Peradeniya Engineering faculty develops tsunami hazard maps for five coastal cities

PERADENIYA: The Peradeniya University Engineering Faculty has developed tsunami hazard maps for five cities devastated by the December 2004 tsunami.

The five cities are Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Trincomalee and Batticaloa.

These tsunami hazard maps provide a graphical presentation of damage-prone areas with expected depth of flooding in case of a tsunami similar to the December 2004 one.

A team of academics comprising Dr Janaka Wijetunge of the Peradeniya University Engineering Faculty and Prof. Philip Liu and Xiaoming Wang of the Cornell University College of Engineering, USA developed these hazard maps by building state-of-the-art computer models of tsunami inundation. Such computer models are used to obtain vital information such as depth of flooding and flood velocity required in the preparation of tsunami hazard maps.

The tsunami hazard maps developed under this project are to be made available to the local authorities and government organisations through the Disaster Management Centre.

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