

Introduction of Awardees (2021)

Prof. Hideo Matsutomi: Emeritus Professor of Akita University, Japan; Affiliate Professor of Research and Development Initiative, Chuo University, Japan



Prof. Matsutomi has been conducting research on tsunamis behaviors for many years. He played a member of the Tsunami Committee of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics from 1995, assumed as a member of the Architectural Institute of Japan Tsunami Load Subcommittee, and proposed the estimating equations on flood speed and drifting object force. He established the Research Center for Potential Development of Disaster Prevention at Akita University. In addition, he assumed as a river counselor of the Tohoku Regional Development Bureau, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan and contributed to tsunami and flood measures. He assumed as the Disaster Prevention Advisor of Oga City, Akita, Japan, and contributed to the regional program for disaster damage reduction. In recognition of these achievements, he received “Tohoku Branch Achievement Award, the Japan Society of Civil Engineers” at the ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Tohoku Branch in 2017.

Dr. Gerassimos A. Papadopoulos: Chair of the International Society for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Hazards; Former Research Director of the National Observatory of Athens, Greece



Dr. Papadopoulos is a famous researcher worldwide in tsunami science and for his achievements in tsunami risk awareness and mitigation actions. He has established close collaboration with many countries. He studied, among others, at the National Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience, Japan, in 1993 supported by the Japanese-German Center Berlin, contributed to the tsunami intensity scale with the Tohoku University in 2001, and was a visiting professor at the same university in 2004. He is one of the key scientists in the tsunami field in the European-Mediterranean region. He has also 25-year-long collaboration experience with Japanese and other scientists, which enabled him to publish in scientific journals with them about 15 papers out of his 150 scientific papers. His efforts contributed also to the increase of awareness against tsunami risk not only in Greece but also at an international level. He was a co-founder of the UNESCO/IOC/NEAMTWS and chaired it from 2017 to 2020, successfully governing the tsunami warning system in the frame of IOC/UNESCO.

Pacific Tsunami Museum, USA



The Pacific Tsunami Museum was established in 1994 and is one of the oldest tsunami museums in the world. The museum was created to educate the public about the devastation caused by the 1946 Aleutian and 1960 Chilean tsunamis, so that the devastation would not fade away and be passed on to future generations. Throughout its quarter-century history, the museum was tireless in its efforts to educate residents and visitors about the dangers of tsunamis. The month of April, when the Aleutian earthquake and tsunami struck, was designated as Tsunami Awareness Month, and in 2021, the museum promoted basic knowledge of tsunami warnings, disseminated evacuation maps, and worked with residents to identify safe evacuation sites. In this way, the Pacific Tsunami Museum made great contribution to tsunami disaster prevention activities as a pioneer organization to pass on the lessons of tsunami disaster to future generations.