

Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop

23-24 August 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand

The 2016 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop will be 23-24 August, in Bangkok, Thailand. CAP Workshops focus on emergency alerting as enabled by the CAP standard, ITU-T Recommendation X.1303. At the Workshops, CAP implementers and associated organizations typically discuss common issues and how best to expand adoption of CAP.



Persons interested in emergency alerting are welcome: managers, technical staff, media, etc., including commercial organizations, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). There is no charge to participate in the Workshop.

The hosts of the 2016 CAP Implementation Workshop are the [Asian Institute of Technology](#) and the [Sahana Software Foundation](#).



There are likely to be about 30 presentations at the Workshop, on a wide range of topics and presented by experts from every part of the world.

Sahana Software Foundation will present on how it teamed with the AIT Geoinformatics Centre under a project funded by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The objective is that countries in the Asia and the Pacific region get [software](#) and procedures to more effectively manage their [Situational Awareness](#). Situational Awareness helps disaster managers to be aware of and map every significant emergency incident or risk in the country, and to share such information across multiple agencies with disparate information systems. Experts from the Maldives, Myanmar, and the Philippines will present at the Workshop on using this approach.

A presentation from [ThunderMaps](#) will also focus on CAP in the context of geographic information systems, especially getting to data at the city level.

Unattended messaging of CAP alerts over broadcast radio and TV, streaming, and digital signage will be presented by [OpenBroadcaster](#), an open source provider used extensively throughout Canada.



There will be presentations concerning CAP "alert hubs". An alert hub simplifies access to copies of alerts by aggregating alerts from many different

feeds into one URL. Such an alert hub, when operated on a cloud infrastructure, offers high levels of responsiveness, availability, reliability, authenticity, and security. To maximize alerting speed, an alert hub typically also allows alerts to be pushed immediately to the hub from alert sources, and from the hub to subscribers.

An alert hub under development will be presented to the Workshop. This free facility on the Internet will be useful to access copies of alerts filtered by location and/or any other content of the aggregated CAP alerts. For example, one can filter just those feeds that are in the [Register of Alerting Authorities](#) maintained by WMO, to serve as an "Official Alerts Hub". Or, one can filter just highest priority alerts for "broadcast intrusive" applications such as the [IFRC Hazards App](#) now being implemented in countries worldwide.

WMO will make a presentation on its role in enabling its Members to adopt the CAP standard and explain how it is focusing on its Public-Private Partnership approach to help Members engage with private companies that are CAP players. It will also describe how it is supporting training in CAP through its CAP Jump-Start initiative, as well its efforts to develop a WMO Alert Hub.

ITU will present on outcomes of the [2016 Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications](#).

The CAP Workshop will also have presentations on CAP implementations now underway or newly launched, as well as new developments on some of the existing CAP implementations (see report: [CAP Implementation by Country](#)).



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Across the world, there is a growing appreciation of the need to improve alerting. For instance, the Paris Agreement on climate change, signed by 195 nations in Paris on 12 December 2015, pledges financial support to developing countries to help them confront the threats from climate change, and it cites improved early warning systems specifically. This has led already to the [Climate Risk Early Warning System](#) initiative.

In keeping with this trend, the emerging International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (IN-MHEWS) could become a useful venue to better coordinate CAP-enabled alerting across various international agencies that support CAP and are involved with operational

early warning systems, e.g., IFRC, ITU, UNDP, UNESCO-IOC, WHO, and WMO.

Most implementors of CAP are keenly aware that CAP-enabled alerting has become essential to reach everyone who needs to be alerted in every kind of emergency. This is especially the case as alerting by online media and cell phones increasingly eclipses traditional mass media such as radio and television. Yet, it seems that marginal amounts of funding are being invested in CAP-enabled alerting compared to the huge amounts of funding that continue to be poured into alerting over traditional media. Perhaps Workshop participants can discuss whether this disparity will correct itself naturally in time, and what if anything would help the correction to happen sooner.

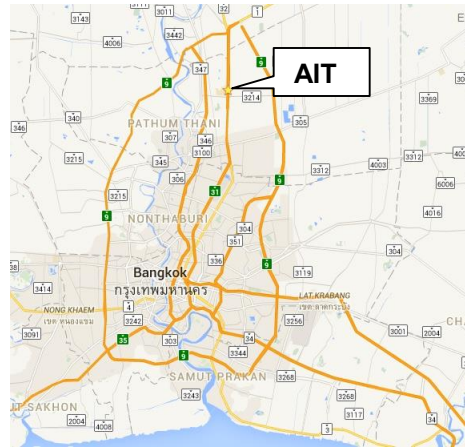
Participants will hear from the [OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee \(EM TC\)](#) about efforts to seek consensus on how to code those highest priority CAP alerts that should be sent immediately to all people in an affected area. This priority level of public alerting is known in the U.S. as an "imminent threat", in Canada as "broadcast immediate", and in China as a "red alert". Here it is especially important to converge on a common scheme for coding the type of event (e.g, tornado, tsunami, typhoon).

OASIS will present at the Workshop the latest thinking on future enhancements to the CAP standard itself. The OASIS presentation will include an update on the full family of Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) Standards. Immediately after the CAP Workshop, the EM TC will have a meeting, with its usual call-in arrangements.

The CAP 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. However, registration is strongly encouraged for administrative and planning purposes. Also, participants nominated by WMO Members are instructed to follow the procedure described in the official WMO invitation.



The 2016 CAP Implementation Workshop will be on the AIT campus in Rangsit, just north of metropolitan Bangkok, Thailand (see map below).



Further information will be posted, as it becomes available, to the [2016 CAP Implementation Workshop website](#). Materials from previous CAP Workshops (co-sponsored variously by IFRC, ITU, OASIS, and WMO) can be found at these links:

- [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](#)

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