



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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AUSTRALIA SIGNS TSUNAMI AGREEMENT WITH INDONESIA

Tsunami detection in the Indian Ocean will be boosted after today's signing of an agreement between government agencies in Australia and Indonesia.

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the Indonesia's Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology (Bagdan Pengkajian dan Penerapan Teknologi or BPPT) signed a formal agreement to begin a cooperative technical partnership in tsunami observation monitoring and assessment.

Minister for the Environment, Peter Garrett today welcomed the agreement.

"Having Australia and Indonesia working closer together will provide an increased tsunami detection capability in the Indian Ocean that has the potential to save lives.

"The Indonesian government plans a string of 22 buoys crossing the fault line in the Indian Ocean. These, together with the planned extension to the Bureau of Meteorology's network of deep ocean tsunami detection buoys, will provide wider tsunami detection capability."

Mr Garrett said the agreement had two major advantages. Firstly, Indonesia would assist the Bureau in the maintenance of the Bureau's two standard deep ocean tsunami detection buoys due to be deployed to the north of Western Australia later this year.

"Secondly, the Bureau will procure an easy-to-deploy, deep ocean tsunami detection buoy that will complement Australia's and Indonesia's tsunami warning systems. This new buoy will be jointly operated and evaluated by the two countries," Minister Garrett said.

Data captured from the tsunami detection buoys will be made available world wide for the use of other agencies in detecting tsunami events.