

# News Release

Contact:

Investors: Kerry K. Calaiaro  
+1 212 837-0880  
Email: [calaiaro\\_ke@willis.com](mailto:calaiaro_ke@willis.com)

Media: Dan Prince  
+1 212 837-0806  
Email: [prince\\_da@willis.com](mailto:prince_da@willis.com)

## Willis Explores Tsunami Coverages

**New York, NY, February 3, 2005** – Because of the devastation to property caused by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 26, 2004, property insurance buyers around the world have been reading their insurance policies to see what kind of coverage they have against the threat of future tsunamis.

Contrary to comments that were published elsewhere in the immediate aftermath of December 26, a survey by Willis Group Holdings *Perspectives* finds insurance against tsunamis is being provided to insurance buyers who normally insure against flood and various kinds of earth movement including earthquake.

In the United States, The National Flood Insurance Plan defines damage by any kind of a wave as flood damage without giving any consideration to whether the wave was a tidal wave or a seismic sea wave. Most, but not all, American insurance companies agree. In the event tsunami and earthquake cause damage in the same occurrence, in the US one will need flood insurance and earthquake insurance to be made whole.

In Europe, Asia and the rest of the world, coverage for damage caused by a tsunami wave depends on the proximate cause of the wave. If an earthquake causes a tsunami wave and if the insurance policy covers earthquake, damage caused by the tsunami wave is covered. In these jurisdictions, damages are not apportioned between flood and earthquake as they are in the US.

In addition to earthquakes, historic tsunamis have been caused by landslides, mountains breaking apart and crashing into the sea, volcanoes and asteroids colliding with the Earth.

*Perspectives* is a publication of Willis Group Holdings Limited.

Willis Group Holdings Limited is a leading global insurance broker, developing and delivering professional insurance, reinsurance, risk management, financial and human resource consulting and actuarial services to corporations, public entities and institutions around the world. With more than 300 offices in more than 100 countries, its global team of 14,500 Associates serves clients in some 180 countries. Additional information on Willis may be found on its web site [www.willis.com](http://www.willis.com).

###

Editor's Note: The Willis Index is available on Willis.com via [www.willis.com/Extras/Publications.aspx](http://www.willis.com/Extras/Publications.aspx).