

IARU E-LETTER

IARU Electronic Newsletter

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Editor's Note: Two very important events took place in Region 1 in the last 30 days. I have included a report on each one of the events in this E-Letter edition. The first event was a Regional Conference on Amateur Radio held in Doha in early April. The other was an exhibit of Amateur Radio at the European Parliament later in April.

Leaders within amateur radio must make efforts to promote amateur radio to their telecom authorities and to other government agencies if we are to instill a sense of value and worth of amateur radio in the minds of the regulators and the government agencies. To understand the value and the benefits of some activity, you must be made aware of the activity and its useful benefits. These two events are excellent examples of Region 1 reaching out to telecom authorities and government agencies to promote the value of amateur radio.

--- Rod Stafford, W6ROD, IARU Secretary

Doha Regional Conference on Amateur Radio a Big Success

Written by OD5TE - Hani Raad



The Regional Conference on Amateur Radio, hosted by the **The Qatar Amateur Radio Society (QARS)** in Doha, Qatar was one of the largest regional conferences of amateur radio in the Middle East. It took place on **April 4-6 2010** under the patronage of His Excellency Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah (A71AU), Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Industry, Chairman of the Qatar Amateur Radio and in cooperation with the International

Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

The scale of the conference, the hospitality and the generosity of the State of Qatar, QARS, and the Qatari Hams were unmatched. All delegates felt at home while away from home.

The Conference program consisted of presentations on regulatory issues, amateur radio emergency and disaster communication, national regulations of amateur radio in the GCC states combined with panel discussions and workshops with the aim to assist in building and maintaining good working relationships between the National Regulators and the Amateur Radio Societies.

Opening speeches came from HE Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah (A71AU), Ole Garpestad (LA2RR) - IARU Vice President and Dr. Hessa Al Jaber - Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Communications and Information Technology of Qatar ictQatar.

“The amateur radio is unique in the sense that it has no barriers of language, boundaries, contacts and culture. Besides being a unique tool for communication, amateur radio has proved its effectiveness at the international level on many occasions, particularly in places which are inaccessible by other modes of communication”, said al-Attiyah in his opening speech and called for regulatory authorities to support Amateur Radio and their roaming in the world.



In his opening speech LA2RR thanked [the Qatar Amateur Radio Society \(QARS\)](#), on behalf of IARU and its member societies for hosting this important conference in Doha. “With IARU objectives covering both protection of amateur privileges and spectrum, intercommunication between telecom administrations and national amateur societies as well as among national amateur societies themselves, this Conference is perfect. The hospitality that was shown to all participating delegates is overwhelming and the whole of the IARU team are grateful to be able to contribute to a successful conference. With such good participation from all over the area as well as the rest of the world, I am certain that subjects like radio regulations, spectrum defense, international roaming, emergency and disaster communication and enhanced cooperation between amateur radio societies are subjects that you all will find interesting” Ole stated.

“amateur radio is an enduring source of communication which contributes to the growth of economy, education and technology in the country despite advancement in mobile telephony. Amateur radio can be a hobby, a source of shared interest in any society and makes communication available during national disasters. Perhaps, no other communication tool has proved its worth at natural disaster sites as efficiently as amateur radio” Dr Al Jaber said highlighting the importance of amateur radio, adding proper use of which can promote economic growth. Apart from the role it plays in the economy, promoting amateur radio to young people may encourage innovation and promote growth of new technology, according to Dr Al Jaber.



The conference provided the delegates an opportunity to exchange information related to the amateur radio service in the Arab World along with the regulatory aspects in connection with amateur radio services.

Various presentations took place at the event in the presence of over 1000 participants from dignitaries, Ambassadors, Telecom Regulators, Amateur Radio Societies delegates from all over the world.

