



*Momentum is now gaining for the preparatory work for WRC 11. Region 3 will be represented at all the preparatory meetings that are responsible for putting together papers concerning the regions views and requirements. IARU will put together views of all 3 regions and coordinate the efforts to make our approach more likely to succeed. A major milestone has arrived- the expansion of the 7MHz band from 7.1 to 7.2 MHz in areas which did not hitherto have access beyond 7.1 MHz. Many countries have reported that their administrations have announced that amateurs will have primary use of that segment, but it is likely that the broadcasters using that segment may take a while to completely move out.*

## World Amateur Radio Day 2009

### Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication

Each year on 18 April, radio amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925 the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded. In 2009, the theme of the event is "Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication".

It is not by coincidence that last year's meeting of the IARU Administrative Council chose this subject at this time. While the Amateur Radio Service has traditionally made its contributions to emergency and disaster response ever since its very beginnings almost 100 years ago, this role has gained a lot of importance in the recent past. It has done so mainly for two reasons:

- The number and dimension of natural as well as man-made disasters is unfortunately on the increase, and
- \* The modern communication technologies are increasingly complex, infrastructure-dependent and therefore also increasingly vulnerable.

The Amateur Radio Services puts two equally valuable assets at its disposal for emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness and response:

- A large number of very flexible and mostly infrastructure-independent, local, national, regional and global networks, and
- A large number of skilled operators, who know how to communicate with often very limited means and to establish communications even under the most difficult circumstances.

### Global Simulated Emergency Test (Global SET), 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009

The date for this event, sponsored by IARU Region 1, has been altered to coincide with World Amateur Radio Day on Saturday, April 18th. The theme for the day of "Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication" is an ideal opportunity to showcase the work of emergency communications groups around the world.

The timing of the event remains at 1100-1500 UTC but in a change for this and future events, the focus will be on generating and relaying messages in a common format across country borders rather than the information gathering about capabilities which has taken place in the past.

The rules are posted on <http://iaru-r3.org/dcom/Gset200904.htm>

or you can download from

<http://www.iarur1.org/GlobalSETApr09Rules-english.pdf>

Stations intending to participate from Region 3 are requested to register by e-mail to [globalset08@raynet-hf.net](mailto:globalset08@raynet-hf.net)

A list of participating stations is available at

[http://www.raynet-hf.net/tiki-read\\_article.php?articleId=44](http://www.raynet-hf.net/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=44)

### New IARU officers

The nominations of Timothy S Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA to serve as President, and Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, to serve as Vice President of the IARU for a five-year term beginning on 9 May 2009: has been formally adopted

### ORARI announces IOTA plans

ORARI (Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia) has announced that there are plans to activate three remote islands this year under the IOTA program. These are: Miangas Island in North Sulawesi on the

Indonesian-Philippine maritime border area, and Mapia Island on Papua's northern shores, which shares a border with the Republic of Palau, Rondo Island off the northern tip of Weh Island in Aceh Province, close to the maritime borders with India and Thailand.

ORARI members have activated 60 remote islands so far under the IOTA program.

### Australian Bushfire Disaster

The worst natural disaster in Australia's post-European settlement history occurred on 7 February 2009, a day now known as Black Saturday.

On that day there were record high temperatures, single digit humidity and strong winds up to 150 km/h which came on top of more than 10 years of drought.

A total of 210 deaths with up to 30 people still missing, more than 2,000 homes destroyed, townships wiped out and a countless loss of farm and native animals.

Some 10 days before Black Saturday, very serious fires occurred in Gippsland in eastern Victoria that forced hundreds of people to flee for safety and 30 homes were destroyed.

The emergency communications arm of the Australian Red Cross, RECOM had units quickly deployed to mainly handle the registrations of displaced persons.

RECOM, which began 10 years ago as a new concept, is entirely run by radio amateurs who use encrypted digital transmissions on ham bands to send details for the National Registration and Inquiry Service at the Red Cross headquarters in Melbourne.

A few days after completing their duty in Gippsland, the RECOM operators were then called out for the Black Saturday disaster and served at a number of locations registering displaced people and provide logistic communications for the Red Cross.

The Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network (WICEN), a traditional amateur radio emergency service was deployed for 28 days in response to the Black Saturday disaster.

