# CINQ ANS APRES SUMATRA:

Avons-Nous Gagné en Sagesse?

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# THE NEED FOR WISDOM

# SUMATRA 2004

 $H_0 + 01:30$ 



THAILAND 8000 deaths

 $H_0 + 02:00$ 



SRI LANKA
31000 deaths

 $H_0 + 02:00$ 



**INDIA**11000 deaths

 $H_0 + 06:30$ 



**SOMALIA** *300 deaths* 

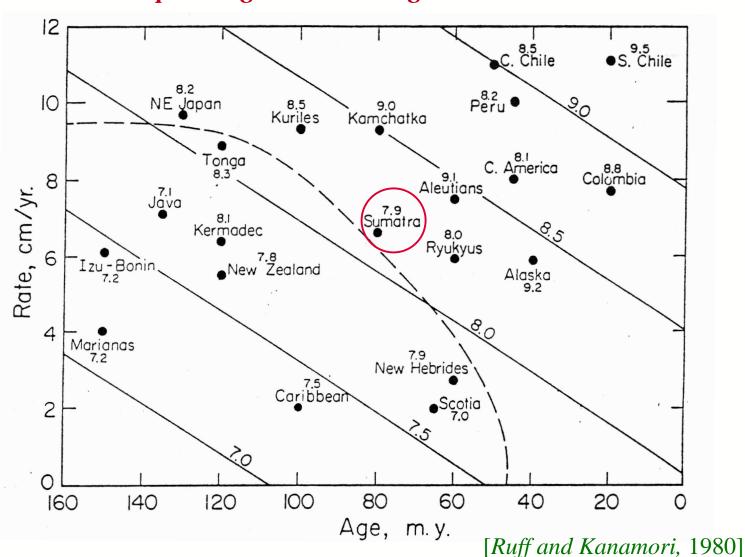
# THE EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED WHERE A MEGA-EVENT WAS NOT EXPECTED

The 2004 [and 2005] Sumatra earthquake[s] violated the concept of a

maximum expectable

subduction earthquake controlled by

plate age and convergence rate.



Modern parameters: > 55 Ma; 5 cm/yr Would predict Maximum 8.0-8.2 not  $\geq 9...$ 

# Could we get WISER?

#### UPDATING THE RUFF-KANAMORI DIAGRAM

Over the past 25 years... →

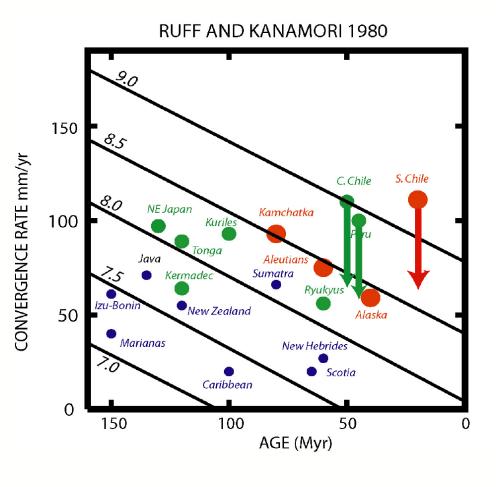
We have obtained new rates

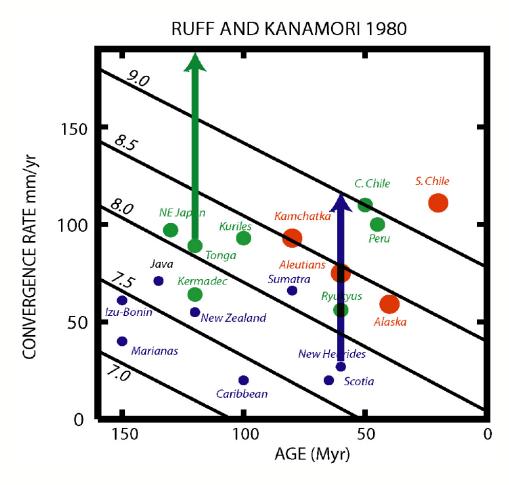
Examples: South Chile 70 mm/yr vs. 111

South Peru: 67 mm/yr vs. 100

Tonga (20°S): **185** mm/yr vs. 89

Vanuatu: **103** mm/yr *vs.* 27





## **UPDATING THE RUFF-KANAMORI DIAGRAM (ctd.)**

Over the past 25 years...

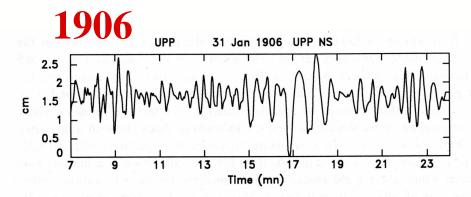
We have "discovered" new earthquakes

→ We have revised the size of historical earthquakes

Examples: Sumatra 2004!
Cascadia, 1700

Example: 1906 Colombia-Ecuador:

