



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
General Conference - 16th to 21st November 2008 - Cavtat, Croatia



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We welcome the opportunity to provide a report to your Conference.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of IARU Region 3, with the “Inaugural Region III Congress” being held in Sydney over Easter in 1968.

The last IARU Region 3 Conference was in Bangalore, India, in August 2006.

However, as only one director had been a director in the period before that Conference, and even then for only part of the period, we held an additional Directors meeting in December 2006. That meeting was important, and we believe was essential to create an effective working group.

Since then, our primary focus has been on the WRC-07.

The Region 3 regional organisation, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (the APT) established a Preparatory Group to work toward common positions for its member administrations at WRC-07.

That Group's fourth meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand from the 8th to the 12th January 2007. The fifth and final meeting of the Group was held in Busan, South Korea from 16 – 21 July 2007.

Region 3's representatives, Director Shizuo Endo, JE1MUI and Director Peter Lake, ZL2AZ participated in both meetings as observers, making presentations and submitting information papers.

Former Region 3 Director, K.C. Selvadurai 9V1UV represented the Region at the ABU Preparatory Seminar on WRC-07 in Malaysia, and also met various officials attempting to promote the amateur cause for the WRC.

A number of Region 3 delegations to WRC-07 included amateurs, with the WIA, NZART and JARL nominating and supporting a member of their national delegation to represent the amateur services. Keith Malcolm VK1ZKM was a member of the Australian delegation, IARU Region 3 Director Peter Lake ZL2AZ was a member of the New Zealand delegation, and IARU Region 3 Assistant Secretary Jay Oka JA1TRC was a member of the Japanese delegation.

In addition, Region 3 Director Joong-Guen Rhee, HL1AQQ was a member of his national delegation, representing other interests as well as contributing his amateur expertise.

After the last IARU Region 3 Conference emergency communications has also been a major focus of the Region.

That this was an appropriate focus has been demonstrated by the story of the contribution of Chinese amateurs through their national society, the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CSRA) to the humanitarian response following the tragic earthquake in the Sichuan Province of 12 May 2008.

That contribution should be seen in light of the fact that in 2000 there were 500 amateurs in China, and by 2007 there were 32,000 amateurs. I am told that today some 80% have a class 4 licence giving VHF/UHF and 29MHz operating privileges, with the remainder qualifying for higher licence classes. Transition or upgrading to the higher classes includes proof of operating a number of domestic and DX stations.

While some countries in the Region have national regulations that permit amateurs to both practise for emergencies and provide communications in emergencies and for disaster relief, many countries still have a prohibition of third party traffic that does not allow such activities.

The Region, particularly through the Chairman of the IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee, has been pressing national societies to seek appropriate regulations from their administration.

Currently, Director Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN as Project Manager is busily preparing to manage the IARU stand at the up-coming Telecom Asia 2008 in Bangkok, 2nd to 5th September, supported by the Thai national society, RAST.

The Directors of Region 3 have needed to be very careful in controlling expenditure. Two factors have influenced the position, one is that a number of member societies have suffered a loss of members, and two, the Regions finances and subscriptions are in US Dollars, good for some societies using their currency to buy the now much cheaper US dollars, but bad for the Region, with the drop in the value of the dollar..

Obviously, our priority has had to be the WRC and our commitment to the Administrative Council. We have not been able to participate in the meetings of the executive committees of the other Regional organisations, nor were we able to participate in the Region 2 Conference last year. We continue to warmly welcome representatives of the other Regions to our Conferences and our Directors meetings.

Despite those constraints, I believe that IARU Region 3 continues to make a worthwhile contribution to amateur radio.

The next IARU Region 3 Conference will be in Christchurch, New Zealand from 12 to 16 October 2009, hosted by NZART.

Michael Owen VK3KI
Chairman
IARU Region 3