The Victorian Emergency Management Act support agency WICEN (Vic) had 52 radio amateurs involved with their role mainly being as operators of fire service radio systems. This has been a role for WICEN (Vic) that began at the Bogong fire in 2003.

The fire authorities drew heavily on the WICEN members by assigning them to radio operating duties at Incident Control Centers (ICC) and a Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre.

These were mostly 12 hour shifts with operators expected to work efficiently and accurately despite noise and plenty of distractions as these nerve centers of disaster response are hectic to say the least. They did extremely well.

The failure of telephone services also saw WICEN provide vital link services using amateur radio between centers.

Another role of amateur radio is to provide third party traffic at times of emergency, and this happens when WICEN operators joined firefighters at a remote location that had limited fire service radio coverage and no mobile phone service.

They provided a communication link for health and welfare reasons between firefighters and their families at home.

This report for IARU R3 News is a summary of what occurred. More detailed reports are to be published in the WIA journal Amateur Radio magazine and a presentation will be made at the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Conference in Tokyo in August.

Jim Linton VK3PC

Chairman: IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee.

### **Expansion of 40 Meter band**

As written in the January issue of Region 3 Newsletter, on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009, many countries will be allowing primary access to the segment 7.1 to 7.2 MHz to radio amateurs. This segment has been occupied by broadcasting stations and it is expected that once the broadcasters move, the allocation will be completed.

Reports have come in from many countries already about the allocation of this segment and by the time the next issue of this newsletter is issued; we will have more detailed information.

The International Amateur Radio Union has thanked the shortwave broadcaster community for achieving a high degree of migration by 29 March from the now worldwide amateur exclusive band of 7100 to 7200 kHz.

IARU Secretary David Sumner K1ZZ has been quick to acknowledge the compliance by most broadcasters to QSY out of that band, as required by a decision of the World Radio Conference in 2003.

The departure of broadcasting has resulted in an enormous improvement in the usefulness of the 40-metre band for amateur radio communication.

David K1ZZ said, "I am certain that the few remaining BC transmitters operating on 7200 kHz and below will be addressed in the coming weeks. Thank you again for your exceptional cooperation."

His letter of appreciation was sent to the High Frequency Coordination Conference, the group representing 60 organizations from more than 30 countries accounting for up to 80% of the global output of short wave broadcasting.

A month before 29 March, the IARU Region 3 Monitoring Systems Coordinator B.L. (Arasu) Manohar VU2UR had identified 58 broadcasts in the segment 7100 to 7200 kHz. A follow-up scan will be made in the next few weeks to identify any residual broadcasting activity.

Details of the position in various countries will be available on the respective region web-pages. Region 1 already has it listed <http://www.iaru-r1.org/IARU%20R1.htm> and Region 3 <http://iaru-r3.org/news/7MHz200903.htm>

### **Reminder: The 2009 Seanet**

As reported earlier this event will be held in Seoul Korea between 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Capital Hotel, Seoul City and Mt. Sorak in Gangwon province, Korea

YL Chae, HL1KDW, [hl2kdw@hotmail.com](mailto:hl2kdw@hotmail.com), is the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee. This will be sponsored by Seoul City, and Korea Tourism Organization.

Details available at:

[http://www.sabah.net.my/seanet/seanet\\_2009.htm](http://www.sabah.net.my/seanet/seanet_2009.htm)

### **GAREC-2009**

The Fifth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC) Conference will be held on 24 - 25 August 2009, in connection with the JARL Ham Fair at Tokyo Big Sight, Ariake, Tokyo Japan. The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) hosts the Conference.

The Theme of the GAREC-2009 will be "Emergency Communications across Borders"

### **14<sup>th</sup> IARU Region 3 Conference Christchurch 12 – 16 October 2009**

Preparations are well under way for the conference.

- The formal announcements have been made and information sent to all societies from R3 secretariat about the conference, venue, hotel, registrations, tours etc.

Details are available: <http://www.iaru-r3.org/14r3c/14r3c.htm>

- Societies are reminded about nominating their representations to the conference, sending reports etc

The conference webpage is now up and running with information being uploaded on a regular basis.

Please visit <http://www.zl6iaru.org/> to keep up to date on conference details, including online registrations.

Region 3 Directors will also meet in Christchurch just before and after the conference.

**The Region 3 Web Site: Go to:** <http://www.iaru-r3.org>

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