



The IARU Region 3 Newsletter

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A word from the Chairman

A truly enjoyable Regional Conference was experienced by all who were in Bali in October 2015. ORARI and its team did a wonderful job and everyone was all praise for the organisation and attention to details. A new set of directors were elected. Peter Lake ZL2AZ, who had served as a director since 2005 and in other positions earlier, decided to retire and not offer himself for election.

Thank you Peter for all your work over the years as a director and your efforts at APG and ITU preparatory meetings.

Welcome to Don Wallace, ZL2TLL, and Peter Young, VK3MV who join us as directors - Shizuo Endo, Wisnu Widjaja and Prof Rhee continue along with me. Ken Yamamoto continues as Secretary.

WRC 2015 has just concluded and as reported in the Section "World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 Outcomes" of this letter, a new allocation has been achieved in 5 MHz band for radio amateurs worldwide, albeit with restrictions on power and band width. The new allocation in the 5 MHz band gives a slot between the existing 3.6 and 7 MHz bands. Hopefully administrations in the region will follow through and allow their amateurs access to this band, which has been available to some countries already.

This was a hard fought success due to the concerted efforts of a large team from various countries working for IARU.

The newsletter is being revived after a lapse of some months and I urge all societies to send in news items to the editor.

73 Gopal VU2GMN

16th Triennial Conference of IARU Region 3

The 16th Conference was held in Bali, Indonesia. 12th Oct to Friday 16th October 2015 at Sanur Paradise Plaza Hotel. The Conference was hosted by ORARI, Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia, who did a magnificent job. The Conference was opened by Mr. Rudiantara the Minister of Communication and Technology of Republic of Indonesia and accompanied with Mr. Tim Ellam VE6SH the IARU President, Mr. Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN the IARU Region 3 Chairman and Mr. Sutiyoso YB0ST the President of ORARI. It was attended by 62 delegates and observers representing 15 R3 radio societies plus 3 proxies, as well as the representatives from the IARU and the other IARU Regions.

The vice-Governor, Mr. Ketut Sudikerta, of Bali conveyed his welcome message to the Conference and welcomed everyone to Bali. He commended the contribution of ORARI and wished every success for the Conference.

A total of 37 papers were considered and recommendations submitted to the Conference by two main working groups: WG1-Policy matters that included education, training, development of amateur radio and international and regional conferences involving radio administrations with special concentration on Youth.

WG2- Operational and Technical Matters, including emergency

communications, digital modes, APRS common frequency and band plans. In addition, a separate Finance committee was formed where all delegates were invited to participate.

One invitation was received from KARL to host the 17th Regional Conference of IARU Region 3 at Seoul in the Republic of Korea. Presentations were made by KARL and the conference adopted to hold the next conference in Korea in late 2018. (ARDF World Championships will also be held in Korea, 2018.)

IARU Region 3 Directory

Following the recent Region 3 Conference in Bali there has been some changes to Official R3 Directory. Further information can be found on the Region 3 website: <http://iaru-r3.org/secretariat/>

Chennai Floods

In early December, torrential rain fell for several days in South India, numerous areas were flooded. Authorities said, hundreds of houses submerged, and the death toll was at about 300 and rising.

Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN reported that some areas had 3 to 4 meters of water which meant that all ground floor houses were inundated and owners lost everything. He said the flooding hit an area of more than three million people in Chennai, with responders from the army, navy, home guards and the national disaster action forces all involved with rescue and relief work. Hundreds of injured people were taken to hospitals.

Gopal VU2GMN said most hams were also isolated in their homes as normal passenger cars could not negotiate the high waters. He also reported that the power supply was cut off in most areas as the electricity distribution systems were under water. The mobile phone and landlines were drastically affected. Gopal VU2GMN said: "Once it became possible to move, hams started going out assisting with delivery of food and water to stranded individuals, and with rescue from tall buildings where people were trapped." National Coordinator for Disaster Communication in India, Jayu Bhide VU2JAU put out the call for more help with emergency communications. Already a network was on two local VHF repeaters that continued to work well, and the 7.070 MHz frequency was mainly on standby for long distance work.

