

Sea walls not a solution to tsunami: experts:

[India News]: New Delhi, Jan 23 : With India getting ready to set up its own tsunami warning system, experts have suggested that it should have an in built mechanism to check false alarms while cautioning that constructing walls along the sea coast may not be a foolproof solution.

"Sea walls are like fortification on the shoreline. They are effective against small waves but not when it comes to a tsunami," said Dr Costa Synolakis, professor of Coastal Engineering, University of South California at a two-day brainstorming session on tsunami here.

Sea walls also give a false sense of security and delay swift action. "Bioshield" or planting vegetation is a better option as it acts as an environment-friendly barrier against the water current, he said.

Experts also collectively voiced concern over the problem of issuing false alarms and said every real tsunami threat is separated by two or three such alarms.

"Science has never failed and since 1948 we have not missed predicting a single tsunami. However, countries must guard against issuing false tsunami alarms," said Dr Tad Murthy, President, Tsunami Society, Ottawa.

Murthy, who has been associated with the tsunamic warning system in Canada, cited instances of how such false alarms have created havoc across the globe.

Narrating an incident in Canada in 1986, Murthy said large scale evacuation was carried out fearing a tsunami threat, despite scientists advising authorities against the same. PTI

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