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## Receive tsunami alerts via SMS

GERMAN professors have launched a system to warn subscribers of an impending tsunami, wherever they are, via a mobile text message.

Such a system could prevent tragedies like the 2004 tsunami in Asia where killer waves left about 200,000 people dead and nearly 50,000 missing.

The tsunami alarm system picks up seismic signals from global stations and consolidates the information. If there is a danger of a tsunami, an alarm is sent out to subscribers via an SMS.

Professor Dr Eduard Heindl, one of the inventors of the system, said: "Last December in Japan, we had an earthquake with a tsunami generated and we sent a warning 10 minutes before radio stations in Japan were able to disseminate this information.

He added: "People always switch on their mobile phones, unlike the radio which may not always be turned on."

The take-up rate for the alarm system has been good among travellers in Europe and its inventors hope for similar success in Asia, especially in coastal areas bordering the Indian and Pacific oceans.

The system costs about \$60 for a year's subscription, while a monthly service costs \$20.

Visit [www.tsunami-alarm-system.com](http://www.tsunami-alarm-system.com) for details. — CHANNEL NEWSASIA