

# 2019 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop

17 - 18 October 2019 in Mexico City, Mexico

The 2019 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop will be 17- 18 October in Mexico City at the Justice Superior Court of Mexico City. The host of this Workshop is the [Secretariat of Integral Risk Management and Civil Protection](#). In the same venue, a CAP "Train the Trainers" session will be all day on 16 October.



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.

The Workshop this year is co-sponsored by the [International Association of Emergency Managers \(IAEM\)](#), the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies \(IFRC\)](#), the [International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\)](#), the [OASIS](#) standards organization and the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#). These 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.

There will be about 20 presentations at the Workshop, on a wide range of topics and presented by experts from around the world. At this point few of the topics are confirmed but the following are typical of topics at CAP Workshops.

IFRC may provide updates on its free [Universal App Program](#). This includes not only the CAP-enabled Hazards App but apps for finding shelters, giving first aid, and making emergency preparedness kits. IFRC is also likely to discuss its partnership with Google that resulted in the 'What Now' service. This service leverages the [IFRC Public Awareness and Public Education \(PAPE\) messaging](#) which provides trusted and field-tested messaging to better inform people on what actions to take. Such emergency instruction messages are very complementary to CAP alerts.

ITU Development Bureau (ITU-D) is likely to describe its various roles in Emergency Telecommunications, including how CAP is now addressed in the ITU guidance on preparing National Emergency Telecommunications Plans. ITU-D is also supporting the "Train the Trainers" session on the day preceding this Workshop.

Both ITU and IFRC are key participants in the UN-led [Emergency Telecommunications Cluster \(ETC\)](#), a global network of organizations that work together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies. ETC partners could well leverage CAP-enabled alerting, especially where affected countries are using CAP.

Participants will hear from the [OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee \(EM TC\)](#) about efforts to seek consensus on common CAP "event" terms and criteria to distinguish those highest priority CAP alerts that should be sent immediately to all people in an affected area. During the CAP Workshop, the OASIS EM TC will meet with its usual call-in arrangements.

WMO will likely present on the proposed incorporation of CAP into the WMO Technical Regulations. These "Tech Regs" comprise the technical requirements applicable to all WMO Member states as signatories to the WMO treaty. This addition would be helpful to developing countries that need a specific incentive to justify their CAP investment. WMO's proposed Global Multi-hazard Alerting System (GMAS) may be a presentation topic as well. A major component of GMAS will be an Alert Hub that aggregates CAP alerts published by WMO Members. A related initiative is the new [Severe Weather Information Center \(SWIC 2.0\)](#) website. WMO may also present its new online CAP certification program, with self-directed training modules using Moodle. Also, WMO may address how CAP is a key component in realizing the movement toward "Impact-based Forecasting" which has been a trending topic among weather agencies.

There will be an update on the free and open source "Filtered Alert Hub" (see <http://alert-hub.org>). The current version of this Alert Hub uses Rabbit MQ, which improves performance and opens up the potential to meld "CAP on the Web" with "CAP on the Internet of Things" (IoT). This Alert Hub also offers a free, cloud-based facility for creating and publishing CAP alerts, at <https://cap.alert-hub.org/>. The initiative building this Alert Hub is part of the NOAA Big Data Project. Initiative partners include AccuWeather, Amazon Web Services, Facebook, MeteoAlarm, and OASIS, among others.

In the case of sudden-onset events, many countries opt for Cell Broadcast in order to immediately reach all cell phones in the alerting area. In addition to speed of delivery, it is hugely

important that cell broadcast reaches all phones regardless of whether the phone is subscribed to any particular cellular service. This helps avoid anyone in the alerting area being left out.

Google still maintains a separate Alert Hub as part of its Google Public Alerts program. Google Crisis Response also leverages CAP-enabled alerting. Both Facebook and Amazon Web Services have similar programs for crisis response support, and some are affiliated with the UN-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster mentioned above.

In addition to various international initiatives related to CAP, a range of national systems will be featured. Brazil may present on its CAP system, which is expected to include an Alert Hub for South America. Canada's CAP implementation experience will likely be a presentation topic. China's National Early Warning Release System (NEWRS) is a very large-scale CAP-based multi-hazards warning system that will likely be presented at this Workshop.

India's Centre for Development of Telematics could present its CAP implementation, which is now at an advanced stage of development. There may be a presentation about the United States Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), which aggregates over 1,300 CAP alert feeds nationwide.

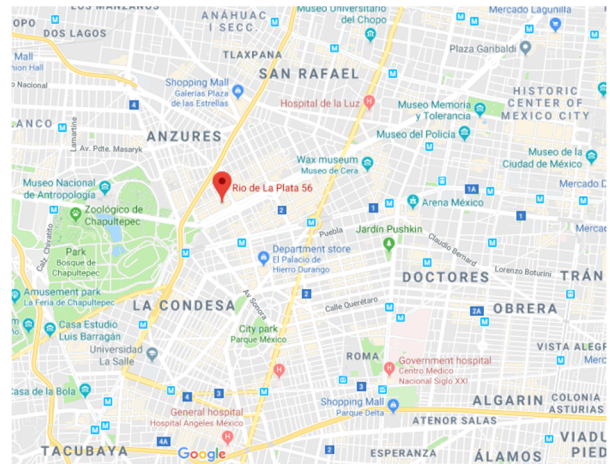
Mexico will present aspects of its national CAP-enabled alerting systems. This includes the use of CAP in its Earthquake Early Warning system. In such a system, warnings triggered on detection of an earthquake are sent electronically to warn people before destructive ground motion arrives.

The CAP "Train the Trainers" sessions on 16 October will 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. A survey of other CAP implementations now underway or newly launched, as well as new developments in some of the existing CAP implementations will be included (see status report: [CAP Implementation by Country](#)).

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 look for an announcement Letter from WMO Secretariat.

The Workshop and the training session will be held in the Justice Superior Court of Mexico City at Rio de La Plata 56, Cuauhtémoc, 06500 Ciudad de México (map shown below).



Further information will be posted to the [2019 CAP Implementation Workshop website](#). Material from previous CAP Workshops is at these links:

- [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](#)

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