 $M_0 = 6 \times 10^{28} \text{ dyn-cm}$  vs.  $2 \times 10^{29}$ 



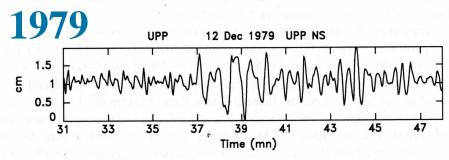
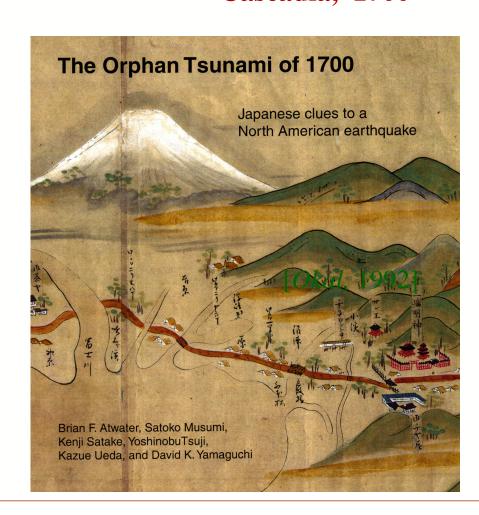
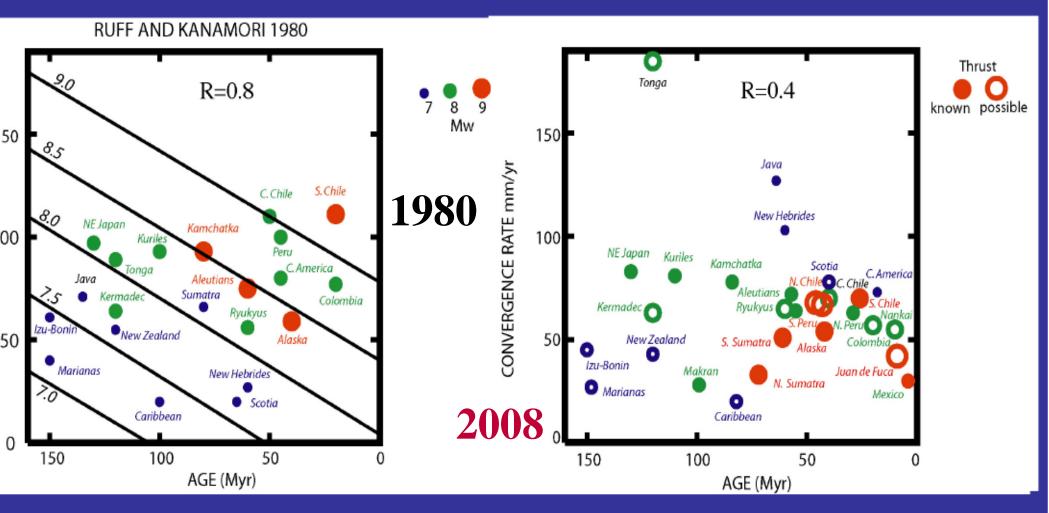


Figure A-1 Comparison of the Love wavetrains  $G_1$  of the 1906 and 1979 Ecuador-Colombia earthquakes, as recorded on the NS component of the Uppsala Wiechert. The records are plotted on the same scale, with the abcissæ offset so as to align the  $G_1$  wavetrains, thus allowing a direct comparison of their relative sizes. Note that while the 1906 earthquake is undoubtedly the larger of the two, it cannot have a moment 10 times larger than the 1979 event.



embarrassingly so, in subduction zones supposedly "safe" from mega-events!

# USING NEW RATES, AGES & MAGNITUDES MUCH OF THE CORRELATION VANISHES

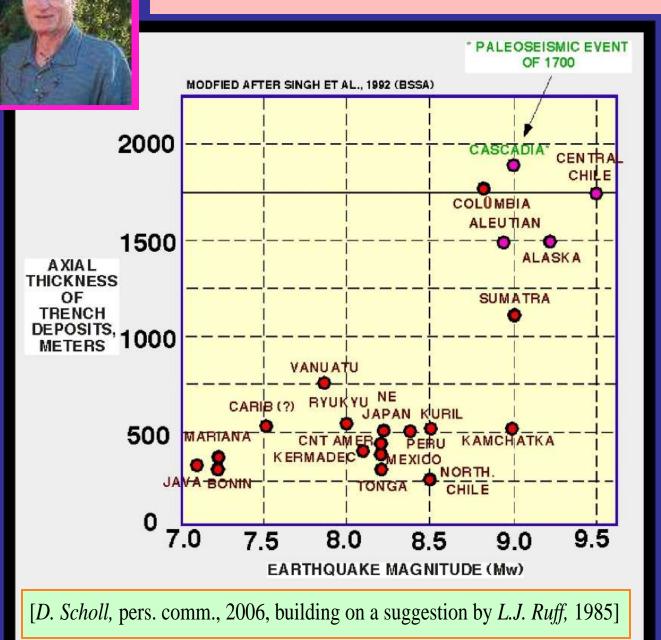


Correlation: 80%

Thick trench sediments lubricate interface & allow rupture to propagate long distances, giving M<sub>w</sub> > 8.5

Looks good, but

# Another Suggestion [from D. Scholl] in the Quest for WISDOM?



Thick trench sediments **lubricate** interface & allow rupture to propagate long distances, giving  $M_{w} > 8.5$ 

Looks good, but easy to find counterexamples

South Peru: 1868

 $M_w \approx 9.2$ 

no sediments...

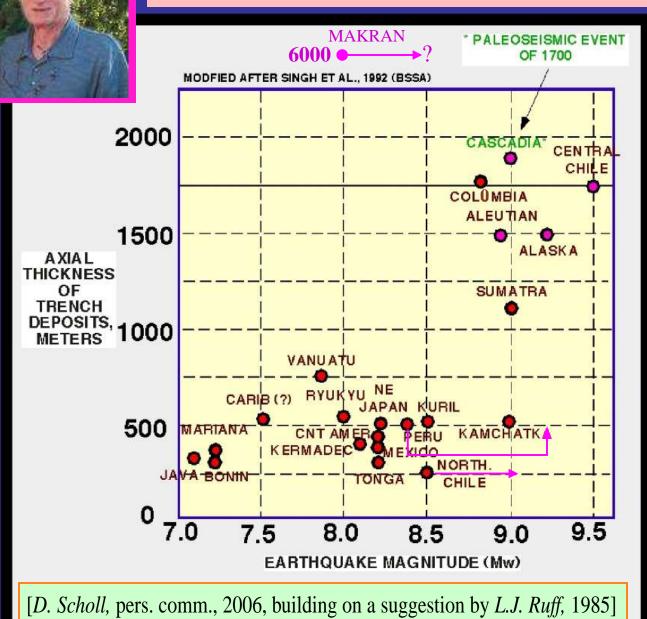
No. Chile Based on 1922

BUT 1877?

