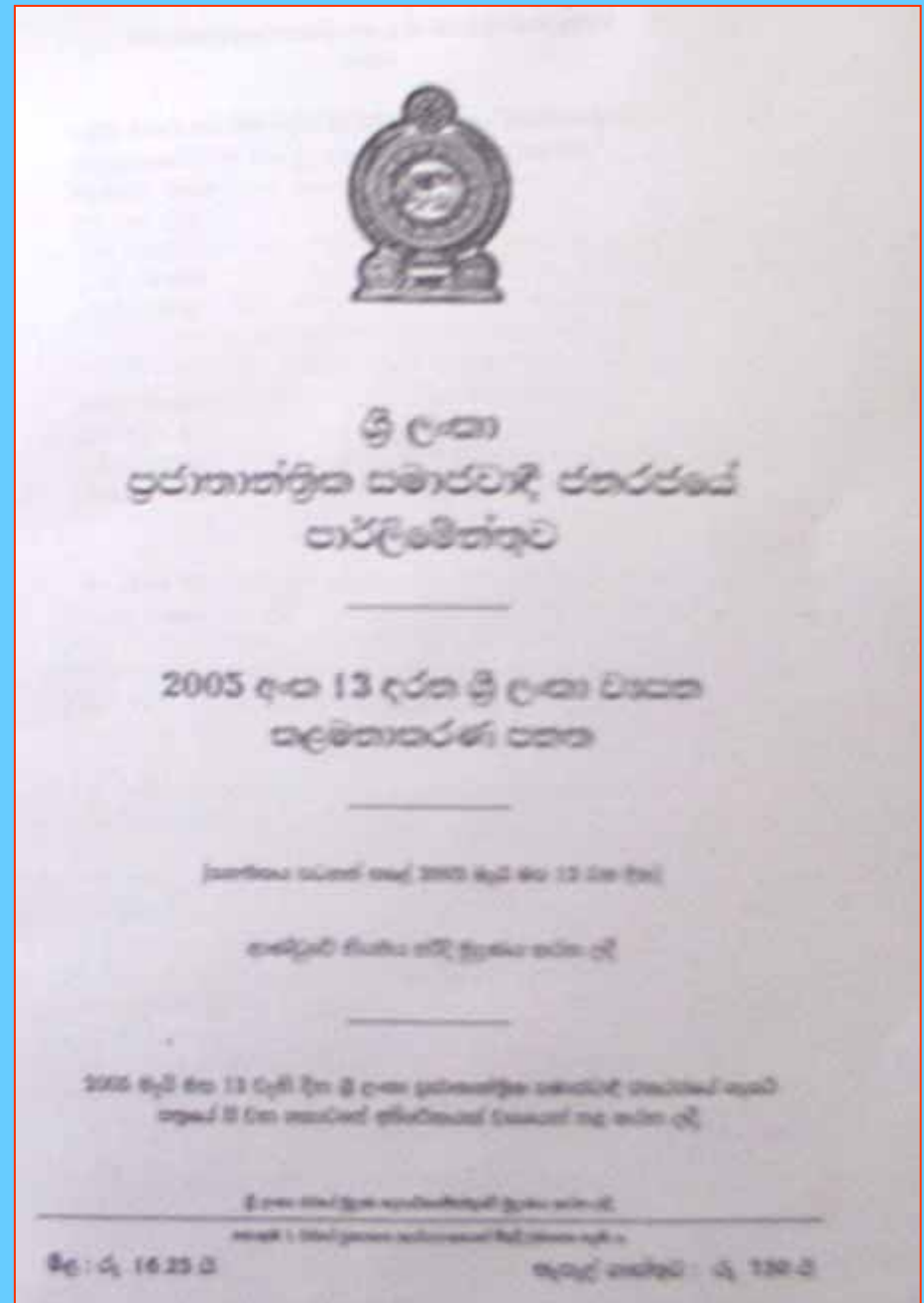
- Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005 enacted
- National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM)
- Disaster Management Centre
- Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights



# Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005

Enacted on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2005

A legal basis for disaster management . . .



