2020 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop
29-30 September in Geneva, Switzerland

The 2020 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop will be 29-30 September in Geneva Switzerland. Our host is the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Workshop will be in the ITU Headquarters. On 28 September, an all-day "CAP Train the Trainers" session will be in the same room.

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

Other co-sponsors of this Workshop are: the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), 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. At this 2020 Workshop, 20+ presentations will address a wide range of topics, presented by experts around the world.

It is too early to say for certain what presentations will be on the Programme. However, certain topics seem very likely, based on past experience and recently announced developments.

National systems will feature prominently, by countries such as Albania, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Italy, and the Philippines, among others. India's CAP implementation is at an advanced stage and may be operational. China's National Early Warning Release System, a very large-scale CAP-based multi-hazards warning system, is expanding to cover more hazard types. The United States might present its Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), which is undergoing an evolution to its second generation.

Among international systems, the MeteoAlarm system in Europe is also evolving to a second generation. Meanwhile, a regional CAP-enabled system is planned for the Caribbean. Also, the 40-nation Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) is being CAP-enabled.

ITU Development Bureau (ITU-D) will describe its Emergency Telecommunications roles, including ITU guidance to address CAP when preparing National Emergency Telecommunications Plans.

IFRC will likely present on its "IFRC Alert Hub" initiative, introduced in the 2020 CAP Workshop. IFRC might also update on its collaboration with Google on its 'What Now' service. This service uses the IFRC Public Awareness and Public Education (PAPE) messaging to better inform people on what actions to take during an emergency. IFRC will also likely provide updates on its free Universal App Program, which includes the CAP-based Hazards App for disseminating public alerts.

An Earthquake Early Warning System developed in China will be presented. The MetcapPlus freeware for meteorological forecasting, capable of publishing CAP alerts, will be another topic.

AccuWeather will present its use of CAP. Amazon will talk about its planned CAP notification service, which includes the Alexa voice interface. Google will likely present an update on its CAP-enabled Public Alerts initiative. The newest CAP features are Android Notifications and alerts showing on Google Maps. Google may also describe its advanced system for flood forecasting.

With regard to flood forecasting, the United States Agency for International Development / Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) might present the CAP-enabled Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS). FFGS is designed and developed by the Hydrologic Research Center (HRC). HRC is also the technical lead for the Weather Ready Nations initiative funded by USAID/OFDA in concert with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

A key component of Weather Ready Nations is the use of Impact-based Forecasting (IBF) techniques. IBF is very compatible with CAP-enabled alerting and has been a trending topic among weather agencies in various nations. IBF has also been actively promoted by WMO.

WMO is likely to present on integrating CAP in projects funded through the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS). The objective of CREWS is to significantly increase access to early warning systems and risk information in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
WMO is also likely to present on incorporation of CAP into WMO Technical Regulations. These Regulations apply to all WMO Member states as signatories to the WMO treaty. The addition of CAP would be helpful to countries that need an external incentive to justify their CAP investments.

WMO's Global Multi-hazard Alerting System (GMAS) will be a topic as well. A major component of GMAS is the WMO Alert Hub that aggregates CAP alerts issued by WMO Members. This Alert Hub uses the Filtered Alert Hub (FAH) freeware, also the basis of the Severe Weather Information Center (SWIC 2.0) operated by WMO's Hong Kong Observatory (HKO). The FAH design is expected to be used as well in: GMAS-Asia, a South America Alert Hub planned by Brazil, and the IFRC Alert Hub.

The FAH initiative is described at [http://alert-hub.org](http://alert-hub.org). The FAH Team includes AccuWeather, Amazon Web Services, Brazil/INMET, Facebook, Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS), HKO, IBM / The Weather Company, Knowledge Integration Ltd, the Open Commons Consortium MeteoAlarm, OASIS EM TC, and USAID/OFDA.

FAH also hosts the free CAP Editor tool for creating and publishing CAP alerts launched in January 2019. That tool, available at [https://cap.alert-hub.org/](https://cap.alert-hub.org/), is now initialized for use by hundreds of the world's alerting authorities. Anyone can use this free tool as a "Guest", but actual publishing of alerts requires that an authorized users first sets his/her password.

The CAP Editor tool will be used in a hands-on exercise as part of a lesson in the CAP Train the Trainers sessions on 28 September. Those sessions will also cover: the basics of CAP and how it serves interoperability; getting and displaying CAP alerts from alerting authorities and aggregators; making and validating CAP; and, disseminating CAP via traditional methods, the Internet, and new media. Also included is a survey of some CAP implementations operating or now being developed (see the CAP Implementation by Country status report).

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 strongly encouraged for administrative and planning purposes. Participants from any WMO Member agency should follow guidance in the announcement Letter from WMO Secretariat once it becomes available.

The Workshop and the training session will be in the [ITU Headquarters](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/CDR/itu_d_cdr_mgcs.cfm), Rue de Varembé 2, 1202 Genève, Switzerland (red circle in map).

---

Material from previous CAP Workshops is available at these links:

- 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 2020 CAP Implementation Workshop:

| IAEM      | Beth Armstrong |
| IFRC      | Jessica Ports Robbins |
| ITU       | Maritza Delgado |
| OASIS     | Elysa Jones |
| WMO       | Miriam Andrioli |

Contact the Program Committee by e-mail to Eliot.J.Christian@gmail.com