#### Makran

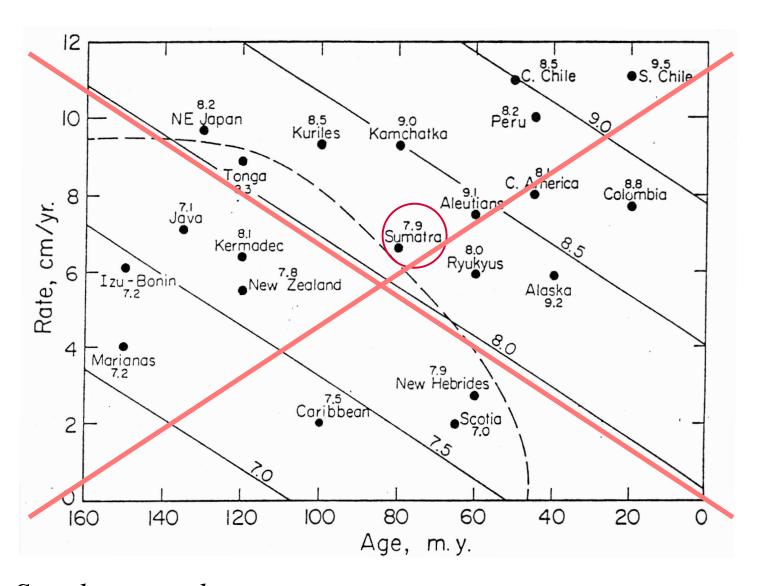
6000 m of sediments Max **KNOWN**  $M_w = 8$ 





#### HARSH LESSON in TECTONICS from SUMATRA EVENT

#### Mega-earthquakes DO occur in unsuspected areas!



So, have we become...

Humbler: CERTAINLY

Wiser : ???

We still have not devised the better



IN THE MEAN TIME, WE SHOULD CONSIDER

ALL LONG SUBDUCTION ZONES

AS POTENTIALLY MEGA-GENIC

## THE QUEST FOR A BETTER

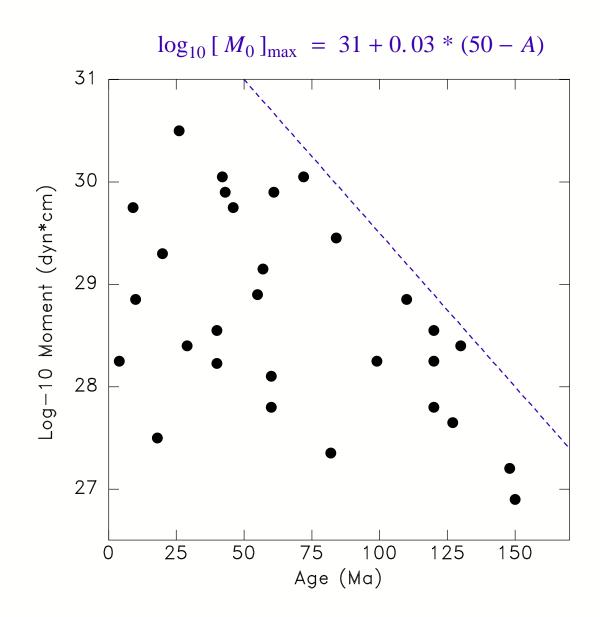


 $\rightarrow$  One idea would be to throw out of the Kanamori-Ruff diagram all the contribution of *Rates*, keeping only *Ages*.

This approach strongly suggests that

MEGA EVENTS EXIST ONLY IN YOUNG PLATES

Maximum moment could be given by

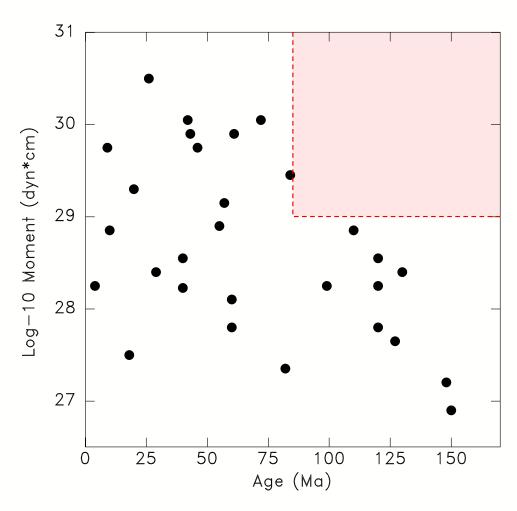


## THE QUEST FOR A BETTER



→ Another interpretation of the same dataset could be that

MEGA EVENTS  $(M_0 > 10^{29} \text{ dyn*cm})$  ARE LIMITED TO AGES LESS THAN 85 Ma



→ This suggests a kind of "wilting" age for the oceanic lithosphere, which after 85 Ma, cannot [pro-]create Mega-Earthquakes.



λιθοπαυση?

• It is remarkable that this age (85 Ma) is also that beyond which the simple half-space thermal model no longer applies.

# W Phase

W as in... Whisky

**WISDOM** 

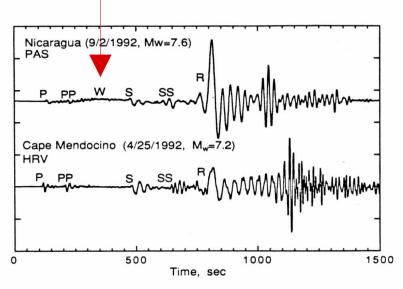
**A** +

\*\*\* Dean's List \*\*\*

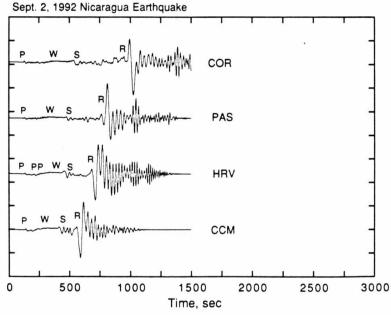
[Kanamori et al., 2008]

# Geophysical Research Letters











[*Kanamori*, 1993]

Volume 20 Number 16

AUGUST 20, 1993

AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION

#### **DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 2004**

• Many meetings, committees, symposia, workshops, etc.



A view of guests and participants of the workshop



 $S = k \cdot \log W$ 



NOTE: A remarkable number of individuals self-appointed themselves as "Tsunami Experts" on 27 or 28 December 2004...

#### Tsunami courses

Given, mostly under UNESCO funding, to researchers and front-line technicians from developing countries

The Oostende course of June 2006



Australia, Indonesia, India, Madagascar, Oman, Mauntius, Seychelles, Germany, Kenya, Tanzania, Greece, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Pakistan and Japan.