# **National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM)**

**Chairperson – H.E. the President**  
**Vice Chairperson – Hon. Prime Minister**  
**Leader of the Opposition**

## **Ministers in-charge of the following subject areas:**

**Social Welfare**

**Rehabilitation and Reconstruction**

**Environment**

**Home Affairs**

**Health**

**Science and Technology**

**Housing**

**Coast Conservation**

**Irrigation**

**Electricity**

**Defence**

**Police**

**Finance**

**Land**

**Fisheries and Aq. Res.**

**Foreign Affairs**

**Water Supply**

**Urban Development**

**Education**

**Highways**

**Chief Ministers of all Provincial Councils**

**05 Opposition Members from Parliament**

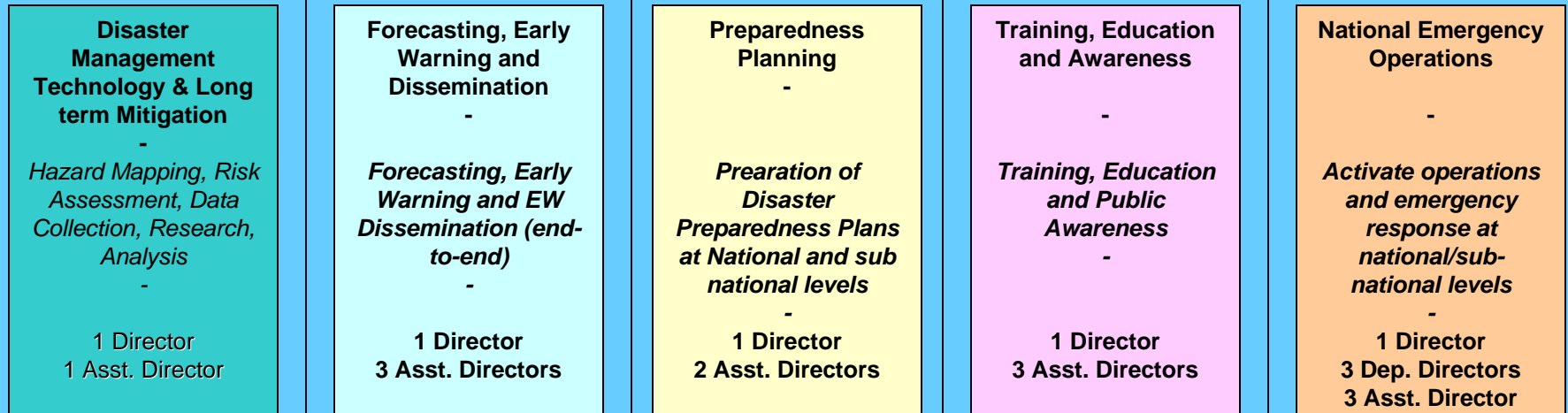


# Structure of the DMC

## National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM)

### Disaster Management Centre (DMC) Director-General

National Consultants



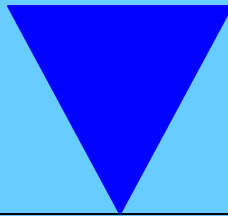
**Personnel and Administration**  
1 Deputy Director

**External and Internal Relations and Media**  
1 Deputy Director

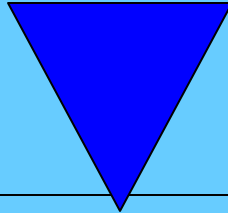
**Finance**  
1 Deputy Director

**25 nos. District Coordinators**

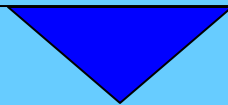
During this period public institutions, NGOs, INGOs and many international agencies were involved in reconstruction and introducing systems for disaster risk management towards sustained risk reduction in Sri Lanka



