

Department of Ocean and Resources Engineering
Seminar

**RESPONSE TO HURRICANE TIDES AND TSUNAMIS
IN OCEAN ENVIRONMENTS**

by

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Abstract

In last weeks seminar, attention was paid to the disastrous effects of storm surges, caused by extremely high wind fields over relatively shallow (as compared to very deep) bodies of water such as the North Sea.

In areas situated in or along deep oceans in zones of lower latitude extreme winds, which cause coastal flooding, come in the form of hurricanes or typhoons, different names for a phenomenon with the potential of great damage. Japan and the Philippines often find themselves in the paths of strong typhoons, whereas the islands of Hawaii have been affected by two hurricanes in recent past. The damage Hurricane Iniki did to the Island of Kauai in 1992 is fresh in our memory, and the four hurricanes that affected Florida past year will certainly be remembered by those affected by them.

The great tsunami of Dec 26, 2004 which caused unimaginable damage and loss of life on world scale, has renewed our focus on this devastating phenomenon, and provides an urgent challenge to scientists and engineers worldwide to find answers to the problems thrown upon us.

In this seminar in dealing with hurricanes and tsunamis, we will try to identify the critical parameters for their devastating consequences and start the debate among ourselves in which direction to search for solutions which are technically possible and feasible.