



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Our ref.: WDS/PWS/EAP/WKSHP

GENEVA, 20 February 2012

Subject: Emergency Alerting Policy Workshop, Montreal, Canada, 1-2 May 2012

Action required: To nominate policy and managerial staff to participate in the Workshop

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, severe natural hazards and their consequences impact almost all countries in the world. 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 to 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.

I am pleased to inform you that, at the kind invitation of the Government of Canada, Environment Canada and Public Safety Canada, in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS), is co-organizing the forthcoming "Emergency Alerting Policy Workshop", which will be held in Montreal, Canada, from 1 to 2 May 2012. This Workshop will focus on the implementation of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). Given the importance of this event, I would be grateful if you would consider nominating policy and managerial staff from your Service to participate at this event. Demonstrations of several public alerting systems are now being planned for workshop participants for the morning after the workshop (3 May 2012). These involve multi-agency systems and global companies providing demonstrations of their work and demonstration details will be added to the site as details are confirmed. There will be an early morning session ending by 10.30 hours local time, for those planning to travel later in the day.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6621)
Presidents of technical commissions
Director ECMWF
Director-General of EUMETSAT

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

CAP is recognized as the key standard toward the goal of all-hazards, all-media public alerting. The *Manual on WMO Information System (WIS)* (WMO-No. 1060), states in paragraph 2.7.2 that "WIS shall support the WMO virtual all-hazards network ensuring fast, secure and reliable exchange of alert and warning information, including ITU Recommendation X.1303 (CAP)." The use of CAP is known to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the alerting system 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.

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 followed a request by the 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 World Meteorological 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.

In promoting CAP implementation worldwide, WMO works with the ITU which resolved in 2006, "to promote implementation by appropriate alerting authorities of the international content standard for all-media public warning.

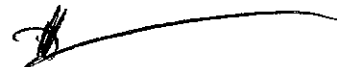
Details and documentation concerning the 2012 Workshop can be viewed on the WMO Public Weather Services Website at:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/PlannedEvents_en.htm

As Environment Canada is responsible for all administrative matters regarding this event, prospective experts should contact the lead Local Organizing Committee (LOC) member Mr Norm Paulsen (Project Architect for CAP with Environment Canada) by e-mail at: norm.paulsen@ec.gc.ca. The WMO Secretariat contact with regard to this Workshop is Mr Samuel Muchemi, Scientific Officer, Public Weather Services Programme, who may be reached by e-mail at: SMuchemi@wmo.int. It should be noted that no financial assistance from WMO will be available to support the attendance of your expert(s) on this occasion.

I look forward to your positive and favourable response, and 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