**OVERLAP OF EFFORTS**  
by different actors



The need to coordinate efforts



**Road Map for Disaster Risk Management**

Towards a Safer Sri Lanka  
Road Map for Disaster Risk Management

Volume 2: Project Proposals



Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights

# Towards a Safer Sri Lanka

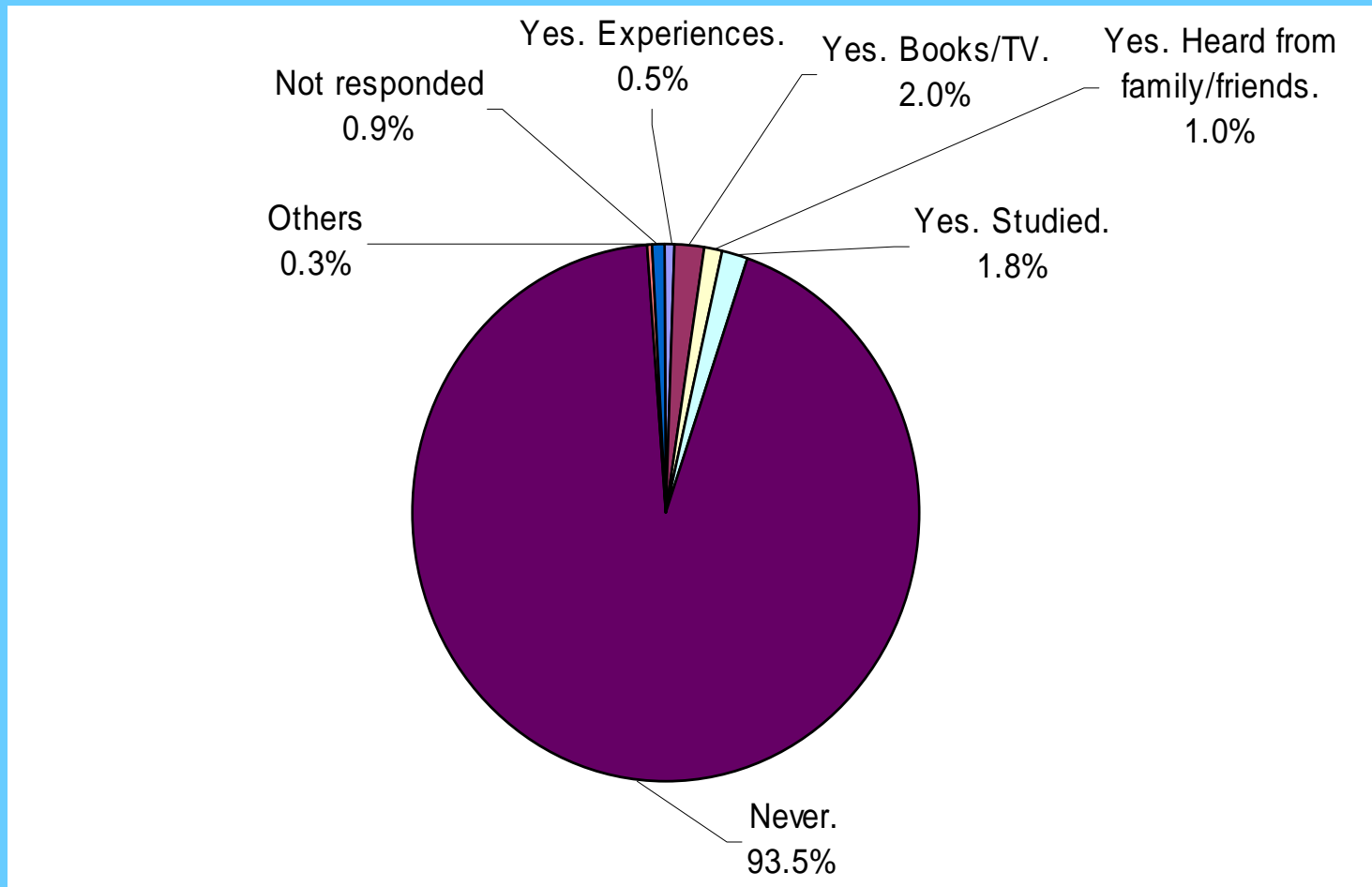
## Road Map for Disaster Risk Management

