International Amateur Radio Union Region 3

INTERNATIONAL BEACON REPORT

IARU Reg 3 Conference – September 2018 – Seoul Korea

STATUS OF BEACON

- JA2IGY : Japan : Normal
- VR2B : Hong Kong : Normal
- VK6RBP : Australia : Normal
- 4S7B : Sri Lanka : Normal
- ZL6B : New Zealand : Normal

Each beacon transmits once on each band once every three minutes, 24 hours a day.

A transmission consists of the callsign of the beacon sent at 22 words per minute followed by four one-second dashes.

The callsign and the first dash are sent at 100 watts. The remaining dashes are sent at 10 watts, 1 watt and 100 milliwatts.

At the end of each 10 second transmission, the beacon steps to the next higher band and the next beacon in the sequence begins transmitting.

Trasmit Frequency

10 Meter : 28.200 MHz

12 Meter : 24.930 Mhz

15 Meter : 21.150 MHz

17 Meter : 18.110 MHz

20 Meter : 14.100 MHz

ZL6B – New Zealand

The ZL6B beacon is still located at the original site in Gladstone Road near Masterton. It has been performing reasonably well considering its age. Maintenance has been needed on the control unit and the antenna.

ZL6B has been on the NCDXF/IARU list for replacement, and a complete package of radio, controller, antenna and other items was received in November 2017. This caused the Branch 46 Wairarapa Amateur Radio Club to question whether a better site could be found for the replacement beacon. One site was found in a rural farming area that is used as an agriculture training school establishment. However, it has proven to be difficult to get permission to access this site. More recently an interim solution has been found and the new beacon has been installed in a club room that is available at the Masterton Aerodrome. The aerodrome is used for short distance commercial commuter flights, flying club training and other events. The new beacon has been briefly operational, but some RF interference issues and possible antenna problems have been found and are being worked on. The existing beacon is therefore still in service.

Person in charge for ZL6B now is Robert Lambert ZL2BFY at email: lambert-lowe@xtra.co.nz

JA2IGY – Japan

JA2IGY has been operating normally except for an interruption due to primary power break caused by typhoon from the evening of 17th to the morning of 18th, September 2017.

The system upgrade has been completed by 29th September 2017 and the new system became operational at 18:30 JST (09:30 UTC) on 29th September 2017. The output power of the beacon transmitter was 80W before the upgrade, but it is now 100W though it is just about 1 dB increase.

This information was provided by assistance from dear Ken Yamamoto JA1CJP who had in contact with IBP person in charge.

VK6RBP – Australia

Some difficulty for me to reach person who is really in charge for this beacon station. Did sent email to WIA and finally got reponsed and assistance from Peter VK3MV (IARU R3 Director) who stated that operational of beacon station VK6RBP is running normally.

It can confirm as well this condition as I did check quite regularty the status at website of NCDXF for their tranmitting signal and as well through RBN website.

VR2B – Hong Kong

The VR2B beacon was working fine since the antenna replacement on April 2017.

The beacon transceivers Kenwood TS-50 was getting old. We are still waiting for the new IBP 2.0 controller system.

Person in charge for VR2B now is Rudy Wong VR2USP at email: vr2usp@gmail.com

Below some picture of for VR2B equipment :

4S7B – Sri Lanka

4S7B had a controller issue about 1/12 months back and we have rectified the issue with a new controller card sent to us by NCDXF. Since then the beacon is working fine till today.

Equipment for this station is :
Rig IC7200
PSU : MFJ 25A
NCDX Beacon controller
Antenna Cushcraft MA5VA
Coaxes and lightening arrester from Dx Engineering

Person in charge for 4S7B now is Kamal Edirisinghe 4S7AB at email: kamediri@yahoo.com

Conclusion and suggestion

All beacons in IARU Region 3 are working normally for the past 3 years. There were some minor techincal issues but can be solved smothly by each society with great effort from their team member who handle this beacon station.

And as well surely appreciate for continously support from NCDXF who provide all necessary hardware and software to keep all beacon stations

Eventhough nowadays people can check propagation with some softwares or websites which availabe in internet, still tradiotionally beacon project is of the most accurate and realiable fact information.

Perhaps will be better if each society as well provide detail of person in charge for every station and inform us regularly if there will be another changing in person. This will make easy and fast communication internally to monitor each station in future.

Thank you… 73

Joz YD1JZ

 : yd1jz@orari.or.id