

STATEMENT
of the sixth
GLOBAL AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
CONFERENCE (GAREC-2010),
Willemstad, Curaçao , 11 -12 October 2010

The sixth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference, GAREC-2010, hosted by The Dutch Amateur Radio Emergency Services and the Vereniging voor Experimenteel Radio Onderzoek in de Nederlandse Antillen with participation by representatives of IARU and all three of its regional organizations, National IARU Member Societies and specialized Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Groups from all three ITU/IARU Regions;

considering

the statements of GAREC-05 (Tampere, Finland), 06 (Tampere, Finland), 07 (Huntsville, Alabama, USA), 08 (Friedrichshafen, Germany), 09 (Tokyo, Japan) and 10 (Willemstad, Curaçao), the progress made on the implementation of the recommendations expressed therein, and recent experiences from exercises and actual emergency operations;

noting

1. the relationships between the amateur service and organizations engaged in public protection and disaster relief, and in particular the formal agreements and understandings that exist between the IARU and the United Nations, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC),
2. the reports on recent emergency communications operations presented at GAREC-10, in particular the earthquake and hurricane disaster relief operations since GAREC 09 in Haiti, Chile , Philippines, Indonesia, China, New Zealand , as well as
3. the reports on the activities in the IARU Regions 1,2, 3 as a whole and other important topics presented at GAREC-10;

congratulates

the radio amateurs who performed so well in meeting emergency communications needs and on their solidarity irrespective of any geographical, organizational or political borders;

thanks

1. the conference participants and others who prepared these reports and presentations, and
2. the conference participants for their very valuable contributions in the various discussions

requests the ITU

1. to continue to support the activities of IARU in facilitating the role of the Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio Satellite Services in emergency communications by fully implementing the provisions of Radio Regulations (RR) Article 25 as revised by the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03, Geneva 2003) through the appropriate mechanisms of its Telecommunication Development Bureau and to support national Administrations in such implementation, and
2. to continue to study the possibilities for the introduction of an International Amateur Radio License facilitating the work of Amateur Radio Service in international assistance and related training activities;

calls upon all National IARU Member Societies and all specialized Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Groups

1. to establish close working relationships between the National IARU Member Society and recognized Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Groups in the respective countries as well as to cooperate internationally,
2. to request their national regulatory authorities implement the modifications to Article 25 of the Radio Regulations adopted by the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), in particular the regulations governing third-party traffic during emergencies and during training for emergency operations,
3. to provide training in emergency communications to as many amateurs as possible in their respective countries with particular emphasis on:
 - a. personal and logistical preparedness, the psychological aspects of entering a disaster area, and familiarity with the civil protection system in their country,
 - b. specific communications techniques of particular value in emergencies, and
 - c. remembering that the skills developed in the amateur service can be of great benefit to disaster relief organizations in maintaining and operating their own telecommunications networks,
4. whenever emergency communications are being conducted on frequencies that propagate internationally, to use any available real-time communications channels, including but not limited to e-mail bulletins, web-sites, social networking and DX-clusters to draw the attention of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio operators to on-going emergency communications, in order to avoid interference with emergency traffic,
5. to use their contacts with national regulatory authorities to encourage the accession to and implementation of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations,
6. to support the work of the IARU on an international Emergency Communications Handbook and to provide copies of existing agreements with institutional partners in emergency response as well as copies of emergency communication guidelines, manuals, and checklists developed for national or local use as inputs to this work,

7. to work towards the implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding established between the IARU and ITU, IFRC, and the United Nations by seeking cooperation with the respective national institutions and organizations in their country,
8. to continuously improve their awareness of the mission, vision, and values of served agencies,
9. to represent themselves as a human and technical resource able and willing to investigate the communication requirements of served agencies, offer recommendations when asked, and facilitate emergency communications when required
- 10 to encourage the development of low cost HF transceiver equipment, for countries with less resources, where Amateur Radio Operators do exist, but where these HF transceivers are not sufficiently available;

requests the IARU

1. to encourage its National IARU Member Societies to actively support the mission of Amateur Radio as an emergency communications resource, including but not limited to the actions listed above,
2. to support the IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications in the work with the ITU (BDT) on the implementation of the Article 25 of the Radio Regulations (WRC-03) and to support the ongoing work towards an International Amateur Radio License, and
3. to actively support the work on the IARU Emergency Communications Handbook in respect to the publication of the handbook;

calls upon governments and telecommunication administrations

to facilitate the role of the Amateur Radio Service in emergency communications by fully implementing the provisions of Radio Regulations (RR) Article 25 as revised by the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03, Geneva 2003) and by encouraging joint training activities and exercises of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Groups and institutional providers of emergency response; and

recommends

1. that GAREC conferences should continue to be held in locations throughout the world to the extent possible and should maintain the character of GAREC as an informal meeting among representatives of IARU member societies and of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Groups within or outside of the respective National IARU Member Society, serving as a forum for the exchange of experience and as an advisory body for the work on emergency communications of the IARU.
2. to nominate a "GAREC steering committee" of four, which will form an actual, "operational" organizing committee for each next GAREC conference.

Adopted by consensus in the final session of GAREC-2010 on 12 October 2010.