

Case Study II: Functioning of Warning Systems

The tsunami-generating 26 December 2004 earthquake was detected almost immediately by seismologists around the world, yet the loss of life was extreme – even in regions where the tsunami surge did not arrive until hours after the earthquake. What went wrong?

Required Readings

Inadequate warning system left Asia at the mercy of tsunami (05 January 2005, Nature, http://www.nature.com/news/2005/050103/pf/433003a_pf.html)

Symonds, P. (3 January 2005) The Asian tsunami: why there were no warnings (published online <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2005/jan2005/warn-j03.shtml>)

NOAA official description of their attempts to provide early warnings (published online <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2004/s2358.htm>)

Indian Ocean Warning System (News piece from National Nine news, Australia (<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=25799>))