- A holistic strategy towards building a Safer Sri Lanka
- Developed through a consultative process
- Priority areas for immediate action identified
- Focused on seven (7) thematic components
- Consistent with Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015
- Government of Sri Lanka committed to implement within the next decade

# Components of Road Map for Disaster Risk I

1. Policy, Institutional Mandates and Institutional Development
2. Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
3. Tsunami and Multi Hazard Early Warning System
4. Preparedness and Response Plans
5. Mitigation and Integration of Disaster Risk reduction into Development Planning
6. Community based Disaster Risk Management
7. Public Awareness, Education and Training

Question: Had you heard about Tsunami prior to 26-12 ?



Answer: 93.5 % of the people knew nothing about tsunami

**\*\* Results of a survey conducted in Sri Lanka in Jan 2005 by ADPC**

To reduce damage from natural disasters – Public Awareness is important

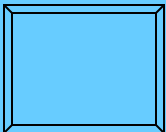


To create awareness among vulnerable communities, a large number of seminars, workshops conducted

# Evacuation drills for vulnerable communities



  
Tsunami Drill @ Balapitiya



# Programs for School Children



School Drill @ Galle



C W W Kannangara Vidyalaya, Galle



Similar programs are continuing in vulnerable coastal regions  
Under the supervision of District Disaster Management Coordinators  
to ensure effective response to hazard impact



## For highly vulnerable areas

- ✓ Vulnerability maps
- ✓ Evacuation maps with safe areas clearly marked
- ✓ Mobilization plans for Police

are developed

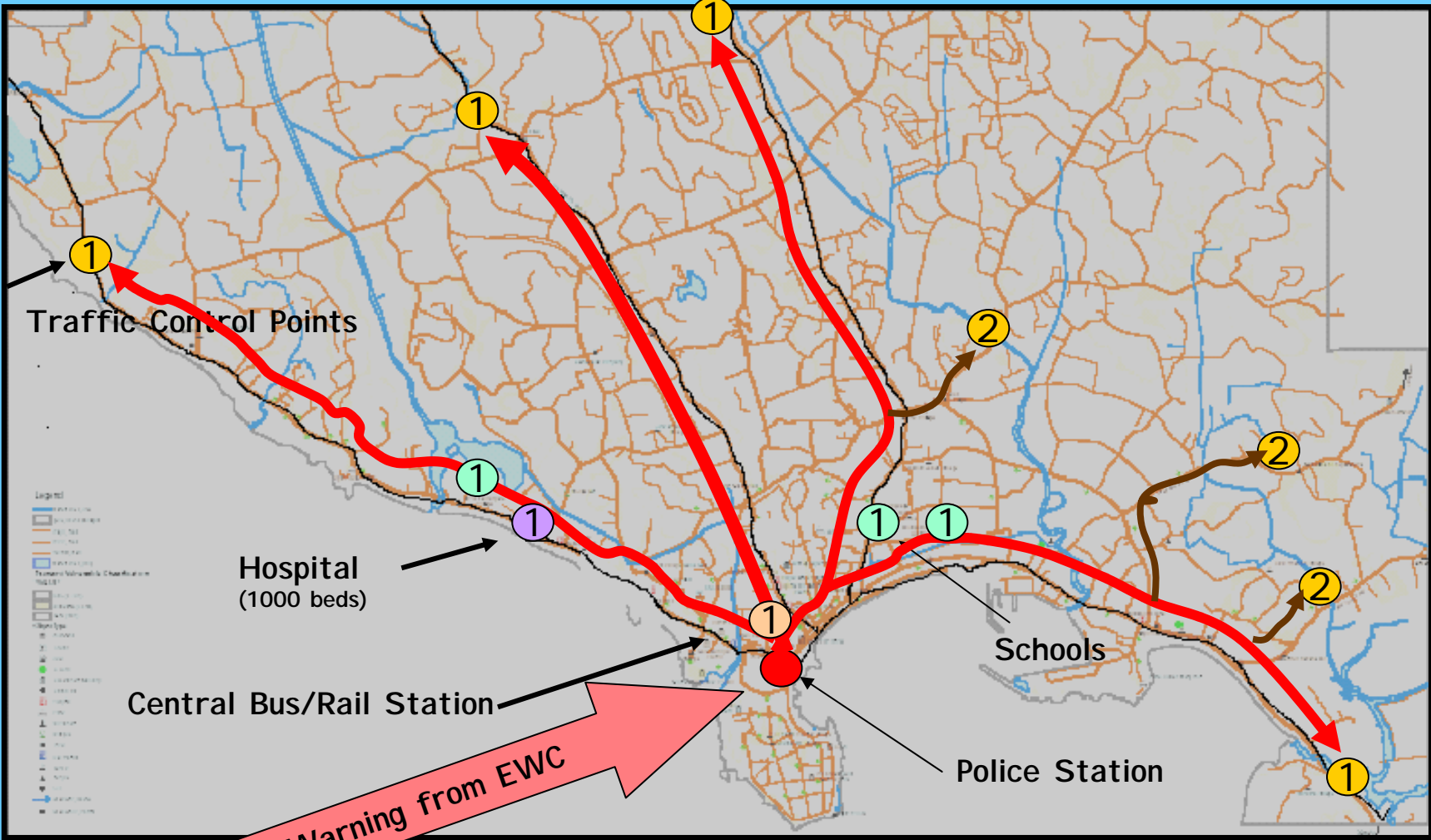
# TSUNAMI EVACUATION MAP FOR CITY OF GALLE



