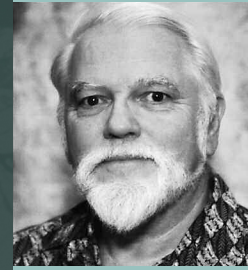


PACIFIC DISASTER CENTER



■ Senior Fellow Allen Clark is director of the Pacific Disaster Center.

The East-West Center is the managing partner of the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), based in Hawai'i on the island of Maui. The PDC develops partnerships and technologies supporting comprehensive disaster management and promoting sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

In 2005 the PDC supported relief and recovery efforts for two unprecedented disasters—the Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. As the international community converged to mitigate the impact of future disasters, the PDC engaged in the development of multi-hazard national disaster warning centers throughout the region, culminating in a project to assist Thailand's National Disaster Warning Center.

The PDC initiated public-private sector collaborations and developed technological innovations for the humanitarian assistance community. Responders to the Indian Ocean tsunami were able to efficiently share information using an advanced "information portal"—a product the PDC created with the Australian company, ThoughtWeb, Inc.

DISASTER EVENTS

Great Sumatra Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami

The major earthquake and resulting Indian Ocean tsunami claimed more than 230,000 lives in 13 countries. As disaster operations shifted from 'relief and recovery' to 'reconstruction,' PDC's intensive support to the region has shifted accordingly.

While field staff supported the World Health Organization, Government of Thailand, and U.S. Pacific Command, PDC Headquarters disseminated high-quality geospatial imagery to on-site emergency managers and organizations across the globe. Subsequently, the PDC has developed a tsunami inundation product for Indonesia, and is producing a tsunami impact and recovery study for affected areas of the region.

In an effort to promote tsunami awareness across multiple sectors of Pacific island societies, the PDC developed the Tsunami Awareness Kit in partnership with regional organizations.

Hurricane Katrina

The world witnessed a second unprecedented disaster when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast of the United States. The PDC immediately deployed personnel to assist relief operations, providing intensive logistical and geospatial support to emergency management officials. The PDC continues to support the rebuilding efforts of planners and emergency managers in the affected areas.



PDC staff conducting hands-on training in the use of their new Hawai'i Edition of the Natural Hazards Atlas.



PDC's Chief Operating Officer Ray Shirkhodai (left) and the vice executive director of Thailand's National Disaster Warning Center, Air Chief Marshall Anubhund Snidwongse, at the inaugural disaster center project meeting in Bangkok.

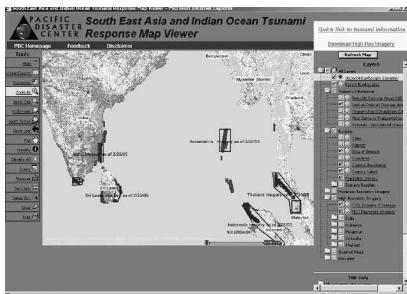
PDC'S IMAGERY WILL HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON A RETURN TO NORMALCY...

Mercy Corps International on PDC's tsunami response efforts in Sri Lanka

MAJOR EXERCISES

The PDC participated in several major exercises including:

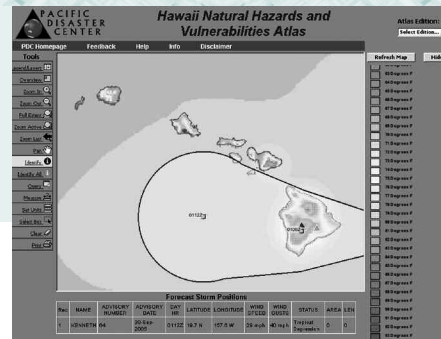
- **ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Exercise** —The exercise, held in Malaysia, simulated a full-scale multi-national Urban Search and Rescue operation to analyze cross-border coordination issues.
- **Government of Thailand** — Actively supported tsunami exercises and a drill involving over 50,000 people across six provinces, to aid the development of Thailand's National Disaster Warning Center.
- **State of Hawai'i** — Assisted a variety of state-level exercises including: the Makani Pahili annual hurricane exercise, the distant tsunami exercise, and an Agro-Terrorism exercise.



PDC deployed the South East Asia and Indian Ocean Tsunami Response Map, an Internet-based geospatial information portal, to aid humanitarian field operations.

REGIONAL PROJECTS

- In fall 2005, the Government of Thailand awarded PDC a contract to assist with the development of its National Disaster Warning Center. This U.S. Trade and Development Agency-funded project will support the decision-making processes of Thai Government officials, augmenting their warning and response operations for tsunamis and other hazards. The PDC partnered with Sun Microsystems, Lockheed Martin Information Technologies, and the Environmental Research Systems Institute to execute this project.
- The PDC and the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management implemented the first two phases of the Disaster Information Sharing and Communication Network project in 2005, which linked Websites of ASEAN member countries to help share regional information. An Information and Communication Technology Assessment of ASEAN countries was published to assist in focusing development resources and guiding future investments.
- To address the prospect of a large earthquake striking a major city, PDC partnered with the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative to launch a worldwide knowledge base that shares research



In August 2005, Tropical Cyclone Kenneth was tracked using the PDC's new Hawai'i Edition of the Natural Hazards Atlas.

and best practices. In collaboration, they have conducted intensive community-level earthquake mitigation activities in Manila and Kathmandu.

HAWAI'I-BASED PROJECTS

- Designed to help Hawai'i State Civil Defense and other agencies improve disaster planning and hazard monitoring, the PDC developed a Hawai'i edition of their Web-based Natural Hazards Atlas.
- Wildfires pose a major threat to Hawai'i's economic and environmental sectors. To determine the location of potential outbreaks, the PDC has created the Hawai'i Fire Danger Rating System in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, National Weather Service, and Maui High Performance Computing Center.
- Severe floods on O'ahu in 2004 triggered a Presidential Emergency Declaration. The PDC developed information products to support recovery efforts that were used to brief the Federal Emergency Management Agency and government officials.