Amateur Radio participating Societies included : ARA (Algeria), ARAB (Bahrain), ARSI (India), BARL (Bangladesh), BFRA (Bulgaria), DARC (Germany), EARA (Egypt), EARS (UAE), IARS (Iraq), RJARS (Jordan), KARS (Kuwait), RAL (Lebanon), ROARS (Oman), SRAL (Finland), QARS (Qatar), SARS (Saudi Arabia), CAST (Tunisia), ZARS (Zimbabwe). [Check the full list of IARU Region 1 member societies.](#)

IARU delegation included: IARU Vice president LA2RR, IARU region 1 President **PB2T**, IARU Region 1 Executive committee members **LZ1US** and **OD5TE**, IARU Region 2 Secretary XE1KK Ramon and IARU Region 3 Director Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN.

Amateur Radio Delegates included: Afif Benlagha - 7X2RO, Dr. Abdulrazzaq Sahraoui - 7X5AZ, Dr. Muhammad Zahidul Haque - S21VA, Sergio Almeida - PP5JR, Eduardo Almeida - PU5FJR, Fernanada Almeida - PU5FDA, Beatriz Almeida - PU5BIA, Ginka Kalinova - LZ1GIN, Panayot Danev - LZ1US, Said Kamel Ahmed Mohamed - SU1SK, Olli Matti Rissanen - OH0XX, Mustapha Landoulsi - DL1BDF, Prassana Madhavan - VU2PXN, Kumar Dewan - VU2BZY, Rafiq Said Mohd Farmawi - JY4CI, Mashhour Ahmad Etaiwi Haddad - JY5DK, Jamal Rayyan - JY5FX, Mohammed Al Holi - 9K2DR, Dr. Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Awadhi - 9K2FF, Faisal Al Ajmi - 9K2RR, Waleed Abul - 9K2OK, Ali Mubarak - 9K2SS, Hamad Alnusif - 9K2HN, Amin Al Habbal - OD5HP, Rizkallah (Riri) Azrak - OD5RI, Mubarak Al Khayareen - A71AE, Rashed Saffar Abdulla - A71AN, Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah - A71AU, Ibrahim Al-Shahri - A71BI, Mohammad Al Mannai - A71BK, Sebaan Musmar Al Jassim - A71BP, Abdul Rahman Ahmed Al-Thani - A71BR, Jabor Hamed Al-Thani - A71BY, Ali Al-Ahmad - A71BZ, Abdulrahman Al-Mohannadi - A71CM, Alwan Almarri - A71CO, Sultan Essa Juma Al-Kuwari - A71CT, Abdulla Al-Hammadi - A71CV, Mohammad Falamarzi - A71EL, Juma Al-Kuwari - A71EM, Saleh AlQahtani - A71EZ, Jameel Al-Ansari - A71FJ, Sulaiman Aljedaei - 7Z1SJ, Dheyaa Naser Sabah - Y11DZ, Abdalla Darwish Al Qasmi - A41KB, Ali Nasser - A41KQ, Dr. Fahad Saleh Ibrahim - A41LK, Yousuf Abdullah Al-Blushi - A41YB, Mohammed Abdulla Haider Al Awadhi - A61P, Murad Hasan Abdullah Al Mazemi - A61Q, Saleh Abdullah Hasan Abdul Rahman Al Ali - A61SA, Michel Homsy - A65BM, Jay Bellows - K0QB, Dave Carty - K5GN, Ahmed Nasser Salem Al Mashgari - HZ1AN, Eric Christer - Z21FO, Ramón Santoyo – XE1KK.

Telecom regulators participants included: GCC Telecom Buearu, ICT Qatar, TRA Saudi, TRA Bahrain, TRA UAE and the Arabd Spectrum Management Group (ASMG) Chairman Dr. Tarek Al Awadhi.

The presentation covered the following subjects: The Introduction to Amateur Radio and it service (Presented by Hani Raad – OD5TE, IARU region 1 Executive Committee member),

Amateur Radio in Emergency & Disaster Communication, Introduction to IARU and roaming (Presented by Ole – LA2RR), International Regulations, WRC and Spectrum Management & Allocations (Presented by Hans Blondeel Timmerman – PB2T, IARU Region 1 President). The Conference was concluded by a panel discussion where attendees exchanged views on amateur radio service and some of the challenges in the region.

