ITUWebinars

Information session & virtual launch of ITU online training modules on Emergency Telecommunications

20 January 2021
14:30-16:00

Join us online!
www.itu.int/go/Online-Modules-Emergency-Telecommunications

Event Overview

This online event launched ITU Bureau of Telecommunication Development's (BDT) three new online training courses on the topic of emergency telecommunications. These e-learning courses are built on three topics: development of National Emergency Telecommunication Plans (NETPs), based on the ITU Guidelines for NETPs, development of Table-Top Simulation Exercises, based on the Table Top Simulation Guide, and the Tampere Convention. These trainings have been designed to allow ITU, our partners, and stakeholders to build capacity and increase knowledge on the topic of emergency telecommunications - and to continue to build disaster resilience, even in times of the current pandemic. The courses are self-paced, and will be continuously available from 1 February until 20 December 2021.

The 20 January 2021 launch event marked these courses as open for registration on the ITU Academy platform. The session's agenda was started with opening remarks from Mr. Stephen Bereaux, Deputy Director, of ITU/BDT, followed by interventions from ITU/BDT/EET, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, and the ITU Academy. These interventions provided the context and intent that drove the development of these courses, along with details on how to access the training in the ITU Academy platform. A second set of three interventions from ITU subject matter experts provided more detail on the courses' content, to allow the audience members to consider who they will target as the ideal students for these courses.

Both this online session and an increased focus on e-learning are examples of ITU/BDT's goals to build back better from the COVID pandemic, as we seek to increase availability of high quality products and services while reducing our impact on the environment. We have found that our disaster planning initiatives intersect with a world-wide drive to increase ICT capacity as populations shift their economic, educational, health, and social activity from in-person to online. E-learning allows us to widen the availability of training on emergency telecoms, which is particularly important as disasters continue to have severe impacts on vulnerable communities, which now must respond while planning around COVID-19 factors, creating cascading events that complicate all aspects of disaster risk management including planning, mitigation, response, and recovery.

The launch event was well received by more than 160 participants from all over the world, who engaged, asked questions, and provided feedback on the online platform's chat function throughout the session. Audience surveys were positive, with over 90% of the responses stating that participants will use these trainings in their organizations, and 95% indicating that they know of other administrations in their countries that will also benefit from these trainings. Additionally, poll results indicated that many in the audience have knowledge gaps in one or more of the courses' topics, indicating that the course material is fit for purpose, providing widely available education on emergency telecommunications despite limited options for travel and in-person training.
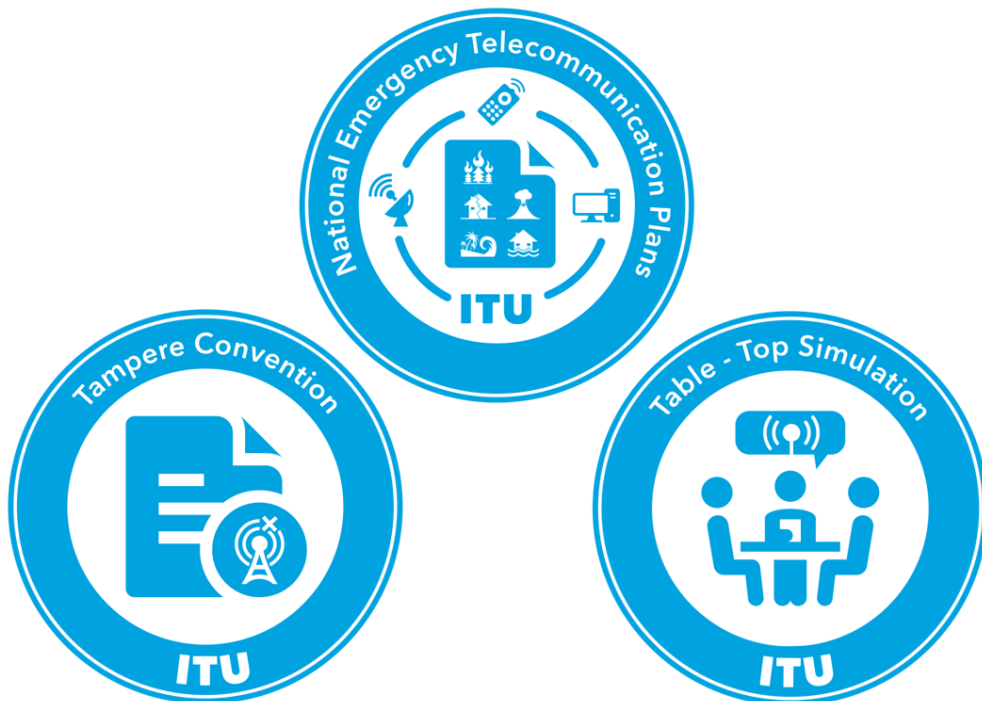
Community Feedback

"I see so much scope of work to be undertaken regarding Emergency Telecom Plans. Thank you for this great session. Very informative. Thank you Emergency Team!"

"I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate with you for the first time and this is to develop knowledge, especially in the field of emergency telecommunications."

Course Information for ITU's Three New E-Learning Modules on Emergency Telecoms:

➢ **The Tampere Convention and Telecommunications Deployments when Disasters Strike:**
This course is to raise awareness on the importance of the Tampere Convention, including how to undertake the ratification process as well as the implementation at the national level. http://www.itu.int/go/module-Tampere-Convention

➢ **An Introduction to Developing National Emergency Telecommunication Plans:** The course is aimed at providing information on how to develop NETPs through a multi-stakeholder approach including all phases of disaster management. http://www.itu.int/go/module-NETPs

➢ **Practical Disaster Response: How to Develop Table Top Simulation Exercises (TTX):** This course provides guidance for developing TTXs that will help to test if NETPs and other national strategies for disaster preparedness and response are ready to be used when disasters strike. http://www.itu.int/go/module-TTX

Successful completion of the courses earns students the badges below:

20 January 2021 Launch Event Information:

➢ Welcome remarks - Stephen Bereaux, Deputy Director, ITU/BDT

Interventions providing context and the purpose behind these courses
➢ ITU - Vanessa Gray, Head of ITU/BDT/EET Division
➢ Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) - Priyajeet Arora, ETC Training Coordinator
➢ ITU Academy - Elena Stankovska-Castilla, Associate Capacity Development Officer, ITU

Information session on the training modules
➢ Tampere Convention - Maritza Delgado – Program Officer, ITU/BDT/EET
➢ NETP - Juan Roldan - NETP Subject Matter Expert
➢ Tabletop Exercises - Haidar Baqir - Coordinator, ITU/BDT/EET

Information on this event, including speaker biographies, presentations, and a full webcast archive can be found on the event's website at https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Information-session-and-virtual-launch-online-training-modules.aspx