

# 13 Tsunami Warnings

## Executive Summary

In Thailand there was no warning system in place prior to the earthquake. It was reported that a government official warned the government of a possible tsunami but was fired due to concerns about the warning affecting the tourism industry at the height of its season. He later was rehired.

In addition, there were a number of stories circulating related warnings including:

- A group of domestic elephants responded to the earthquake by knocking down their fenced enclosure and running to high ground.
- A 10-year old girl from England was recently taught in her geography class that if you see the ocean water receding, a tsunami was coming and you should run to high ground. It was reported that she told her parents, who informed the hotel staff resulting in the evacuation of around 100 people from the beaches.

## 13.1 Current Efforts

The government is currently developing a warning system that will be in operation by April 2006. This will include training of local officials to allow them to conduct orderly evacuations within 20 minutes. They also are developing a “hazard map” in conjunction with a team of Japanese experts.<sup>3</sup>

### Chapter Notes:

1. <http://www.tsunami-recovery.net/content/category/1/82/60/>
2. World vision tsunami response July/August update.
3. [www.tsunami-recovery.net/content/category/1/82/60/](http://www.tsunami-recovery.net/content/category/1/82/60/)