



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Our ref.: OBS/WDS/WIS/CAP-WS-2011

GENEVA, 2 February 2011

Subject: Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop, Geneva, Switzerland, 6-7 April 2011

Action required: Nominating technical staff to participate in the subject Workshop

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, society continues to face severe natural hazards and their consequences. Alerting authorities and emergency responders face great challenges in their mission to protect the lives, livelihoods and properties of the public they serve, on scales ranging from local to national and international. Therefore, it is very important that National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) implement and actively promote the most effective and efficient approaches to issuing alerts, especially as NMHSs often have a key leadership role in generating alerts.

In this regard, I would like to invite you to consider nominating technical staff to participate in the next Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop, which will be held at the WMO Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, from 6 to 7 April 2011. CAP, designated as International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Recommendation X.1303, is recognized as the key standard toward the goal of all-hazards, all-media public alerting. The use of CAP is known to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the alerting systems of meteorological and hydrological services. Perhaps more significantly, the use of CAP can help ensure that alerts of WMO Members are easily integrated with other emergency systems and public media. A video concerning CAP and the WMO Register of Alerting Authorities is currently available and can be located at the following weblink: <ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Documents/MediaPublic/Multimedia/cap.wmv>.

The implementation of CAP by all WMO Members is an important goal for WMO. The sixty-first session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-LXI, Geneva, June 2009) requested the WMO Secretariat, and invited all Members and regional associations, to work toward implementing CAP such that it benefits all user communities. This follows a request by sixtieth session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-LX, Geneva, June 2008) that the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) follow up on CAP implementation as a matter of urgency. Such actions further support the request by the Fifteenth WMO Congress (Cg-XV, Geneva, May 2007) that the Secretary-General improve the exchange of high priority data and products in support of a virtual all-hazards network.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6551)
Presidents of technical commissions
Director ECMWF
Director-General of EUMETSAT

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
Presidents of regional associations) (for information)

In promoting CAP implementations worldwide, WMO works with ITU which resolved, in 2006, "to promote implementation by appropriate alerting authorities of the international content standard for all-media public warning". ITU has been a co-sponsor of the two previous CAP Implementation Workshops at WMO, in 2008 and 2009. As in prior years, the 2011 Workshop will be hosted jointly within WMO by the Observing and Information Systems Department and the Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department.

Details and documentation regarding the CAP Implementation Workshop in 2011 will be posted on the WMO Website: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ISS/Meetings/WIS-CAP_Geneva2011/DocPlan.html. Prospective participants should contact the WMO Information System Senior Scientific Officer, Mr Eliot Christian via e-mail at: EChristian@wmo.int. It should be noted that as funding for this event is extremely limited, financial assistance will not be available to support the attendance of experts on this occasion.

As a technical meeting among experts, I expect that this CAP Implementation Workshop will be an important forum to discuss how best to achieve technical objectives. The Workshop will undoubtedly consider the need for CAP in the context of broader issues, such as how climate change is increasing the need for societies to implement better alerting.

I look forward to your positive and favorable response, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in promoting the Programmes and activities of WMO.

Yours faithfully,



(J. Lengoasa)
for the Secretary-General