Although this conference was aimed at “higher levels” administrative matters, the many students who attended the conference gained a better understanding of amateur radio and there is a good chance that some will be interested to further investigate amateur radio activities whether radio sports related, technical or social. The conference gave the participants an opportunity to hold different workshop and meetings that will help in enhancing relationship among amateur radio societies and with Telecom regulators and Societies in the Gulf Area.

A special event station **A71RCAR** was on the air during the conference.

The outcome of the conference was beyond expectation of the IARU. The Conference issued the following recommendations:

1. On matters related to Amateur Radio in Emergency & Disaster Communication:

- The Conference asked the IARU Member Societies to appoint a national coordinator for Emergency Communications to coordinate with the IARU region 1 Emergency communications Coordinator.
- The Conference urged National Amateur Radio Societies develop an Amateur Radio Emergency Response plan to allow coordination and readiness of the service.
- The Conference urged the national amateur radio societies to coordinate with the national disaster relief agencies and be part of the Country’s national emergency response plan.
- The Conference reaffirmed the role and support of the International Amateur Radio for national and regional initiatives in this regard.

2. On matters related to Reciprocity and Roaming:

- Conference encouraged telecommunications administrations to develop a framework that allows visiting radio amateurs to operate from their territory in accordance with Radio Regulations item 25.9B. Amateur Roaming in the GCC states was discussed in a regulators meeting the following day.

3. On matters related to the preparations for WRC-12:

- The Conference welcomed the invitation of the Arab Spectrum Management Group (ASMG) that the International Amateur Radio Union participates in future ASMG meetings
- The Conference urged IARU Member Societies to liaise with their respective telecommunications administrations on the IARU position for WRC-12.

4. On matters related to the support of the Amateur Radio Societies:

- The Conference reaffirmed the role played by the IARU Region 1 as a platform of support to its amateur radio member societies on matters related to Amateur Radio.
 - The Conference encouraged the exchange of information and resources among societies and with the IARU.
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"European Amateur Radio Benefiting Society" Exhibition in the European Parliament

Written by Thilo Kootz, DL9KCE

Following the Torremolinos conference of 1990 it was decided that IARU Region 1 should adopt the concept of sub-regional working groups who deal with various challenges particular within Region 1.

EUROCOM is the specialist group tasked with maintaining contact with the European Union, especially the European Commission and European Parliament. Following an earlier exhibition in the Parliament building in 2007 an opportunity to exhibit and demonstrate Amateur Radio to the European administration arose. The purpose was to increase contact with members of the European parliament and their assistants and to give them an impression, what Amateur Radio is and how it does benefit society through our activities in Space, Education and Emergency Communications. By providing some background information and making initial contacts we should be able to contact them easier when the needs of amateur radio may be affected by European policy decisions.

This has happened in the past, for example the R&TTE directive and the EMC directive, where the input from EUROCOM was adopted, leaving us legislation we can live with. Making and maintaining these contacts is a continuous process though as MEPs are re-elected or their assistants move on to other jobs within the organization. As we are expecting future directives from the European Community on frequency management and possibly PLT which would have a great impact on our hobby then maintaining good contacts within the European Community and Commission is extremely important at the moment.

Organization

Because of the good working relationship between EUROCOM Chairman Thilo Kootz and MEP Birgit Sippel it was possible to obtain a 105m² display space in the Altiero Spinelli building in a location which is a main route for many MEPs and assistants on their way to meetings and adjacent to a coffee area where many informal meetings also take place. The space was available for one week and power, internet and telephone facilities were there for our use. This allowed EUROCOM to work in conjunction with ARISS Europe and ESA to provide an educational opportunity for local schoolchildren to participate in a telebridge contact with the ISS. An additional theme of Emergency Communications was also chosen for the exhibition so that it could appeal to as many people as possible.