# TSUNAMI EVACUATION PLAN FOR UNAWATUNA TOURIST VILLAGE

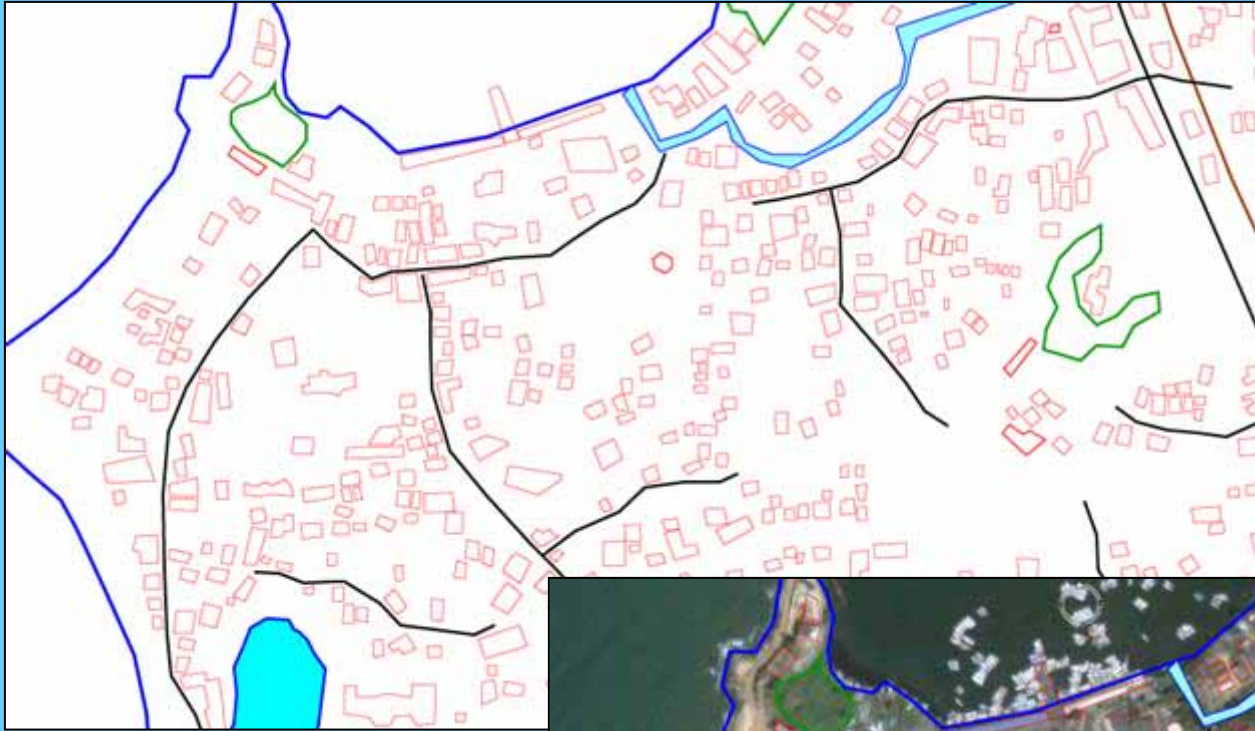


# POLICE EMERGENCY MOBILISATION PLAN FOR CITY OF GALLE



Thro' HF Radio from Police Network





**Vulnerability map  
under development  
for Bentota-Beruwala**



# Interventions for Tsunami Mitigation using

## Artificial and Natural Methods

### *Overall Strategic Approach*

- (1) Reduce the impacts of tsunami waves prior to reaching the shoreline.

*Tsunami Breakwaters / Coral Reefs*

*Offshore Breakwaters / Submerged Sand Barriers*

- (2) Protect the coastal zone thus preventing the inland movement of tsunami waves.

*Dikes / Sand Dunes*

- (3) Mitigate the severe impacts of tsunami waves on entry to the shoreline.

