



Our ref.: WDS/PWS/WMO-RAA/CAP-JSO

GENEVA, 14 August 2012

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Assistance with the "Register of WMO Members Alerting Authorities" and Jump-Start Offer for Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation

Actions required: (1) Members are requested to update their entries in the "Register of WMO Members Alerting Authorities"; and,
(2) To consider accepting free expert assistance offer for the implementation of the CAP standard.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you may be aware, in January 2010, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) launched the "Register of WMO Members Alerting Authorities" with the main aim of providing alerting authorities, emergency managers, the media, and other intermediaries an authoritative register of organizations authorized to issue alerts, which they could reference routinely during their operations. This is particularly useful for alerting intermediaries such as Google and other web-based alert aggregators and the media, which play an increasing role in public alert dissemination, but do not necessarily have routine contact with local alerting authorities. The Register was launched by the WMO Public Weather Services (PWS) Programme as an important component toward the "Single Official Voice" for dissemination of warnings, a priority identified by WMO Members. This Register can be accessed at the following web-link: <http://www.wmo.int/alertingorg>.

Some WMO Members have taken the initial step of designating an editor for their entries in the Register, but to date, many Members have yet to update the Register. Over the coming months Mr Eliot Christian, who is an expert on Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) will be working with the PWS Programme as an Advisor on CAP. Mr Christian will be contacting WMO Members by e-mail and/or by telephone on behalf of the PWS Programme to offer direct assistance in updating the Register entries. I would like to kindly request you to accord Mr Christian the necessary cooperation to enable him assist your Service accordingly.

A separate but related matter concerns assistance for WMO Members in implementing the CAP standard. CAP is an international standard format for emergency alerting and public warning. It is designed for "all-hazards", related to weather events, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, public health, power outages, and many other emergencies. CAP is also designed for "all-media", including communications media ranging from sirens to cell phones, fax, radio, television, and other various digital communication networks based on Internet. The CAP format enables simultaneous communication of alerts for any kind of emergency over many different alerting systems, thus increasing effectiveness while simplifying the alerting task.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6659)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
Presidents of Regional Associations) (for information)
Presidents of Technical Commissions)

We wish to inform you that WMO is collaborating with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in promoting CAP as the foundation standard for public alerting in societies worldwide. The World Meteorological Congress in 2007 requested the Secretary-General to improve the exchange of high priority data and products in support of a virtual all hazards network. In 2008 and 2009, the WMO Executive Council requested the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) to follow up on the implementation as a matter of urgency and requested the Secretariat, and invited all Members and Regional Associations, to spare no efforts in ensuring that the implementation of CAP benefits all user communities.

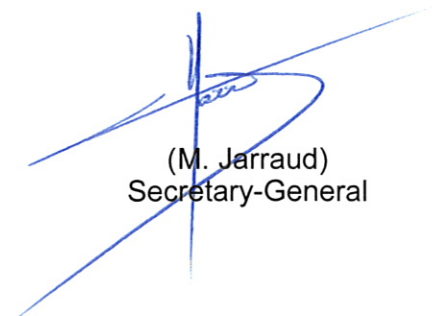
Through the CAP Jump-Start Offer, WMO Members can now request that CAP experts provide free advice and assistance at strategic, operational, and/or technical levels. The offer also includes meeting on-site with the Member's own staff and technology providers. The typical objectives would be to help enable an alerting authority to: originate alerts in CAP format for any kind of hazard; to disseminate alerts in CAP format to the public via multiple delivery means; and share alert information in CAP format with other users. The CAP experts are volunteers from other organizations which have implemented CAP. The consulting service of the CAP experts is not charged to the host country and the only cost to the WMO Member is the travel expenses for the expert(s). In the case of developing or Least Developed Countries (LDCs), WMO may consider, upon request, and on a case-by-case basis, to meet travel expenses for the CAP expert(s). More details on the CAP Jump-Start Offer are available on the attached brochure. We are pleased to inform you that preparation to have this brochure translated into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish are currently underway, and these language versions will be available in due course. In the interim, the English version of this document can be accessed at the following weblink:

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

If you wish to discuss having a CAP expert visit your Service to assist with the implementation of CAP, you are kindly requested to contact Ms Haleh Kootval, Chief, Public Weather Services Programme by e-mail (HKootval@wmo.int).

Through these assistance offers, the WMO Secretariat looks forward to supporting Members enhance their programmes that provide official warnings and information to appropriate authorities and emergency responders, ultimately aiding them in their mission to protect the lives, livelihoods and property of the public they serve.

Yours faithfully,



(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General

5. Implement a CAP-based alert source;

6. Publish a CAP alert news feed;

7. Register an Alerting Authority;

8. Choose an internet host for sources and feeds;

9. Consider other interfaces for CAP dissemination;
and,

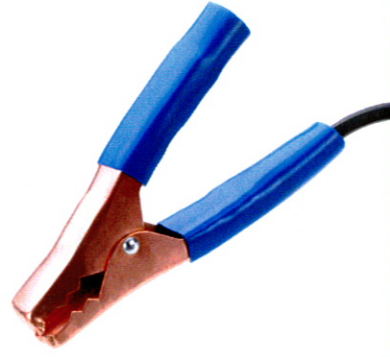
10. Develop Public Outreach and Education.