Many teleconferences were held to discuss and decide the content of the posters to be used in the exhibition as well as the manning of the stand. Representatives of EUROCOM, ESA, ARISS

Europe and the IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator participated in these conferences along with representatives from RSGB who provided valuable support in the production of the display materials.

All European National Societies were asked to invite their MEPs to the exhibition in their own language. This was reinforced by invitation letters in the internal post system to all MEP along with Press releases and posters around the European Parliament buildings.

In the weeks immediately before the exhibition final arrangements for hotel, travel and accommodation was created and circulated, while access to the building and security issues were resolved in cooperation with Ms Katharina Bartsch who is the assistant to MEP Sippel.

Operation

The display was manned by representatives from IARU, ESA, ARISS-Europe and national Societies. On the first day of the exhibition the official opening ceremony with a reception was held to formally open the display. Speeches were made by IARU Region 1 President, Hans Blondeel Timmermann, PB2T, EUROCOM WG Chairman, Thilo Kootz, DL9KCE and MEP Birgit Sippel and approximately 60 people attended this event. Many MEPs and assistants attended and even the Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Dr. Kristalina Georgieva was present and highly interested in our work on emergency communication.

On the second day a party of 12 schoolchildren with their teachers attended the display to take part in a telebridge contact with the ISS. Teacher moved to take up Amateur Radio. Remainder of class joined us at 17:30 ready for a second reception, this time hosted by ESA where three astronauts (Frank De Winne, Roman Romaneko and Robert Thirsk) from the European Astronaut Corps would be present to answer more questions from students. This was a very successful session with 70 people present.

Topics

Many people came to the stand who had heard of Amateur Radio before but were surprised to see the range of activities that we were involved in.

MEPs were interested in the number of natural disasters, where amateur radio was used to replace or supplement public safety communication systems that had been temporarily affected by the incident.

The ARISS contact highlighted the possibilities for amateurs to directly contact astronauts on the ISS, together with the way that this can be used to spark interest in students to then use other amateur radio satellites for educational purposes. The teachers from the two schools invited to the ARISS contact and the 'Meet the Astronauts' on the second day of the exhibition thought, that using amateur radio in this way could be a real alternative to the competing attractions of computing and internet. Both wanted to continue their and their students involvement into this topic after the exhibition, now they have learned about the possibilities.

Educational activities were also highlighted through the posters in the exhibition and the

presence of a model satellite from the University of Liege showing the power of amateur radio in taking theory and turning it into a practical outcome.

No topic was over-emphasized, the exhibition was used to try and show how Amateur Radio could be used to appeal to people of all backgrounds and develop technical and engineering competence which would be of benefit to the European Community. All the topics displayed allowed us to tell a story of Amateur Radio as an inclusive hobby which benefits the communities we live in.

Because the first two days had special activities planned the arrangement of posters on the display was fixed, to maintain interest the display was changed on the third day to change the view that people may have had walking by and let them see posters (for example on Education) which they may not have noticed otherwise.

Networking opportunities

Because of the location of the exhibition, many visitors looked at the displays and took leaflets. Some visitors were reluctant to get into conversations, possibly due to a fear of language difficulties. In some cases it was possible to make closer contact with individuals and log/collect their name and or business card for later use.

On at least four occasions visitors raised problems that amateur radio has at the moment (such as PLT) and were able to be told about the work of EUROCOM and IARU in trying to reduce these problems. Our sponsor, Ms Birgit Sippel, has already raised a parliamentary question to the European Commission and three other MEPs, have indicated that they will also provide support if it is necessary and required. These MEP have asked to be contacted after the event in case we need any further help in legislation.

Other topics discussed included problems in constructing aerials where communities are making increasing demands for construction permits and in some cases requiring an annual payment to keep an aerial. The problem of increasing pollution of the RF spectrum due to an exponentially increasing quantity of cheap electronic equipment which does not meet EC standards was also addressed.