The Tehran course of May 2010

#### POST-SUMATRA: EXPANDING WARNING CENTERS

Immediately (Early 2005)
 PTWC chartered to cover Indian Ocean
 ATWC given responsibility over Caribeean





Australia establishes Tsunami Warning Center

Seismology detection at G.A. (Canberra) Real-time Simulation at B.M. (Melbourne)





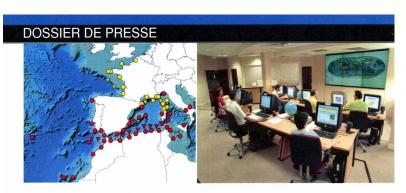
- Indian Ocean
  Nations keep meeting and discussing Regional Center
- Mediterranean and Atlantic Ocean
   Nations keep meeting and discussing Regional Center



→ 2009: France embarks on building a Warning Center for NE Atlantic and Western Mediterranean; Operational ≈ 2012.







Création d'un Centre d'alerte aux tsunamis pour l'Atlantique nord-est et la Méditerranée occidentale

9 octobre 2009

#### TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION ACT

Public Law 109-424 109th Congress

#### An Act

Dec. 20, 2006 [H.R. 1674]

To authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to be carried out by the National Weather Service, and for other purposes.

Tsunami Warning and Education Act. 33 USC 3201 note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tsunami Warning and Education Act".

#### SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this Act-

(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, of which-

(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under

(B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section

(2) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which—

(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under

(B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section

(3) \$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which—

(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under

(B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section

(4) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which—

(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 5; and

B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section

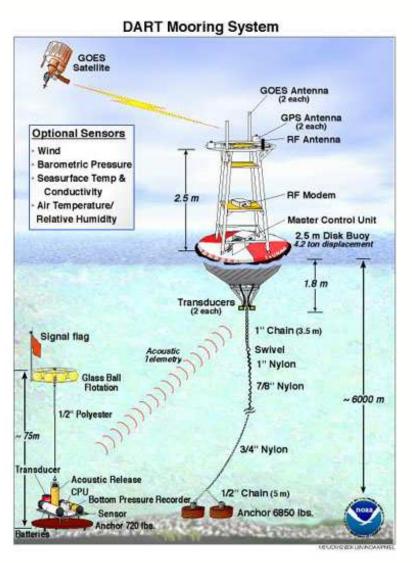
(5) \$29,000,000 for fiscal year 2012, of which—
(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 5; and

B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section

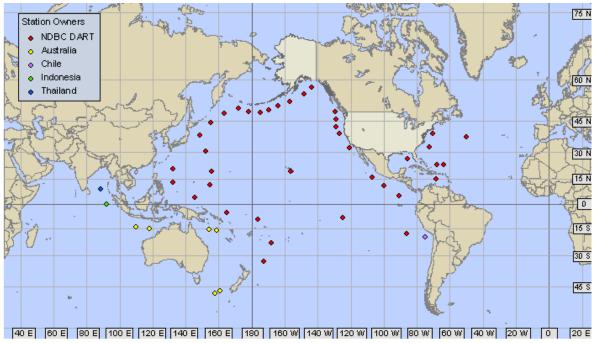
Approved December 20, 2006.

## **DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 2004 (ctd.)**

• Funded by PL 109-424: Enhancement of DART Buoy Network



**2004:** 6 instruments **2008:** 39 instruments



Note: Maintenance Issues

- → During 2010 Chile event, critical buoys (and maregraphs) were out of commission
- Other systems deployed, many of them International Seismic networks

DART clones

GPS networks

#### ON THE ROAD TO WISDOM.... TSUNAMI DRILLS

Crescent City, California, 24 March 2010

- ~ 300 people responded out of several thousand....
  - Excellent response from Law Enforcement, Civil Defense, *SCHOOLS*











• Inertia from people in position of private responsibility (e.g., Motel Manager)

#### POST-SUMATRA TSUNAMIS

#### Have We Become Wiser?

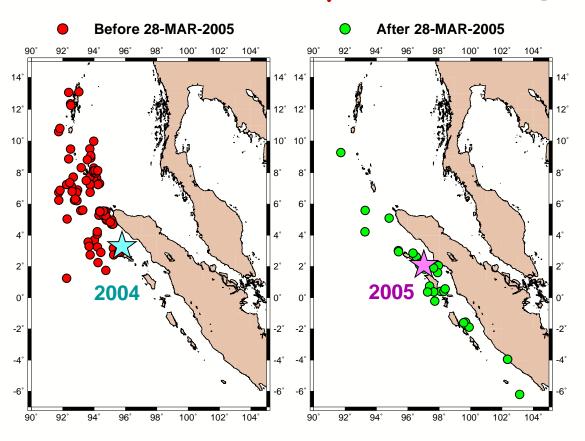
- → We now examine significant tsunamis since 2004, from the standpoint of the performance of the warning centers, and of the response of the populations at risk.
- In this context, we assign to each event a **color–coded** report card, from *Gold* (Excellent) and *Green* (Very good) through *Olive* (Good), *Yellow* (Average), *Orange* (Mediocre), to *Red* (Bad) and *Black* (Disastrous).

→ The report card is not directly a function of the death toll in the tsunami, but rather, reflects on the various components of its mitigation.

#### NIAS (Sumatra), 28 MAR 2005, $M_0 = 1.0 \times 10^{29} \text{ dyn*cm}$

Would be Largest Event since 1965 Rat Island, but for 2004 Sumatra earthquake...

# 28-MAR-2005 (SUMATRA-II) EARTHQUAKE PREDICTED ON THE BASIS of STRESS TRANSFER by McCLOSKEY et al. [Nature, 17 MAR 2005].



In the far field, general warning issued throughout Indian Ocean Basin, followed by [night-time] evacuation.

At least 10 people killed in Sri Lanka and 6 in Madagascar during evacution

Local tsunami with significant damage
 and run-up to 8 m

Only 8 local fatalities



Residents were

- \* Educated through ancestral tradition (SMONG)
- \* Sensitized to tsunami by 2004 Sumatra event
- \* [Temporarily] relocated to higher ground following Sumatra disaster

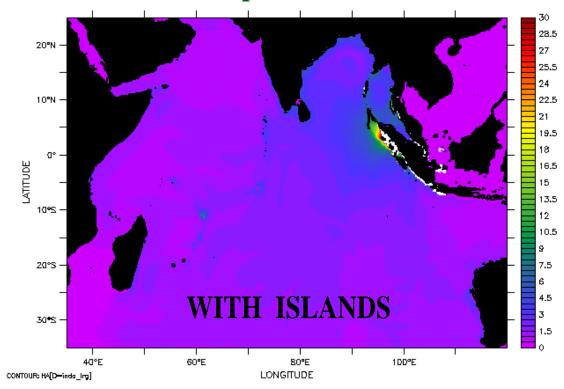
YET, NO DETECTABLE FAR-FIELD TSUNAMI... WHY?

