International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 report to the Global Amateur Radio Conference 2013, Zurich, Switzerland.

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Disasters

- IARU Region 3 - Asia, Southeast Asia, Australasia and Southwest Pacific – has arguably more natural disasters than any other region.
- These include bushfires, cyclones, earthquakes, flooding, mudslides, storms, volcano eruptions and tsunamis.
- This report will look at two countries that had major events last year, and how a third as a regional example, prepares for disasters.
The Philippines has frequent severe weather events

In August 2012 flooding triggered by monsoon rains put 80 per cent of Manila under water.
Frequent severe weather events

- The Philippines Amateur Radio Society (PARA) involves its ham radio community to help with the response to disasters.
- This occurs through the PARA network of HERO (Ham Emergency Radio Operator) and club stations.
- For example, Typhoon Bopha made landfall over Mindanao on December 2, 2012.
- It ripped through the southern provinces killing 1,067 people, leaving hundreds missing and many more homeless.
Frequent severe weather events

- It was the strongest of about 20 typhoons to affect the country in 2012, with its heavy rain and winds gusting up to 210km/h.

- Throughout the disasters, radio amateurs were kept busy coordinating evacuations and elsewhere working alongside the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

- PARA used all available communications means like HF 7.095 MHz, VHF 144.740 MHz, the internet and social media (Facebook, email, echolink).
Frequent severe weather events

- It passed emergency and welfare traffic, gave weather reports, detailed utility and infrastructure outages and monitored the situation.

- The combined efforts of all agencies proved increasingly effective.

- That was due to preparations for disasters, the cooperation of evacuees and the mammoth response and recovery efforts.
PARA the IARU member society

- Philippine Amateur Radio Association (PARA), Inc. is the national association for amateur radio.

- As an umbrella organisation, it has more than 40 affiliate clubs all over the 7,101 islands of the archipelago.
PARA Emergency Communications

- National Traffic System (NTS)
  - Daily nets in 40m and 2 metres
- Ham Radio Emergency Operations (HERO) in actual emergencies
- Liaison with the National Telecommunications Commission, Office of Civil Defense, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Council and their counterparts at the local level
- Social media (facebook and emails)
- Echolink
Some Recent Efforts

Pre-emptive Evacuation
Tacloban City December 3, 2012
Pre-emptive Evacuation
Tacloban City December 3, 2012
DX8FAR Rescue Effort
Dipolog City January 31, 2013
DX8FAR Rescue Effort
Dipolog City January 31, 2013
Earthquake hits China
Earthquake hits China

The IARU member society, is the Chinese Radio Sports Association, also known as the Chinese Radio Amateurs Club.

It swung into action with radio hams providing emergency communication and coordinating parts of the disaster response.
Earthquake hits China

- China was hit by an earthquake in April this year in its southwest rural area of Ya'an, in provincial Sichuan.
- It left about 200 dead, injured about 12,000 and made many more people homeless.
- With toppled houses rescuers searched the rubble for survivors, while medical staff treated those hurt.
- Authorities estimated 3,000 kilometres of road and 327 bridges had been damaged.
Hams also maintain traffic control so emergency supplies including tents, water, food and medicine could arrive.
Earthquake hits China

- The central government of China, local officials, rescuers, relief workers and radio amateurs were much better prepared to deal with disasters, than had been the case in the past.

- Neighbouring Russia sent rescue teams, and the Red Cross from Hong Kong with an embedded radio amateur, helped the effort.
India prepares for disaster

The IARU member society is the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI).

It has been involved in disaster preparedness measures.
India prepares for disaster

The National Coordinator for Disaster Communication, and Chairman of HAMFEST India 2013 (21-22 September), is Jayu S. Bhide VU2JAU, who reports ARSI has:

- Distributed emergency kits to various hams in rural areas
- Held disaster preparedness sessions
India prepares for disaster

- Held seminars in colleges and schools to make young students and teachers aware of emergencies
- Included an amateur radio element where disaster management and communication is being taught in industrial training courses
- There will be technical lectures including emergency communications at HAMFEST India in September
Disaster drills have been held in Mumbai and New Delhi at various times.
Prashant Karkare VU2PSQ at the incident control centre
India prepares for disaster

During the prolonged widespread power grid failure in northern parts of India, hams were kept on alert to help the communication system.
India prepares for disaster

Hams were involved in providing emergency communication during a fire in Mumbai.
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Recommended further reading

The IARU Region 3, Fifteenth Conference 5-9 November 2012, in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam – documents
http://www.iaru-r3.org/15r3c/docs/docs.htm

12/XV/056 – Experiment of new mode for the Chinese text exchange over HF bands in amateur radio emergency communications.

12/XV/055 – Amateur radio emergency communication in China

12/XV/045 - The Future of Emergency Communication in IARU R3

12/XV/044 - Regulatory Restrictions on Emergency Communications

12/XV/043 - EmcomNet - A High Performance Digital Emergency Communications System With A Long History

12/XV/036 - Amateur radio and public safety in New Zealand

12/XV/033 - Emergency Communications in IARU R3 Report

12/XV/030 - Evolution of Emergency Qualification

12/XV/015 - Christchurch Earthquake AREC