Jayu VU2JAU explained that traffic being handled including distribution of food, locating missing persons and other information. He said: "The number of hams has increased substantially, a control room has been established to coordinate efforts and more volunteer organisations have swung into action to provide food and water. "Many mobile ham stations are now active to become active in locations not possible earlier." Without recharging power the depletion of hand held transceiver batteries was a problem, but battery powered mobiles were able to help keep communication going.

Hams continued their work that is expected to take several days, while recovery from the disaster is likely to take a number of months. Rail services were diverted to Chennai to carry food and other essential

supplies, while the nearby busy international airport was closed for a time disrupting flights, but seems to have returned to near normal. Many industries in the large city were also shut down, along with the state-run Chennai Petroleum oil refinery.

Jim Linton, Region 3 Emergency Coordinator

The IARU Administrative Council Meets at the Region 3 Conference, Bali

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Administrative Council met last week in Bali, Indonesia, just ahead of the gathering of the IARU Region 3 Conference. It sets overall policy and management for the IARU, and has urged all IARU Member Societies to encourage their governments to recognise the importance of the Amateur Radio Service and its radio antennas.

The broad resolution calls the IARU to advocate for planning and development regulations that properly recognise the importance of an amateur radio antenna, and do not place undue restrictions on antenna erection, and to discourage fees for the use of an amateur antenna. It suggests advocating that the Amateur Radio Service has a non-pecuniary nature, and is popular in the student and senior communities.

The IARU had also completed its preparations for the World Radiocommunication Conference to be in Geneva next month. The IARU positions and strategies for each of the WRC-15 agenda items that may impact amateur radio were reviewed, including proposals for a secondary amateur allocation near 5.3 MHz. Possible future agenda items for the next WRC, anticipated in 2019, include an amateur allocation at 50 MHz in Region 1 and global harmonisation of the 1800 - 2000 kHz allocation.

It is anticipated that a significant IARU effort will be needed for WRC-19 to defend the amateur allocations between 137 and 960 MHz, in light of the pressure for spectrum for small non-amateur satellites. Close coordination of regional IARU efforts will be required. The growing demand for satellite coordination in the amateur bands has led the adoption of revised Terms of Reference for the IARU Satellite Adviser, and to agree in principle, to new guidelines for satellite coordination. A Deputy Satellite Adviser has been appointed to assist.

The IARU Administrative Council agrees that a more proactive approach is needed to international standards bodies to achieve IARU objectives to reduce radio spectrum pollution from unwanted radio frequency emissions. It is further looking at the IARU Constitution and By-Laws to introduce some degree of flexibility in dealing with second societies - but a decision will mean further development and consultation. It received the International Beacon Project, and will further consider the assessing HF propagation in real time, and relevant technological advances.

In a departure from recent IARU practice, it was decided to adopt a continuing theme for the annual World Amateur Day on April 18 each year of "Celebrating Amateur Radio's Contribution to Society." A special appropriate theme may be adopted for any given year. A plan to collect consistent licensing data from IARU Member Societies was formulated and agreed.

The environmental impact and burden on the international QSL Bureau system of unsolicited and unwanted QSL cards was discussed, and will be revisited at a future meeting.

Attending the meeting were IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA; Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD; regional representatives Don Beattie, G3BJ, Faisal Al-Ajmi, 9K2RR, Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AM, José Arturo Molina, YS1MS, Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN, Shizuo Endo, JE1MUI and recording secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. Also present as observers were Jay Bellows, K0QB, from Region 2 and Wisnu Widjaja, YB0AZ

and Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP, from Region 3. A virtual meeting will be held early in 2016. The next in-person meeting of the Administrative Council will be near Vina del Mar, Chile, in October 2016 in conjunction with the IARU Region 2 Conference.

