# Joint ITU-T and OASIS Workshop and Demonstration of Advances in ICT Standards for Public Warning

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to also welcome you to the [Joint Workshop and Demonstration of Advances in ICT Standards for Public Warning](#).

Thank you also, my dear friend Houlin, for your warm welcome and visionary comments. We are indeed honored to have your support for this event – not only in hosting us in your fine facilities, but also with the inception and planning of this joint event between ITU and OASIS.

As we look at the Workshop Program, we are doubly honored to have these speakers who have given of their valuable time to come here to Geneva. This is indeed a highly-regarded array of experts and executives that all of us will have the opportunity to hear and interact with over the next two days. And that is why we have labeled this a workshop; we do expect an atmosphere of dialog and discussion. We are all here to talk and learn. We are here to learn from each other.

For me, I am here to **learn** more about the broad range of issues related to this topic of ICT Standards for Public Warning. I am here to **learn** what is being done by our experts within OASIS committees at a more detailed level, and also within other organizations. I am here to **learn** what else **needs** to be done. I am here to work – to work **with** you. What you say - all of you - will help to guide decisions on what else needs to be done. So, I invite you to participate in an atmosphere of collegial working partners. Let's **learn** from each other. Let's discuss and debate openly those issues that can and need to find resolution. Let's

find ways to plan and take actions to continue the advances in ICT Standards for Public Warning and related areas of interest.

So, what is the framework for learning that has been put before you? First, this morning we begin with CURRENT TRENDS AND ISSUES IN PUBLIC WARNING.  These are topics that will provide a high-level framework of what has been accomplished in the Public Warning domain. These perspectives are from the inter-governmental view, the government agency view, and the private sector view.

We're then going to give you a long lunch break to allow you plenty of time to interact with the speakers, to begin viewing the demonstrations (which are set up in the lobby for today and tomorrow), and to eat lunch on your own pleasure.

After the lunch break, we will have presentations and discussions on the latest status of ICT STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC WARNINGS and then discuss examples from organizations that are IMPLEMENTING ICT STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC WARNINGS.  This is where we get into some exciting information with examples of the latest innovations of actual working systems that are being deployed today.

We'll then provide you with more opportunity to interact with speakers and meet with the exhibitors in the lobby this evening, where we will have a reception sponsored by Verisign.  We are extremely grateful for Verisign's strong support of this event which is making this casual interaction time possible.  I also want to thank the exhibitors for their support of this event, not only by the extra effort to transport their equipment here to be able to provide visible examples but also for their kind financial support which makes possible the refreshments that are being provided to you during our breaks in the Lobby exhibit area.  We thank:

- Warning Systems
- Hormann Warning Systems

- [MyStateUSA.com](MyStateUSA.com)
- [Worldspace](Worldspace)

Tomorrow morning we will continue with some exciting expert sessions including the beginning one focused on EXPERIENCES WITH PUBLIC WARNINGS. After our morning session tomorrow, we are going to have some open time to allow all of us to get together in groups to discuss particular topics of special interest. We call these "birds of a feather" break-out sessions. So, you will be able to meet other "birds" who have similar "feathers" (areas of interest), and engage in more in-depth dialogs.

You will then have ample time to meet with the exhibitors and take your lunch as you need. We will re-convene after lunch with even more experts to guide discussion on the topic of FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC WARNINGS. Our last session on Friday will focus on some action planning as we engage the closing panel titled WHAT'S NEXT? ADVANCING ICT STANDARDISATION FOR PUBLIC WARNINGS. You are going to want to be here for that, because this is where the final payoff for the workshop comes.

Let me leave you with some final thoughts on why I believe this workshop has such keen importance for you. As Houlin mentioned, this workshop was organized in response to a request from participants in an audience at the [WSIS Phase 2 conference](WSIS Phase 2 conference), who, after hearing separate presentations by Eliot Christian from the [OASIS Emergency Management TC](OASIS Emergency Management TC) and Paola Rosa from [ITU-T](ITU-T), asked an excellent question. The audience member asked: "Why can't your two organizations come together to provide a more comprehensive set of information on ICT Standards for Public Warning?" That single question prompted further dialog which resulted in a decision by OASIS and ITU to provide this workshop.

So, not only did OASIS and ITU come together, but as you see from your program, many other organizations with interests in this area, have joined with us

to bring our collective knowledge to work on some very tough problems that MUST be addressed in a global manner.

This is the hallmark of the types of programs that accurately fit the OASIS mission: which is to drive the development, convergence and adoption of e-Business standards.  So, not only does OASIS engage with specific domains of interest to drive development and adoption of needed ICT standards, but we also recognize the absolute imperative to enable cross-sector use and integration of standards for the sharing or exchange of structured information using Information and Communication Technologies.  At OASIS, with over 60 committees and over 5,000 participants, this is a unique challenge.

So, as you look around and see people who come from different disciplines, engage in dialog with them.  You may find people who have experience in solving information exchange issues in other domains that could bring innovative thinking to solving critical problems facing the public warning and emergency management sectors.  At OASIS we have also begun to see areas of intersection with our emergency management work: with security standards (such as identity authentication of the sender of Public Warnings), with building automation standards (building fire alarms and alerts), with medical and healthcare facilities (for emergency management interface to hospital availability), with environment conservation standards (such as coordination of evacuation of endangered species impacted by a local natural disaster); and others.

So, let's use this workshop to focus on the Public Warning sector opportunities, but also to **learn** about related work that will bring even greater value to the results we achieve here this week.

As we are gathered her in Geneva, in the shadows of the Alps, I am reminded of a story about the Carthaginian general, Hannibal (247 – 182 BCE),

who took his troops and elephants [across the Alps](#) (with 50,000 infantry, 9,000 cavalry and 37 elephants).

He was reported to have said in response to those who asked him how he intended to achieve the feat of crossing the Alps with his large army:

**"We will find a way, or we will make a way."**

So, let us use this workshop to learn from each other, to find a way forward, and if necessary, to make a way forward.

Now, let's get started!