### WHY NO FAR-FIELD TSUNAMI on 28-MAR-2005?

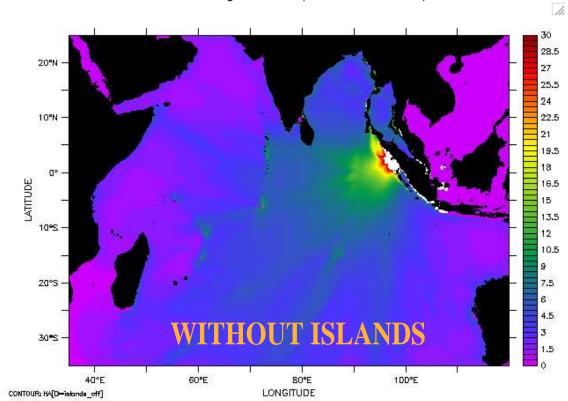
#### Source area has much shallower bathymetry, including large islands

Green's Law [1837]: Amplitude Falters when Transitioning to Deep Water.

#### **Compare simulations**



Wave Amplitude (CENTIMETERS)



Wave Amplitude (CENTIMETERS)

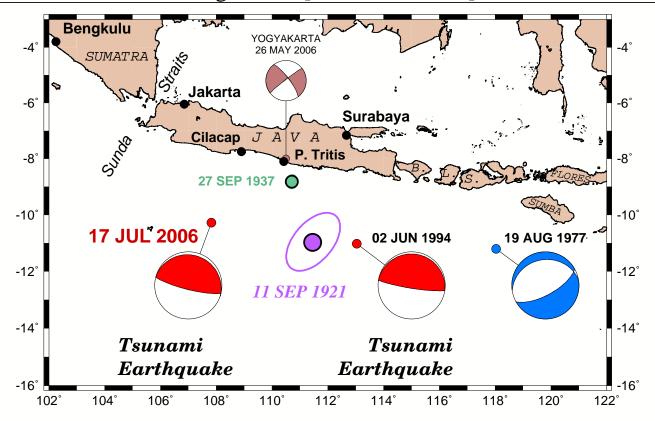
[Synolakis and Arcas, 2005]

#### **JAVA, 17-JUL-2006**

 $M_0 = 4.6 \times 10^{27} \text{ dyn*cm}$  Slow event,  $\Theta = -6.13$ 

Typical "Tsunami Earthquake"; — 700 killed by tsunami Carbon copy of 1994 event, 600 km to the East

T.E.: Event whose tsunami is stronger than suggested by its seismic magnitudes [*Kanamori*, 1972].



This event suggests that "tsunami earthquakes" could feature a regional character.

Question: Does this exclude the danger of a subduction megathrust earthquake in Java?

\* What is the role of the 1921 shock (contrary to the T.E.s, strongly felt, but with benign tsunami)?



#### 17-JUL-2006 JAVA TSUNAMI

#### Warning and Arrival Timeline (GMT)

**08:19**  $H_0$ 

**08:20** BMG (Indonesia): Notes "non-typical earthquake"

**08:36** *PTWC*: Watch for Indonesia and Australia

#### " EVALUATION

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

08:40 Tsunami arrives at Pangandaran, Second wave reaches 5 m

**08:46** *JMA*: Tsunami watch for all Sunda Islands

**08:49 – 09:14 :** Tsunami reaches all Southern coast of Java Run-up to 21 m; **700 casualties** 

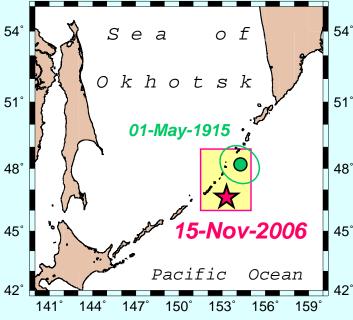
#### **VERDICT:**

Despite Recognition of anomalous character by BMG and history of "Tsunami Earthquake" in the region in 1994, **no Warning issued!** 

No data available from New Networks (Seismic and GPS)...



#### SIMUSHIR (Central Kuril Is.) – 15 NOVEMBER 2006



 $M_0 = 3.5 \times 10^{28} \text{ dyn*cm}$ 

First large earthquake in the Central Kurils since 1915.

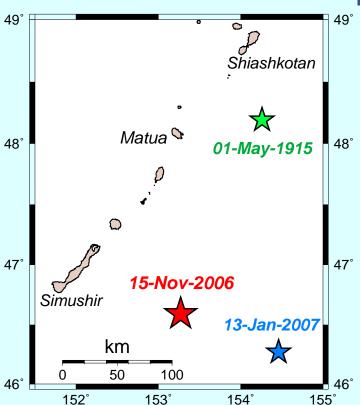
The event is not *slow*, but may be *delayed* (as for Peru, 2001).

#### Local effects surveyed in Summer, 2007.



[courtesy J. Bourgeois and M. Nikula, U. Wash.]

Matua I. (12 km long)



Run-up reaches 10 m in Simushir (Dushnaya Bay) and up to **15–20 m** on Matua.

The latter figures are higher than expected, and could result from local topography (bays, cliffs) or localized lanslides.

Fortunately, these islands are presently unpopulated (even by bears...).



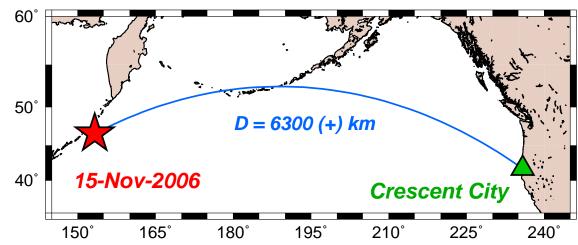
Tsunami watermarks on Matua



#### 2006 KURIL TSUNAMI DID SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE

#### in CRESCENT CITY, California

- Harbor struck 8.5 hours after seismic O.T.
- Damage up to US\$ 9 million.
- Wave height reached 1.7 m (pk-topk) on local tide gauge
- Damage resulting from (i) beaming of some tsunami energy towards Northern California; (ii) non-linear amplification by bay and harbor.