The opening ceremony was visited by Dr. Kristalina Georgieva, a European Commissioner, who was highly impressed on Amateur Radio activities in disaster relief. She put us in her official blog on <http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/georgieva/the-wave-heroes/> and titled us "Wave Heroes". The quick response in posting such a blog entry was appreciated and an email thanking her office for the support was sent. This, along with all the other contacts made needs to be followed up in coming weeks and months.

Possibly more importantly, follow-up emails may need to be sent to MEP to see how effective the invitation process through National Societies had been and whether there was anything they though would have made the exhibition better. What was obvious though was that any activity like this is affected by events outside our control. For example, at the time of the exhibition the UK was going through a National Election and this had taken a number of MEP and their assistants away from Brussels back to their own country to help with the election process.

Personal

Many Amateurs and others were involved in the preparations of the exhibition and during the manning of the station. My special thanks go to MEP Birgit Sippel for sponsoring the exhibition, to her assistant Katharina Bartsch for all the help, to the UBA for all the help in Brussels, to RSGB for a fantastic job in designing and printing posters and panels, to everyone in the planning group who provided ideas, texts and material.

Future Activities

This exhibition has opened the doors for future activities. The contact with the commissioner for Crisis Response will be used to further raise the profile of Amateur Radio in disaster response and will highlight existing and future projects funded by the European Community where Amateur Radio can be involved.

Those MEPs that have offered their support for our service will be contacted in the near future and ask to pose parliamentary questions by the EUROCOM WG. Topics will range from PLT in general to modifications of the EMC and R&TTE directive as they are updated in the future. This will give us an opportunity to improve them from an amateur radio point of view. The role of European market surveillance needs to be strengthened in the R&TTE directive to prevent access of faulty or incompliant electronic equipment to enter the common market and cause disturbance. One big flaw in the EMC directive is, that the protection of the individuals against harmful interference is not mandatory to the member states. Therefore it is only very reluctantly realized in many members states. A more direct suggestion to member states, on how to handle rare cases of harmful interference to users of the Short Wave spectrum without discrimination or bias for commercial reasons, would be very helpful.

However I would like to emphasize at this point, that a much higher interest of members societies is need to intensify the work in the EUROCOM WG. Basically there is no mentionable contribution, with the exception of one or two national societies. I would ask the EC to keep a close eye on that.

Conclusion

The amount of personal contacts made exceeded the expected number by far. What could not be measured were the number of people walking by who did not have the time to look into the exhibition in more detail, but who might have caught the main ideas from the very large panels and posters on display. If we have successfully linked amateur radio with Emergency communication, Education and Space exploration in their minds, they may remember, when policies crossing their desk involve our service. I would conclude, from now on amateur radio is not an unknown term in the parliament any longer.

Operate Amateur Radio during June and July 2010 while in South Africa

Visitors to South Africa during the Soccer World Cup event may operate amateur radio while in South Africa using the prefix ZS10 in front of their own call sign for example ZS10/G3XYZ.

The South African Radio League negotiated an agreement with the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa to allow all licensed Radio Amateurs visiting South Africa during June and July 2010 to operate while in South Africa on condition that they register with the South African Radio League prior to arrival in the country.

A registration form can be downloaded from www.amateurradio.org.za/worldcup.htm. After completion email the form together with a copy of the passport page showing the owners photograph and a copy of the current amateur radio license to worldcup@sarl.org.za.

Keep a copy of this form and your license with you while in South Africa.

Visit www.sarl.org.za for more information about amateur radio activity in South Africa.

The SARL broadcast news bulletin is on the air on Sundays at 08:00 UTC on 17 570 and 7 205 kHz AM, on SSB on 7082 kHz and many repeaters around South Africa. The programme is repeated on Mondays at 19:05 UTC on 3215. Reception reports to armi@sarl.org.za.

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If you have any information that would be appropriate to publish in this electronic newsletter, please contact me at w6rod@iaru.org.

Rod Stafford W6ROD
IARU Secretary

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