HOW TO SCHEDULE A VISIT

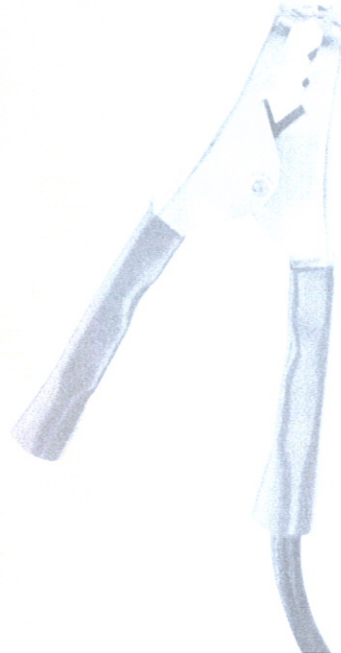
If you would like to have one or more of the CAP experts visit you to help with the implementation of CAP, please contact Ms Haleh Kootval, Chief, Public Weather Services Programme by e-mail at: (HKootval@wmo.int).

In general, requests will be considered on a first in basis. For developing and least developed countries, WMO and ITU-D may consider funding the experts' travel costs, through their usual procedures.

**COMMON ALERTING PROTOCOL (CAP)
JUMP-START OFFER
FREE CONSULTING VISITS OF CAP EXPERTS**



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THE OFFER

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), through the Public Weather Services (PWS) Programme, is offering expert assistance to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) on how to implement the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Standard. The CAP experts provide direct support at the strategic, operational, or technical levels. They also meet with the NMHSs staff, and technology providers as well as other official alerting authorities identified by the host Member to offer hands-on support. There is no charge paid for the CAP experts' time; only their travel expenses are to be provided by the host Member, or by WMO, where such arrangements are made.

WHAT IS THE CAP STANDARD?

CAP is an international standard format for emergency alerting and public warning. It is designed for "all-hazards", related to weather events, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, public health, power outages,

and many other emergencies. CAP is also designed for "all-media", including communications media ranging from sirens to cell phones, faxes, radio, television, and various digital communication networks based on the Internet. The CAP format enables simultaneous communication of alerts for any kind of emergency over many different alerting systems, thus increasing effectiveness while simplifying the alerting task.

WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL ALERTING AUTHORITY?

An official alerting authority could be an NMHS or any other nationally authorized organization. WMO Members should also list these authorities in the "Register of Alerting Authorities" established by WMO and ITU. Permanent Representatives (PRs) of Member countries with WMO designate an editor to maintain their register entries, as described at the following weblink: <http://www.wmo.int/alertingorg>.

HOW WILL CAP BENEFIT AN ALERTING AUTHORITY?

Because CAP can replace single-purpose interfaces between alert sources and dissemination media, CAP serves as a "universal adaptor" for alert messages. With CAP, an alert sender can activate multiple warning systems with a single input and emergency managers can compile diverse alert sources for situational awareness.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CAP JUMPSTART

An alerting authority will receive expert advice and assistance on implementing CAP in its particular situation, and so become part of the international movement toward standards-based, all-hazards, all-media alerting. An alerting authority should be able to: 1.) originate alerts in CAP format for any kind of hazard;

2.) disseminate alerts in CAP format to the public via multiple delivery means; and, 3.) share alert information in CAP format with others.

Specific objectives of the CAP Jump-Start visit will be agreed among the host and the invited experts. These objectives may include:

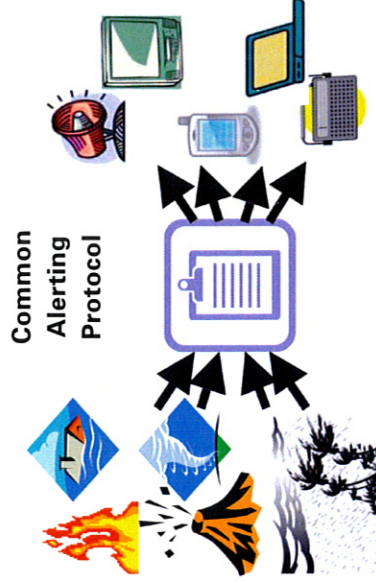
- Understanding of the CAP standard and how it serves interoperability goals;
- Getting and displaying CAP alerts already offered by other alerting authorities and aggregators;
- Making and validating new CAP alerts;
- Disseminating CAP alerts via traditional methods, the Internet, and new media; and,
- Considering policy issues as alerting becomes increasingly global, all-media, and all-hazard.

Implementation of CAP by official alerting authorities is promoted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), among many other international organizations and agencies.

TYPICAL ACTIONS

Here are ten typical actions for an alerting authority on the way to implementing CAP:

1. Learn some basics about CAP;
2. Use existing CAP sources;
3. Consider tools to convert inputs into CAP;
4. Acquire CAP-enabled mapping tools;



CAP serves as a "universal adaptor" for alert messages