Crescent City, Kuril Islands, 2006, 41.745 °N, 235.815° E

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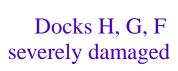
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[Dengler et al., 2008; 2009]

Damage to docks in harbor







Tidal gauge record



#### 15-NOV-2006 KURIL Is. TSUNAMI

#### Warning and Arrival Timeline (GMT)

11:14  $H_0$ 

11:30 PTWC: Warning for Russia and Japan

**11:31** *ATWC:* No warning for US West Coast

**12:13** *ATWC*: Tsunami watch for Alaska Repeats No Watch of Warning for US West Coast

**12:14** *PTWC* : Tsunami watch for Pacific Basin

12:46 to 14:09 ATWC: Repeats No watch or Warning for US West Coast

14:41 ATWC: Tsunami watch canceled for Alaska

14:58 PTWC: Tsunami watch canceled for Pacific Basin

17:20 Tsunami arrives in Hawaii;
Minor local damage; one swimmer hurt

19:35 Tsunami arrives in Crescent City

21:30 Largest waves hit Crescent City; Severe damage to Small Boat Harbor

**VERDICT:** 



### **SOLOMON Is., 01-APR-2007**



[ The Miracle ? ]

$$M_0 = 1.6 \times 10^{28} \text{ dyn*cm}$$

[Fritz & Kalligeris, 2007]

Local Tsunami, resulting in significant damage on several islands





154°

156°

158°



The community apparently had the reflex of *Self-Evacuation* 

(probably conditioned by the memory of strong waves during a volcano-seismic swarm in the 1950s?)



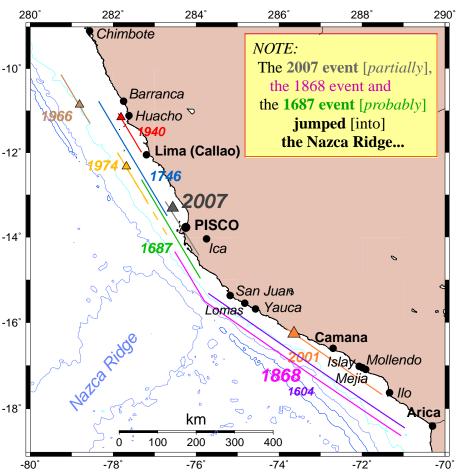


-10°

160°

#### **PISCO, Peru, 15 AUG 2007,** $M_0 = 1.1 \times 10^{28} \text{ dyn*cm}$

- Damaging Earthquake, which destroyed the city of Pisco (514 dead)
- Yet, much smaller than previous events in Central Peru (1687, 1746)
- Significant local tsunami with run-up of 5 m, locally 8–10 m
- Most shore locations successfully evacuated through communitybased program using "sergeants" directing residents to shelters built out of harm's way.



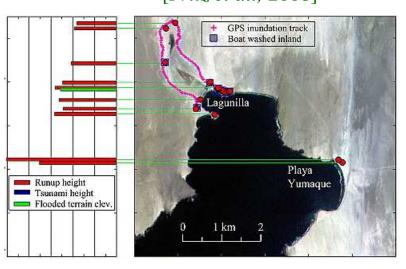
#### • *EXCEPT....*

in Lagunilla (Southern coast of Paracas Peninsula), where tsunami ran up to 10 m, penetrating 1 km inland and killing 3 people.





[Fritz et al., 2008]



This omission in an otherwise successful program is unexplained and unacceptable.

## **12 SEP 2007 BENGKULU (I)**



 $M_0 = 6.7 \times 10^{28} \text{ dyn*cm}$ 

[Then] Third—largest event ever in the Global CMT catalogue [after Sumatra 2004 and Nias 2005]

- Yet, Relatively low death toll (25 killed by earthquake)
  - Relatively small tsunami

Recorded on maregraph at maximum 1 m in Padang 15 cm on Cocos Islands (1100 km) Negligible elsewhere

Tsunami damage contained in near field

#### NO TSUNAMI DEATHS ...

#### **Event Earns a Gold Star!**



### BENGKULU, 12 SEP 2007

#### **SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS**



#### **LAIS**



Houses Moved by Tsunami



WILL POPULATION BE AS WISE IN NEXT (BIG PADANG) EVENT??



#### **Post- Tsunami Survey reveals that**

POPULATION SELF-EVACUATED
UPON
FEELING EARTHQUAKE,

thus preventing CASUALTIES despite significant damage by tsunami

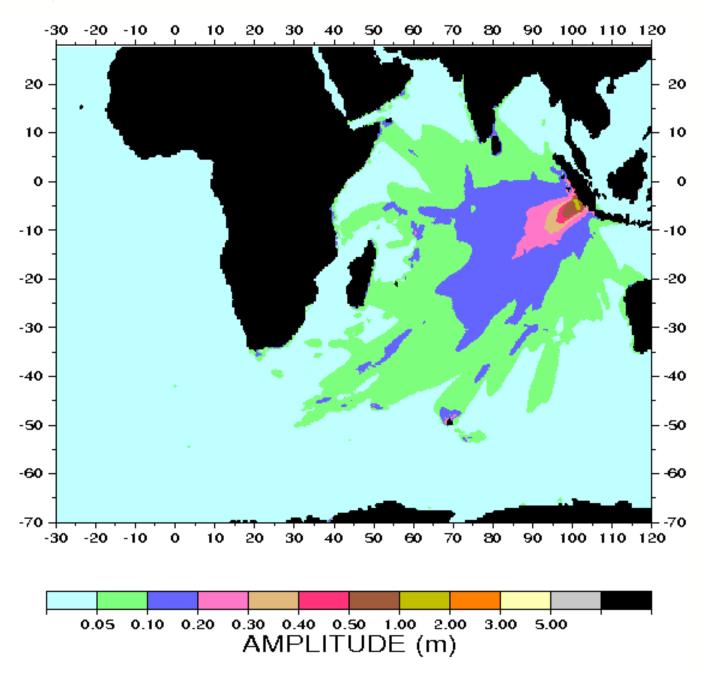
**Event Earns a Gold Star!** 

## 12 SEP 2007; Bengkulu (I)

#### REAL-TIME SIMULATION and CUSTOMIZED WARNING

(Emile A. Okal)

Based on an early estimate of  $M_0$  (using the **Improved**  $M_m$  mantle magnitude algorithm), a tsunami simulation was performed in real-time, and the attached map of maximum expectable amplitude on the high seas forwarded to Dr. Chris J. Hartnady (Umvoto, Cape Town), who forwarded it to local S.A. civil defense authorities.

