

Future of GAREC

How will it be organised?

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GAREC History

- The first GAREC was in Tampere, Finland in 2005 and had presentations from 12 countries representing all regions.
- The conference provided a showcase for emergency groups ideas and how they responded to events.

GAREC History

- So successful it couldn't just be kept in Region 1!
 - GAREC 2006, Finland
 - GAREC 2007, USA
 - GAREC 2008, Germany
 - GAREC 2009, Japan
 - GAREC 2010, Curacao
 - GAREC 2011, South Africa

What has been achieved?

- Through contacts made at GAREC meetings;
 - The need for CoA frequencies highlighted
 - Signing of MoU between IARU and IFRC
 - Exchanging information and ideas...

The kind of interaction that is difficult to achieve 'on line'.

GAREC Organisation

- Mostly due to one person...



The future plan?

- In 2008 the GAREC statement said...

“that annual GAREC conferences should rotate between the 3 ITU (IARU) Regions and should maintain the character of GAREC as an informal meeting among representatives of IARU member societies and of amateur radio groups within or outside of such national societies specializing in emergency communications, serving as forum for the exchange of experience and as an advisory body for the work on emergency communications of the IARU.”

An organising committee?

- At Curacao, Seppo indicated he needed to step back from organising GAREC and proposed;

to nominate a "GAREC steering committee" of four, consisting, for example, of one or more IARU Regional Emergency Communications Coordinators plus one or more representatives of Emergency Communications Groups outside any National IARU Member Society, each with an assignment of 3 years, annually complemented by a representative of the organization hosting the next GAREC conference, and by two advisory members of, for example, the IARU International Emergency Communications Coordinator, and an experienced GAREC organizer in previous years, also each with an assignment of 3 years, which will form an actual, "operational" organizing committee for each next GAREC conference.

But....

- This proposal was changed by the meeting itself to;
“to nominate a "GAREC steering committee" of four, which will form an actual, "operational" organizing committee for each next GAREC conference.”

But no nominations were made...

Not the only change...

2010 recommendation also said;

...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.

Barriers in 2011?

- No effective organising committee ?
- Cost of attendance ?
- Having two conferences run in parallel ?

2011 original proposal

- Seven day IARU conference (including 2 rest days?)
- Two days break
- Two days GAREC conference

... plus travelling time.

2011 timetable

- GAREC uses spare conference room slots in IARU timetable.
- Two day conference now spread out
- Some unsociable times

Way forward ?

- We must leave this week knowing who is going to organise future events?
- Is this better to be named people or those who are in certain roles?

Way forward ?

- Future venues?
 - GAREC 2012, Region 3?
 - GAREC 2013, ?
 - GAREC 2014, Huntsville, Alabama, USA

Moving between regions essential to keep costs down for attendees.

Way forward ?

- Future agendas
 - Should the event be held in parallel with other events or stand alone?
 - Should the event continue to include desktop exercises ?
 - What is missing ?

GAREC Mission

To get Amateur Radio operators to be better prepared for emergency communications and create practices for national and international levels. GAREC is for exchanging information and experiences between all Amateur Radio operators and groups that are interested in Emergency Communications.

GAREC Vision

To have regular world wide co-operation and understanding between Authorities and Amateur Radio Service on the field of Emergency Communications.

Discussion!

We have a blank flipchart...

start talking :-)