*Revetments / Mangrove Forests*

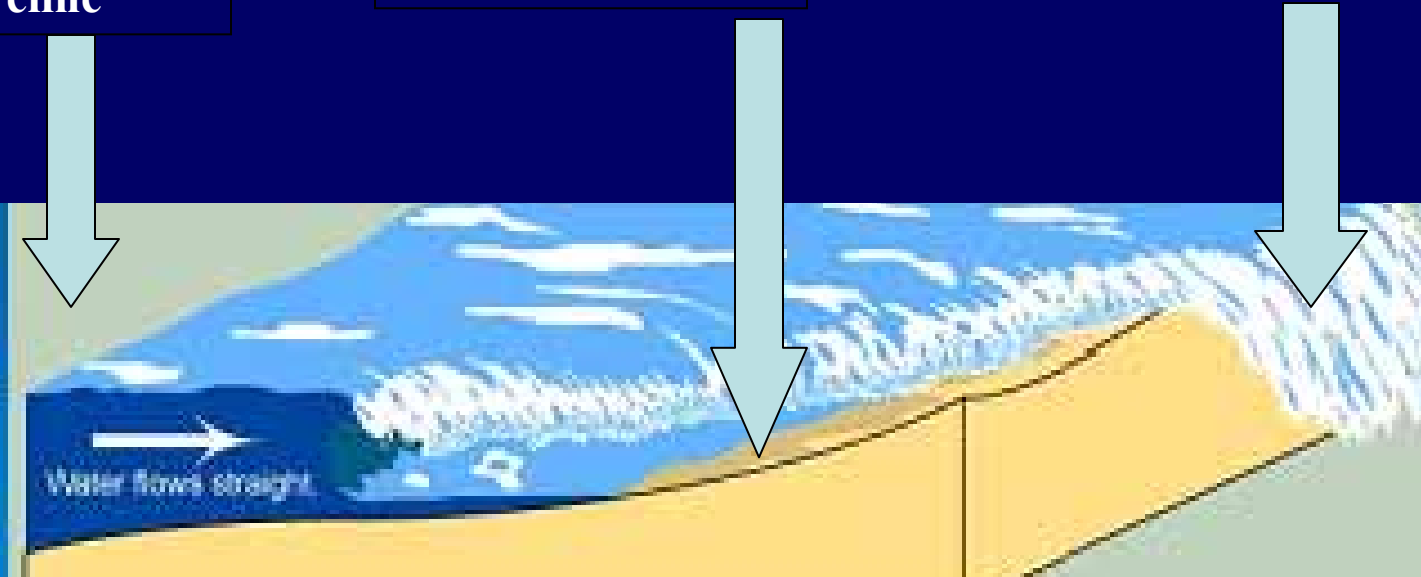


# ARTIFICIAL METHODS:

Reduce the impacts of tsunami waves prior to reaching the shoreline

Protect the coastal zone thus preventing the inland movement of tsunami waves

Mitigate the severe impacts of tsunami waves on entry to the shoreline



Break waters