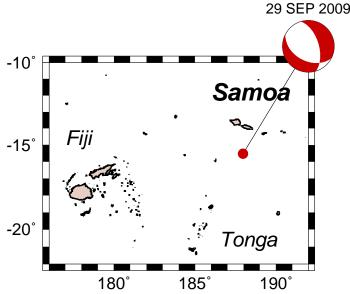


It was received in South Africa at 16:18 GMT (18:18 local time), 4.5 hours before the tsunami reached Port Elizabeth.

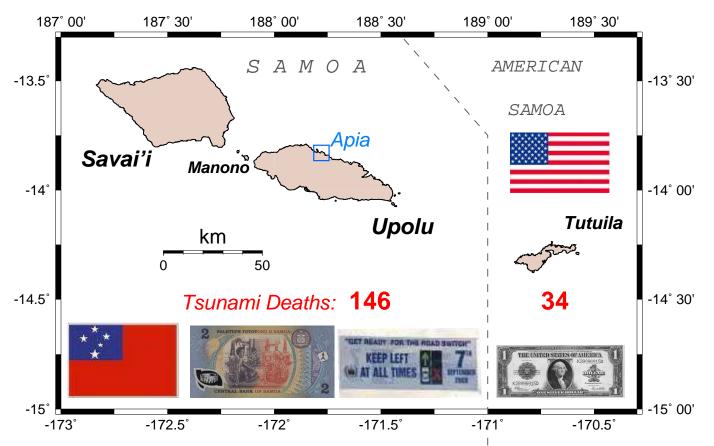
#### **SAMOA, 29 SEP 2009**

$$M_0 = 1.8 \times 10^{28} \text{ dyn*cm}$$

- First tsunami to cause substantial damage and many deaths (34) on U.S. soil (American Samoa) in 45 years.
- Outer Rise Normal Faulting Event with probable predecessor in 1917.
- \$200 million damage (est.)



• 189 total deaths in Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga.



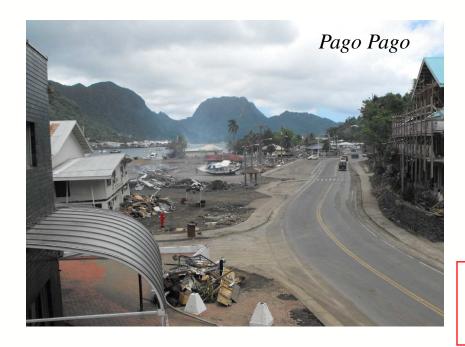
Epicenter 250 km to the South

Population: 179,000 60,000

**Area:** Savai'i: 1708 km<sup>2</sup> Upolu: 1125 km<sup>2</sup> Tutuila: 200 km<sup>2</sup>

#### **SAMOA, 2009:** Survey Results in American Samoa

- Run-up to 17m in Poloa
- North Coast bays significantly affected (run-up to 12 m)
- Pago Pago harbor amplified waves (run-up to 9 m)





→ "Only"
34 fatalities

Thanks to:

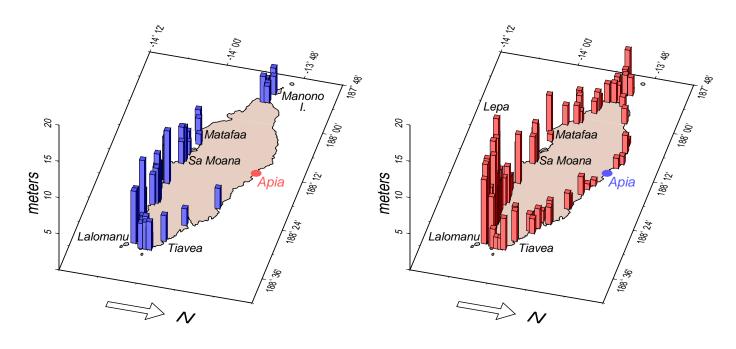
- \* Signage Program
- \* Self Evacuation
- \* Community-based Evacuation
  Population educated and Well prepared



## SAMOA, 2009: Survey Results in Samoa (Upolu)

#### Flow Depth

Run - Up



#### **DEVASTATION AT LALOMANU**

Run-up reached 11.4 meters, and inundation 250 m

- Run-up to 14.4 m in Lepa
- Two villages eradicated
- North Coast

   (with Capital, Apia)
   largely spared



The village was totally eradicated, with 61 fatalities

• Higher Death Toll (146) than on Tutuila

#### SAMOA 2009: Evacuation on UPOLU

- The population of Upolu was reasonably *aware* of the tsunami danger, despite the lack of ancestral memory.
- Evacuation *drills* had been conducted at *a number of* villages, but not everywhere.
  - No signage program on Upolu



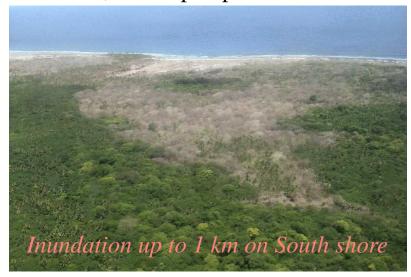




- In several areas, evacuation was hampered (with respect to Tutuila) by the need to travel longer distances, due to flatter terrain.
- Congestion trapped several victims in their cars.
- The recent road switch could have instilled in the population the unfortunate perception of vehicles as a panacea to natural hazards.

