

VHF-DSC RADIO TRAINING WORKSHOP

under the ITU/CTU/TATT Smart Seas Toolkit for Disaster Resilience (“Smart Seas”) Project

LOGISTICAL INFO | 4 - 6 FEB 2025 | TATT, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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Contact Information

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Overview

The *Setting Priorities Workshop* is an activity under the Smart Seas Toolkit for Disaster Resilience (“Smart Seas”) Project, which sets out to co-develop a tiered list of priorities by an international, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder community to reduce risks associated with inadequate access to communications at sea for small-scale fishers (SSF). This two-day hybrid workshop will serve as working group session, to refine the output report, *An Agenda for Accessible Communications at Sea Solutions for Small-scale Fishers*, which will be published internationally.

Welcome & Introduction

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) warmly welcome you to the *VHF-DSC Radio Training Workshop* in the city of Barataria, Trinidad and Tobago.

This administrative circular contains logistical information related to the Setting Priorities Workshop, including administrative procedures, virtual and in-person participation, transportation, etc.

Background

Fishing is considered one of the world's most dangerous jobs, with approximately 32,000 lives being lost in the sector, annually. Small-scale fishers (SSF), who comprise over 90% of the world's capture fisheries fleet, are responsible for the capture of 40% of daily fish consumed. These fishers are highly exposed to a number of disasters out at sea, ranging from piracy to adverse weather, with their wooden, undecked vessels (pirogues) offering little protection.

In 2021, the *Caribbean ICT Research Programme of The University of the West Indies (UWI CIRP)* led a training of trainers workshop, under the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations' (FAO's) *Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH)* Project. During this 3-day virtual workshop, participants from the Tobago's Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries (DMRF), Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), and local fisherfolk organization leaders were provided with free training on handheld VHF-DSC radios, provided by the FAO. This Workshop used multi-stakeholder collaboration, with contributions from the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) on radio licensing, as well as the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG) on safety at sea, and conducting live radio exercises. Following this Workshop, DMRF fisheries officers led downstream training of other fishers, who were also recipients of the radios, with a total of 200 being distributed and trained on, across Tobago.

Under the Smart Seas Project, a 3-day hands-on VHF-DSC Workshop will be delivered to equip key actors within the maritime communications ecosystem, with the knowledge and skills to competently use VHF-DSC radios while at sea. Additionally, this Workshop will include the participation of other key stakeholders in the maritime communications ecosystem, to strengthen the partnerships within the enabling environment to support SSF's disaster resilience through ICTs.

Workshop Particulars

Date:	Tue 4 – Thu 6 Feb 2025
Time:	09:00 - 14:00 (AST)
Modality:	In-person only
Venue	Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago #5, Eighth Avenue Extension, off Twelfth Street, Barataria, Trinidad and Tobago https://maps.app.goo.gl/cBVp6vcX1XZBZNYH9
Registration:	Click here to register

Programme at a Glance

Day 1: Radio Basics	Day 2: Voice & Digital Selective Calling	Day 3: Radio in Practice
Registration	Day 2 opening	Day 3 opening
Opening ceremony	Recap: voice technique & procedure; voice calls	Recap: DSC alerts
Maritime Radio Theory	DSC alerts: distress	
Break	Break	Break
Radio walkthrough	DSC alerts: urgency, safety & test	Rules of the road (TEMA, TTCG)
Voice technique & procedures		Licensing (TATT)
Voice calls: distress		Open mic
Recap & Day 1 closure	Recap & Day 2 closure	Workshop recap & closure
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<i>Optional: Trainers avail for 1 hour for additional support</i>	<i>Optional: Trainers avail for 1 hour for additional support</i>	<i>Optional: Networking & licensing opportunity</i>

Transportation

Airfare

Regional and international participants are responsible for securing flights to and from Trinidad and Tobago.

Ground Transportation

Participants will be responsible for their own ground transportation to and from the venue (Hyatt Regency, Trinidad), as no shuttles will be provided. It is recommended that regional and international participants book their stay at or near to the venue. Taxi services may be booked *at the cost of participants*, through the following means:

1. Trinidad and Tobago Rideshare (TTRS): a local version of Uber, available on Google Play and App Stores
2. Travee: an alternative to TTRS, available on the Google Play as well as App Stores
3. St. Christopher's Taxi and Tour Services: can be booked by calling +1 (868) 715-3138 after arriving to Trinidad and Tobago
4. Airport taxis: easily accessible at the Piarco International Airport, for direct transport to your hotel
5. Hyatt transportation service: booked through the hotel directly by calling +1 (868) 623-2222 or email to trirt-front.office.static@hyatt.com. Note that airport transfers are:
 - a. USD \$30.00 between the times of 06:00 – 21:59
 - b. USD \$45.00 between the times of 10:00 – 17:59 AM

Hotel Accommodation & Booking

No hotel accommodation rates have been secured for this Workshop, due to the low expectancy of non-Trinidad and Tobago participants.

Entry Requirements for Trinidad and Tobago

Depending on where you live, you may need to meet certain entry requirements to enter the country. To enter Trinidad and Tobago, you will need a valid passport issued by your country of citizenship, which must be valid for six months *after* your travel departure date. You must also be able to present proof of an onward or return ticket to enter the country.

In accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements, from November 2015, only machine-readable travel documents are accepted for entry into and exit out of Trinidad and Tobago. Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of entry into Trinidad and Tobago. Further information can be found at:

- <https://nationalsecurity.gov.tt/divisions/immigration-division/>
- <https://foreign.gov.tt/>

All travelers should be up to date on routine vaccinations while travelling to any destination. If travelling from a country with high risk of obtaining Yellow Fever, a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is required. The certificate is required for travelers 1 year and older, entering Trinidad and Tobago or transiting through Trinidad and Tobago for more than 12 hours.

For all other health related matters, visit <https://health.gov.tt/>

Country Information

Language: The official language in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is English. The meeting will be conducted in English *only*.

Weather: Trinidad and Tobago's southerly location keeps temperatures tropically consistent year-round, with a daily average of 27°C (80°F). The rainy season (June to November) and the dry season (December to May) are the major weather variations.

Time Zone: Atlantic Standard Time (AST); GMT - 4

Telephone country code: +1(868)

Medical & Fire emergency services: Dial 990

Police emergency service: Dial 999

Currency: The unit of currency is the Trinidad and Tobago Dollar TTD. Major credit cards are widely accepted.

To check up to date exchange rates, please visit the website of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago at <https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/data-centre/exchange-rates-daily>

Bureau de change operators are available at the airport and throughout the country. ATMs are also widely available throughout the country.

Business hours:

Government offices: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Shops: The opening hours of most shops are from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Saturday. Most shops are open from 8:00 am –2:00 pm on Sundays.

Banks: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and non-mall locations and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at mall locations, Monday to Friday.

Voltage: 110 - 120V / 60 Hz (same as USA)
Type A North American/Japanese 2 Blade
Type B American 3 Pin

Tourist Information: The following websites provides tourist information for Trinidad and Tobago please visit <http://mtca.gov.tt/> and <https://www.facebook.com/TourismTT>