Dykes



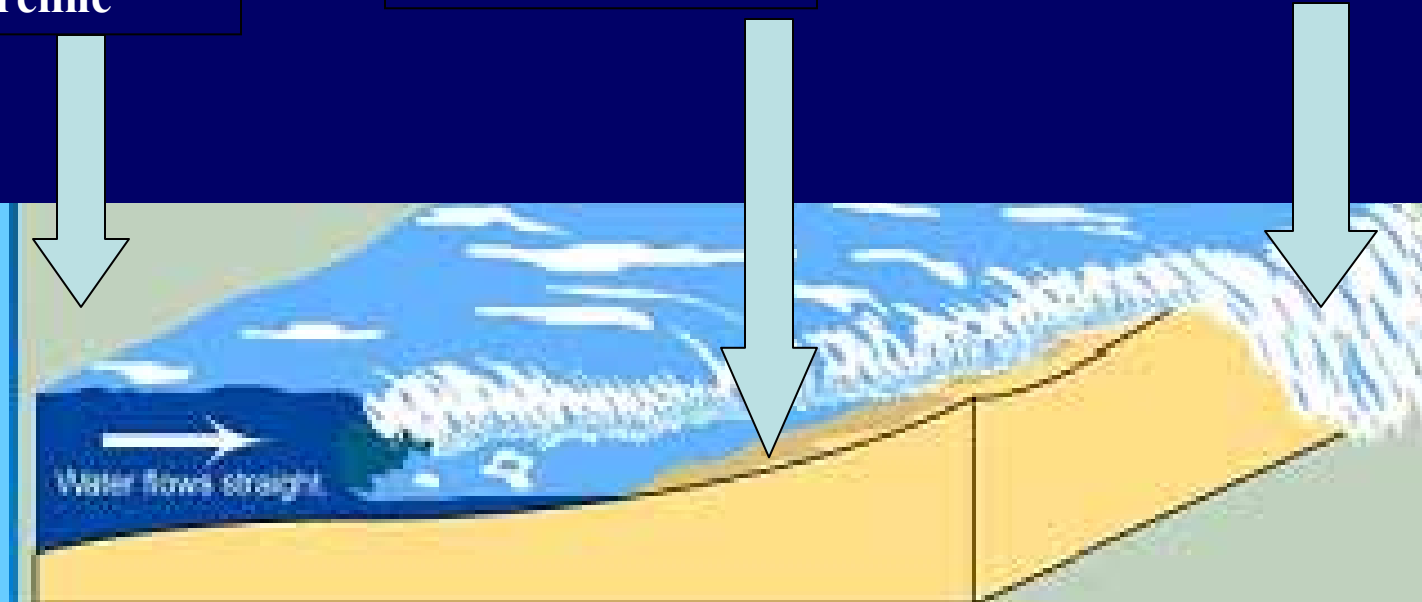
Revetments

# NATURAL METHODS:

Reduce the impacts of tsunami waves prior to reaching the shoreline

Protect the coastal zone thus preventing the inland movement of tsunami waves

Mitigate the severe impacts of tsunami waves on entry to the shoreline



Submerged sandbars/coral reefs



