

# Warning system a joint effort

■ *The Nation*  
PHANG NGA

A MEMORANDUM of understanding was signed on Tuesday to set up early warning arrangements and preparedness for natural disasters for Thailand.

The agreement between the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and the National Disaster Warning Centre (NDWC) will facilitate the set-up of a tsunami early-warning system here as part of a regional system.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra presided over the signing ceremony after the Cabinet

meeting in Phang Nga on Tuesday.

The two agencies will exchange real-time data from sea-level observation and seismic monitoring systems in Thailand and the region - in the process of being installed - to provide an early warning of natural disasters here and to other participating national warning centres.

In a joint statement, ADPC director Suvit Yodmani and NDWC head Plodprasop Suraswadi, said: "In recognition of the importance of early-warning arrangements, and preparedness at both the community and national levels of government for

tsunami and other natural hazards for Thailand, we are pleased that our centres will be able to enhance our collaboration and co-operation and thereby ensure the safety of all persons in Thailand and in surrounding countries."

The Thailand-based ADPC is a regional, inter-government organisation mandated to promote safer communities and sustainable development by reducing the impact of disasters. It has 15 years experience in the design, establishment and operation of early-warning systems and in climate-forecast applications across the Asia Pacific.