World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 Outcomes

The ITU World Radiocommunication Conference recently held in Geneva Switzerland has resulted in modified Radio Regulations that will become an international treaty in January 2017. Dale Hughes VK1DSH, who chaired a key working group, said there was a lot of interest in the new amateur service secondary allocation at 5 MHz. The amateur service gained 5351.5-5366.5 kHz with regional power limits of 15 watts to 25 Watts measured in effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP).

Hughes' task wasn't easy as, in the beginning; there was a strong push for no such allocation from countries such as Russia, the RCC (which is a grouping of some former Soviet Union states), France and Iran. Joining them was Romania, Japan, Korea, Egypt and one African country. After lengthy talks a 15 kHz-wide allocation with a power limit began to emerge. Although the opposition slowly changed, it was not until very late in the process that the final no-change position was withdrawn.

Hughes said the role of being a Sub Working Group Chairman was challenging in every way. However he said: "Win-lose-or-draw the most important part of events in the past few weeks is that the amateur service has presented a united, professional front to the world community, and the views of the amateur service (through the IARU) continue to be taken into account when significant decisions are made. "All radio amateurs should be proud of this fact. Our success in obtaining a new high frequency allocation for the amateur service was a result of a very good team effort".

Other items of interest to Amateur Radio are a new allocation in the 77.5 - 78 GHz frequency band for the radio location service. Radio amateurs have a primary allocation in the same band, but sharing studies indicate that there will be minimal impact to and from short range vehicle radar systems. The decision paves the way for the deployment of anti-collision radar devices globally, which the ITU said will significantly improve vehicular safety and reduce traffic accidents.

There is a new allocation to the Earth Exploration Satellite Service that could cause interference to amateur activities in the 3cm band, though sharing studies show that typical amateur activities would not be affected by signals from the earth exploration satellites. Another agenda item sought to obtain up to 500 MHz of spectrum for International Mobile Telecommunications, posing a possible threat to a number of microwave amateur bands. The future issue of more bandwidth for IMT (sought for mobile and broadband applications) remains a threat to amateur allocations, and the IARU expects several items of interest to the amateur service to be on the agenda for the next WRC conference in 2019.

WIA News Release

ITU World Radiocommunication Conference Finds Amateur Bands Unsuitable for Non-Amateur Satellites

The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) held in Geneva during November 2015 has recommended an agenda for the next WRC, to be held in 2019, to the Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). One of the agenda items is of particular interest to the small-satellite community.

Agenda item 1.7 for WRC-19 reads: "to study the spectrum needs for

telemetry, tracking and command in the space operation service for non-GSO satellites with short duration missions, to assess the suitability of existing allocations to the space operation service and, if necessary, to consider new allocations, in accordance with Resolution COM6/19 (WRC-15)."

Resolution COM6/19, which eventually will be given a new number, specifies the frequency ranges that may be considered for possible new allocations. They are 150.05-174 MHz and 400.15-420 MHz

One of the factors that the conference considered in deciding on these particular frequency ranges was "that some non-amateur satellites have used frequencies for telemetry, tracking and command in the frequency bands 144-146 MHz and 435-438 MHz which are allocated to the amateur-satellite service, and that such use is not in accordance with Nos. 1.56 and 1.57." Those two provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations define the amateur and amateur-satellite services respectively.

The International Amateur Radio Union welcomed the exclusion from consideration of all existing frequency allocations to the amateur and amateur-satellite services. IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, observed: "This is an excellent result for the amateur services and clearly shows that non-amateur satellite constructors need to consider spectrum other than the very limited and congested segments that are available for amateur satellites at 144 MHz and 435 MHz."

IARU news Release *December 2015*

GlobalSET 2015 a great success – lessons to be learnt

The Simulated Emergency Test to measure the disaster readiness of Amateur Radio involved 38 countries and four others who recognised its importance but could not take part this time.

IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop G0DUB, has reported on the event, which was different from other GlobalSETs held since 2006.

While earlier events had an emphasis on message handling and field stations, a better and simpler exercise was needed to demonstrate the strength of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications throughout the world.

Greg Mossop G0DUB said: "The IARU Emergency Communications Coordinators decided that the best way to achieve this would be to have an availability or 'call-out' exercise.

"It asked all countries with Emergency Communications Groups to contact their members and ask them how quickly they could get on air if required."

This seemed to be more suitable to all, particularly some very involved in emergencies but unable to take part in earlier GlobalSETs because of timing or the distance from other countries.

The aims of the exercise were:

- Show that we can respond quickly and in a coordinated manner.
- To get groups and societies involved in an event without language, time or propagation barriers.
- Update information on how many radio amateurs around the world are available for emergency communications, showing the strength in the hobby.

The exercise could start at any time as disasters do not just occur at weekends, with the start time to be decided by the IARU regional coordinators, who chose December 18 as being clear of most social and cultural events.

A web-survey form was used to gather data and analyse the results, both globally, and with the IARU regions.

The web form was intended to be simple because of the different languages used, but its role and the GlobalSET itself was misunderstood by a few, who admitted later either not reading it, or sending it for individuals to complete.

Pre-publicity had sought to explain to new GlobalSET concept. Using a web form sought to overcome any language barriers through the freely available online translation tools, making it easier to fill in by coordinators and not each radio amateur. The survey collected data from National Emergency Communications Groups about their organisation's response.

It asked them to identify their member's availability. Those immediately available to respond to an emergency, others needed to obtain supplies before responding, and a third wave with commitments that needed to be cleared, resulting in a truly structured response.

The survey results covered an estimated 8466 members worldwide, of which, 2048 claimed to be available in less than 1 hour.

Greg G0DUB said: "This exercise occurred on a normal business day in many countries, an availability rate of 20-30% of stations is very good and does seem reasonable as a planning assumption for future exercises.

"To balance this however, it is also recognised that some countries did not get a response from all their membership."

An interesting finding was the need to revise or improve alerting procedures. The survey asked the methods used to contact their members – options were the telephone, SMS, email, radio or by other means.

"A quarter of participating countries (10 of the 38) who took part relied on a single communications method with their members.

"Some 25 used email as part of their alerting method, but from previous exercises it has been shown that email is not a 100% reliable. One group's email callout method in this exercise failed.

"Where possible a mixture of methods should be used for alerting members with automatic feedback of message delivery or the response," said Greg G0DUB.

Listed under 'other' methods on the survey, Whatsapp emerged as a favourite - a mixture of the Internet and SMS, but groups should remember that any single system is a single point of failure.

Whatsapp itself was inaccessible on December 31 in some areas. The cause is unknown, but it showed again that any public service is vulnerable to overload and may not be available on demand, particularly during a disaster.

The exercise caused some healthy debate, and part of the aim of every exercise - learn and improve. The small number of frequent complaints, some based on misunderstandings, are explained in the report.

Greg G0DUB said that probably ten times more radio amateurs took part this time, with a few groups returning after a few years absence. He said: "Finally, success at International Telecommunications World Radiocommunications Conference WRC-15, and the International Amateur Radio Union advocacy work that includes references to the emergency communications, can be backed up with further proof.

"What GlobalSET 2015 did was to produce good data to support the IARU claims on spectrum and shows that we are ready to respond when needed."

Jim Linton Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee.

Society Update Officials and Contact Information

A request is extended to all Region 3 Society Liaison Officers or other responsible officers to ensure that all details about their society is up to date on the listings shown at <http://iaru-r3.org/> under member societies. Some details have not been amended or updated for a number of years and have non functional data.

Current details can be forwarded to the Secretary of Region 3 for updating of the web information.

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IARU Region 3