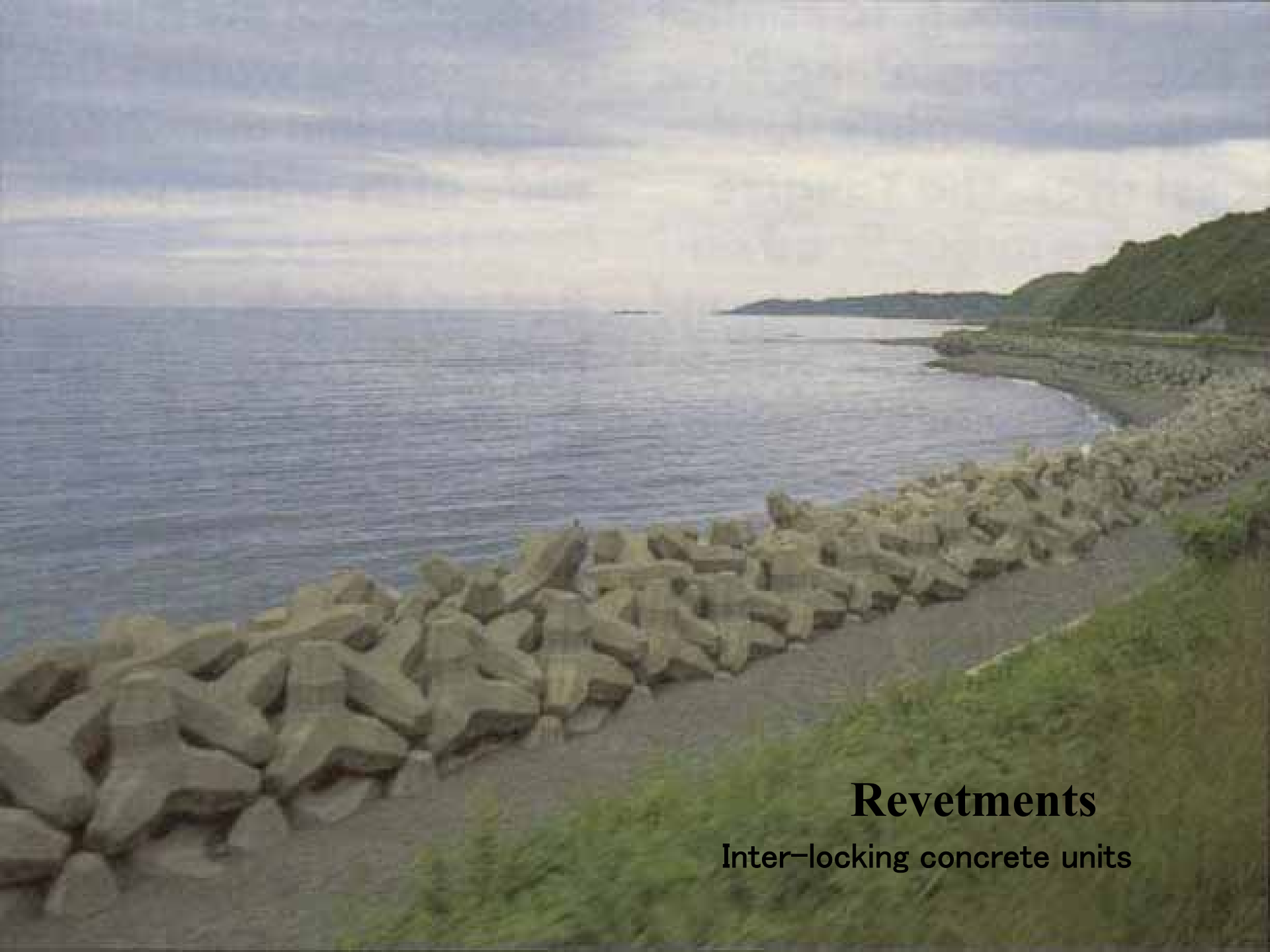
Sand dunes



Mangroves



Tsunami Dike and Tsunami Gate in Japan



## **Revetments**

**Inter-locking concrete units**



**Off-shore Breakwaters**



Rock armoured revetments



2005.02.28 12:06

**Sand Dunes – Natural Dikes**



Submerged Offshore Sandbars







**THANK YOU**