

Supercourse Newsletter
January 10, 2005

www.pitt.edu/~super1/
www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/
www.bibalex.org/english/initiatives/SupercourseArchive.htm

Dear Friends,

Tsunami: The tragedy of the tsunami continues. We had not thought that the Supercourse team would play a role, however were "swept up" in the horrible events, and we helped.

The Just-in-Time lecture that Ali Ardalan from Iran, with Eugene Shubnikov, Erik Noji and myself was very well received world wide. In the 5 days between Jan. 4, and Jan. 9, our crude estimates revealed that about 255,000 people learned from the lecture or about 51,000 per day. Our counters on the Supercourse shot up after we put the Tsunami lecture up. The feed back we received from people was that they liked the lecture very much as it was scientific, coherent, and made for educators. We received considerable feedback. We had people ask us to receive the PowerPoint file for the lecture. This was a mistake as over 3000 people requested the file. We asked everyone of them if they would distribute the lecture to at least 5 people, and this worked very successfully. The patterns of request were very interesting, first by public health people world wide, then by educators, as teachers world wide needed to teach about the Tsunami but did not have materials. Libraries rapidly took up the lectures. What was most amazing is that we had a large number of requests from those in Earth Science world wide.

The Discovery Station presented an important quote:

The only defense against a Tsunami is education: This helped us to formulate a Mission Statement for the Supercourse, which we would very much like your input:

The Mission of the Supercourse is to translate the best possible scholarly information from leading researchers to educators

The past week has also seen an explosion of new people joining the Supercourse. We started out at the beginning of January with about 18,000 collaborators. In the last week we have had 2-3000 new members, from a marked diversity.

We have decided to provide you, and the world, a second lecture on Tsunamis. You can view this at: www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec18091/index.htm

Ali and Eugene have updated the original lecture 3 times based upon changes circumstances and feedback. <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec18071/index.htm>

As we tell all people, these are gifts that are meant to be given. We would appreciate if you could distribute the lectures to at least 5 people.

Thank you so much for your effort. Education is one of the few major defenses against disasters.

Please help by sharing your knowledge.
Best Regards from Pittsburgh

Ron, Ali, Eugene, Tom, Mita, Faina, Soni, Samar, Ezzelden

If you would prefer not to receive the Supercourse Newsletter, please write to Mita at Mital@pitt.edu