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### **In the Wake of Sumatra: Have We Become Wiser?**

Five years after the Sumatra earthquake, have we become wiser in our ability to mitigate tsunami hazard, issue and heed warnings? At least 11 substantial tsunamis have occurred since the 2004 event; they offer an alarmingly disparate spectrum in terms of the performance and efficiency of the warning algorithms, and of the behavior (and eventual death toll) of the populations at risk. We present a report card of these 11 events, ranging from a gold award for the 2007 Bengkulu earthquake, whose tsunami resulted in no human casualties, to a black star for the 2006 Java event, which combined a cacophony of contradictory statements from the warning centers, the simple dismissal by the authorities of the one warning issued with an adequate timing (by JMA), and the inherently treacherous character of a "tsunami earthquake" to result in more than 700 casualties. Among the most successful cases are the two Solomon Islands tsunamis (2007, 2010) where self-evacuation worked to significantly contain casualties, and the 2007 Peru event where a grass-roots warning system implemented in all but one coastal villages proved remarkably efficient. By contrast, the 2006 Kuril earthquake resulted in significant infrastructure damage in Crescent City, California, a community surprisingly unprepared given its history of damage in previous tsunamis. The 2009 Samoa event presents a mixed record, with a much more successful evacuation on Tutuila (American Samoa) than on Upolu ([Independent] Samoa). So does the 2010 Maule, Chile tsunami, which featured a generally successful level of self-evacuation on the mainland of Chile (by those people who could), and of centralized warning and evacuation in Polynesia, but a tragic failure to warn Juan Fernandez Island. In general, our results stress the value of education as the most valuable agent of mitigation of human hazard from local tsunamis.