

Page: 40	<b>LA GACETA DE LOS NEGOCIOS</b>	Circulation: 52,000
Date: Feb 4th		

## **VACCINE AGAINST TSUNAMIS**

*RegPoint offers a breakthrough solution for a catastrophe warning system. The solution uses seismographs and buoys and forward alert messages to the authorities through mobile telephony.*

After the last Tsunami, the RegPoint health services have important reasons to promote the technology developed by the company for the last years. It is a warning system innovation to detect and inform people of catastrophes like the tsunamis. This new tool combines buoys and seismographs. Once the seismograph registers a quake, it sends a mobile message to the authorities in charge of the buoys. In case the buoy translate the message into a possible Tsunami, will forward a warning message to the health and rescue authorities of the potentially affected areas. A message to the general public is also sent.

This system can also be adapted to send messages in case of potential catastrophes worldwide, such as epidemics. RegPoint has an application called RegPoint™ for managing treatment of chronic diseases and detecting and verifying epidemics/pandemics. The application is developed in order for the patients to be able to send updated health profiles to their doctors several times a day via mobile phones. To expand the range of usage of such an application, RegPoint is going to cooperate with the seismology experts of the Uppsala University to provide a tsunami and earthquake warning system as a same kind of application.

The quake on December 26th took place 06.58 local time. After approximately one and a half hour, the first waves reached Thailand. Sri Lanka was hit one hour later. The amount of tsunami victims rose very high because there were no

proper warning systems around those areas. Many seismological measurement systems had detected the earthquake, but no information was sent in time.

“Our systems registered the quake eleven minutes after it occurred, almost an hour before the first warning reached the authorities in the affected areas,” said Reynir Bødvarsson, leader of the Swedish national seismological network at the University of Uppsala.

Automation can become a key solution to the disadvantage. If RegPoint™ had been connected with the system at Uppsala, thousands of people could have been able to get the warning into their cell phones shortly after it was detected.

RegPoint is going to develop a mobile warning system with seismology experts of the University of Uppsala. The complete system will require a registration, but after that, if a serious quake should occur, a message will be sent from Uppsala through GPRS, CMDA or 3G networks directly to all RegPoint™ users in the affected area. RegPoint uses a de facto standard called DMS (Daily Medical Support) for the message delivery. For example Motorola has been involved in the standard development.

It is time to update the tsunami and earthquake warning systems around the world. “The American warning system, which is in use today, was created in 1948, long before cell phones were invented,” said Sophia Salenius the President and CEO of RegPoint. “The American system is very reliable, but it takes time to inform people that are not in the reach of alarms or local radios. The catastrophe in South-East Asia showed us that today the information should spread among people without a delay that cost so many lives.”

American systems have severe disadvantages. They are very expensive to create. It also takes a minimum of 2 years to install the system. Organisations must be built in the area, ready to respond and take responsibility. American systems have been working for several years and since a great deal of facts is gathered, the risk of false alarm is rather small. But if the information does not reach the affected area quickly enough, the system is not useful.

The new Swedish system is un-expensive, and it takes only four to five weeks to install the system. The warning comes early and consequentially the public is reached faster. Eleven minutes after the quake on December 26th, Uppsala could have issued a warning if they had twenty four-seven surveillance and access to the RegPoint™ solution. One minute later everybody in the area could have received a warning on their cell phones