#### **SAMOA 2009:** Results from Northern Tonga

• Wave height to 16 m on East and South Beaches, Niuatoputapu

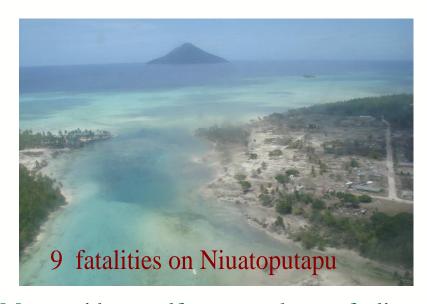




• Run-up to 22 m on Tafahi



Villages given relative protection by reef



- Most residents self-evacuated upon feeling the earthquake, *BUT*...
- Seven out of nine victims in pick-up truck driving parallel to coastline

#### MAULE, Chile, 27 FEB 2010

• More than 200 victims killed by tsunami in Concepción and Constitución.

Majority of population along Chilean coast self-evacuated, but Many trapped camping on island in Rio Maule

What could have been done better? Note middle of the night

- → No local warning while tsunami took 34 minutes to reach Valparaíso.
- Juan Fernandez Islands at least 16 killed or missing. Run-up to 15 m.

# **Propagation time** ~ 1 hour **No warning whatsoever**

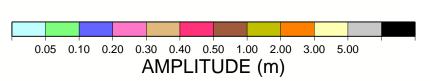
- Transoceanic simulations largely correct, showing tsunami lobe between Hawaii and Tahiti, and accurately forecasting deep-water amplitudes (20 to 30 cm).
- Evacuations erred on side of caution, but largely successful. Run-up to 4 m in the Marquesas; no victims; only one boat sunk
- Lack of coordination between PMEL and PTWC

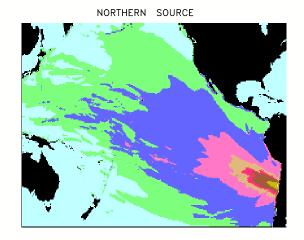
Conflicting reports from PTWC and ATWC

Several ocean sensors down

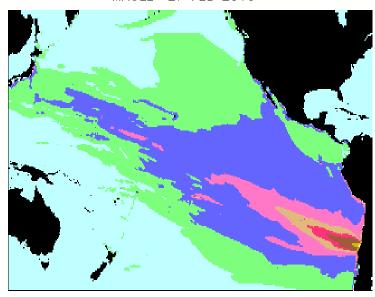
Erratic response in California

Bottom line: YELLOW

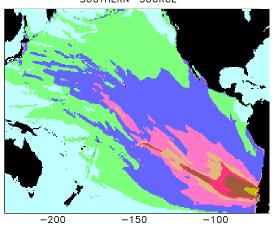




MAULE 27 FEB 2010

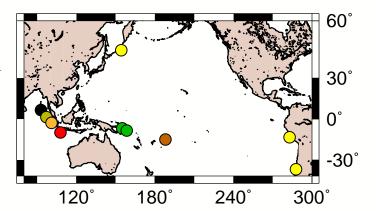




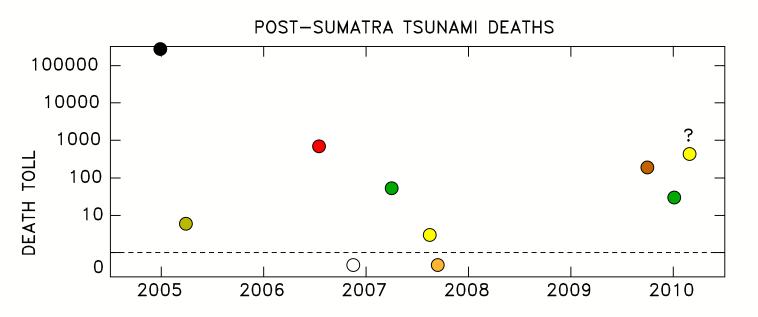


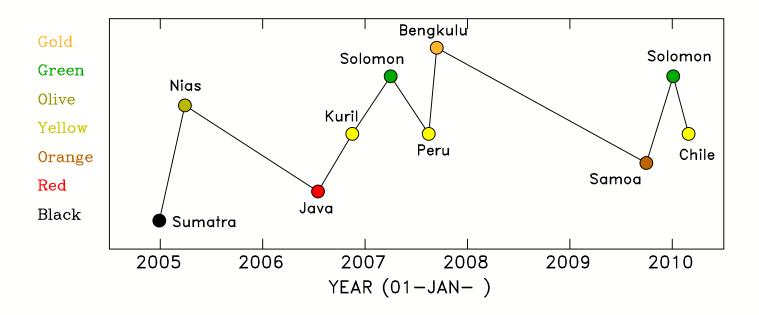
#### **CONCLUSION:** Post–Sumatra: WISER?

- A "Mixed Bag", with **no evident trends**
- Still, stresses the value of Education
- Indonesia: A Special Case
  One country, diverse results



 $\rightarrow$  Brace yourself for Padang, 20xx...





#### FINAL LESSONS

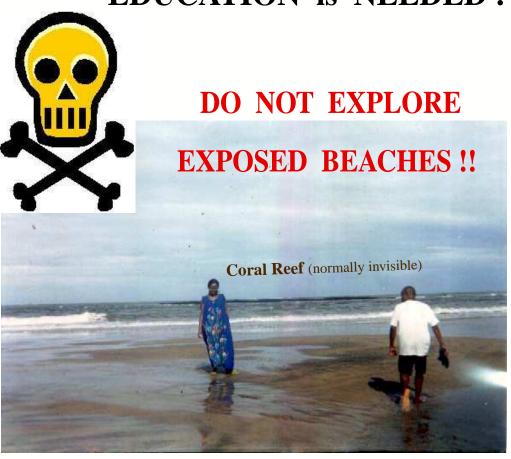
#### **EDUCATION WORKS**



C. Ruscher, Vanuatu, November 1999.

- The Moken people of the Surin Islands
- Little 10-year old English girl in Phuket
- Professor C.H. Chapman in Sri Lanka
- Japanese tourists in high-rise hotels
- $\rightarrow$  Post-Sumatra Successes: Nias (SMONG); Solomon (2 ×); Peru; Bengkulu; Maule [partially]

#### **EDUCATION is NEEDED!**



Sumatra Tsunami, Madagascar, 26 Dec. 2004

# RUN TO SAFETY ON HIGHER GROUND !!

# La Science est l'Asymptote de la Vérité



Victor Hugo