



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Meteo has a new seismograph**

Minister Earl Alborda, together with Meteo that resorts under the Ministry of Traffic, Transport and Urban Planning, has been working on a continuous basis to ensure the people of Curaçao a good service on all terrains concerning meteorological services. In this framework a new seismograph was installed during December 2013 in the building of the Meteorological Department Curaçao at Seru Mahuma. This device registers earthquakes when these occur and that allows Meteo to have that information immediately.

With the purchase of this device, Meteo will be able to record all earthquakes that are felt on the ABC Islands and in the vicinity. Within minutes Meteo will be able to inform and confirm officially that an earthquake has occurred. The earthquake that occurred on June 3, 2013 and that had its epicenter near Ronde Klip, is still fresh in the memories of the people of Curaçao. This tremor was light and had a magnitude of only 3.5 on the Richter scale.

The equipment was installed and will be maintained in close cooperation with the *Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut* (KNMI) in the Netherlands. Data of this seismograph will be shared with foreign seismological institutes, especially countries in our region, like Venezuela, Aruba and Puerto Rico (U.S.A.). In Venezuela for instance, the *Fundación Venezolana de Investigaciones Sismológicas* (FUNVISIS) will use this data to be better able to locate the exact position of an earthquake in their coastal region, when that occurs.

Since this seismograph is capable of registering tremors in the ground with great precision, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, which is responsible for the Caribbean Area, will be able to use this data, in case of the occurrence of a strong earthquake, to determine whether or not there is a possibility of a tsunami in our region. This will happen in close cooperation with the Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) of UNESCO of which Meteo is a Member.

This seismograph was purchased with funds facilitated by USONA, as part of the *IVB Versterking Meteorologische Dienst Curaçao* project. As another part of this project, a risk analysis for flooding will be performed while a few automatic weather and coastal stations will be installed in strategic locations to be able to monitor weather phenomena with more accuracy. The forecasters and technicians will be trained how to use these new systems and on how to pass on the resulting information to the general public. This is all part of the international framework of the global programme of Disaster Risk Reduction by the World Meteorological Organization.

The people of Curaçao can follow all developments of Minister Alborda of Traffic, Transport and Urban Planning through his Facebook page: "Earl W. Alborda, Minister VVRP."





*Ms. Pedzi Girigori, Head of the Operational department of the MDC, instructs forecasters Yogi Coffie (l) and Andy Luciano on how to interpret the seismograph data on the computer monitor.*

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