2023 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop and Training
10-12 October in Geneva

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is hosting the 2023 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop and Training. Both events will be at the IFRC headquarters building: Chemin des Crêts 17, Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland. The Training will be 10 October, 9:00-17:00 CEST and the Workshop will be 11-12 October, 9:00-17:00 CEST. Click here to register. For those who cannot participate in person, Webinar call-in instructions will be sent to everyone registered. Documents pertaining to the Workshop and Training are posted to the Workshop website.

Everyone interested in emergency alerting is welcome: managers, technical staff, media, etc., including government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and commercial firms. There is no charge to participate.

This Workshop is co-sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), IFRC, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the OASIS standards organization and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

CAP Implementation Workshops focus on emergency alerting as enabled by the CAP standard, ITU-T Recommendation X.1303. At the Workshops, implementers of CAP and other associated organizations discuss common issues and how best to leverage the expanding adoption of CAP.

Today, 84% of the world's population lives in a country with at least one national CAP feed operational, and another 7% have a CAP feed in a test status. CAP implementation by country is shown in this zoomable map and in the static map below.

Sadly, developing nations and small nations have lagged behind other nations in their uptake of CAP. This gap in uptake inspired the Call to Action on Emergency Alerting, endorsed by the Workshop hosts and co-sponsors plus the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU), among others.

The opening two sessions of the CAP Training Day will cover the basics of CAP, a quick survey of operational CAP implementations, and, hands-on creation of a CAP alert using the CAP Editor freeware.

The opening sessions will also touch on the UN Global Digital Compact, for which the CAP community provided this input: "Timely warning of life-critical emergencies is essential to public communication services." Endorsements of this input can be seen here.

The Training Day opening sessions will also note a new CEN Workshop Agreement on: "Requirements and recommendations for social media early warning messages in crisis and disaster management". The agreement includes this requirement in regard to CAP: "To ensure consistency, clarity and completeness of the messages disseminated simultaneously across different channels, the social media early warning messages and related notifications shall refer to the persistent unique URL of the CAP message."

Next on the Training Day, IFRC will discuss and perhaps preview, its new CAP Editor freeware, currently under development. Then there will be a presentation about country level collaboration and barriers to enabling CAP alerting at that level, from a local perspective in Africa.

The CAP Training Day will have a two-hour session concerning CAP Over Mobile Networks. This will include an introduction to an OASIS committee note about mobile alerting, and discussions on leveraging advancements in geographic targeting of wireless alerts enabled by CAP to effectively warn the public.
Training Day participants will hear about the Esri “CAP Connector” tool that transforms a near-real-time CAP Alert Hub feed into a dynamic GIS Feature Layer. When implemented on a general GIS service like the Esri GeoEvent Server, such a service facilitates analysis and supports functions such as geofencing.

Participants in the CAP Training Day will also get an overview of version 2.0 of the Common Policies and Practices document. It references major CAP Services such as Google Crisis Response, MeteoAlarm, meteoblue, IFRC Alert Hub, WMO Alert Hub, and WMO Severe Weather Information Centre.

The CAP Training is open to participants in the CAP Workshop. All registered participants of the Workshop will also get Webinar call-in instructions for the Training.

The CAP Implementation Workshop participants will hear presentations focusing on CAP implementation in various nations all over the world, starting with Japan, then Egypt and Timor-Leste. CAP in Environment Canada will also be the topic of a presentation. Other national CAP implementations will be presentation topics, as well, including China, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

A representative from Japan Telecommunications Engineering and Consulting Service (JTEC) will present about the CAP projects they are supporting in multiple countries. Then the participants will hear about the emergency messaging needs for women farming communities. There will also be a more general presentation on how to build security awareness for the community. Another presentation will discuss the one-stop alert information services of the National Science and technology Center for Disaster Reduction. This will be followed by a presentation on how the Severe Weather Information Centre Alert Hub relates to the Common Policies and Practices document.

Travelers Information Services Association will present a status update on implementations of the TPEG2 Emergency Alerts and Warnings (EAW) standard. This standard helps enable CAP alerts, such as are aggregated by CAP Alert Hubs, to go directly to in-vehicle navigation systems, such as Garmin, Tom-Tom, and those offered by car manufacturers worldwide.

IFRC will provide an update on the IFRC Alert Hub initiative and other aspects of their CAP engagement.

The Workshop will also hear from the ITU Development Bureau about its CAP-related activities in support of its Emergency Telecommunications roles. This includes ITU guidance on CAP implementation as part of the National Emergency Telecommunications Plan (NETP).

There will be an update on work of the OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee.

WMO will provide updates on its activities relevant to CAP. This should include the UN ‘Early Warnings for All’ Action Plan, which builds on the worldwide CAP infrastructure. Specifically, Pillar 3 of the Plan has actions to “Establish CAP editor and Alert Hub to further enhance multi-hazard CAP based emergency alerting”. ITU and IFRC, as well as WMO have leadership roles in the UN Action Plan.

The UN Action Plan work involving CAP-enabled alerting also dovetails with the new WMO Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS). GMAS is likely to be covered within a presentation by WMO.

CAP Implementation Workshops are technical meetings conducted in English without interpretation. These meetings do not set policy; they are intended solely for information sharing among experts. Accordingly, participants represent themselves and need not be formally associated with organizations. Registration is necessary to receive the required password for the video conference. Participants from any WMO Member agency should note guidance in the Workshop announcement Letter from WMO Secretariat.

Materials from the 15 prior CAP Implementation Workshops are available at these links:

- 2022 Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2021 Geneva, Switzerland (remote only)
- 2020 Geneva, Switzerland (remote only)
- 2019 Mexico City, Mexico
- 2018 Hong Kong, China
- 2017 Rome, Italy
- 2016 Bangkok, Thailand
- 2015 Rome, Italy
- 2014 Negombo, Sri Lanka
- 2013 Geneva, Switzerland
- 2012 Montréal, Canada
- 2011 Geneva, Switzerland
- 2009 Geneva, Switzerland
- 2008 Geneva, Switzerland
- 2006 Geneva, Switzerland

Program Committee of the 2023 CAP Implementation Workshop:

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