

HAMTECH-2008

International Expo & Conference

Discussions, Demos, Lectures, Exhibits, Dxpediton and Tourism - A multi dimensional approach to promote amateur radio
18-20th October 2008 - Hyderabad

Overview:

The National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), Hyderabad organized a 3 day HAMTECH-2008, International Expo & Conference during October 18-20, 2008 at Swami Vivekananda Hall, NIAR Campus, Raj Bhavan Road, Hyderabad.

This event was co-sponsored by Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and IT, Govt. of India and coincides with the Silver Jubilee celebrations of NIAR.



The Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence & Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India have supported by issuing necessary permissions to foreign and Indian Radio amateurs (HAMs) to operate their amateur radio stations from Andaman and Lakshadweep Islands with special callsigns VU4RG-VU4MY-VU7SJ and VU7NRO that followed this event during October 14-November 3, 2008.

HAMTECH-2008, International Expo & Conference was inaugurated by Mr. K. Rosaiah, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Govt of AP and presided by Mr. V. Hanumtha Rao, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (RS). The dignitaries attending the event include Mr. K.S.Rao, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (LS), Mr.

Vedavyas, Hon'ble MLA, Mr. Kamalakar Rao, Hon'ble MLC, Smt. Usha Chandrasekhar, Post Master General, Hyderabad Region and Mr. B.M. Baveja, Sr. Director, DIT, Govt. of India.

This event was well-attended with representatives from various government departments, senior & experienced ham experts from India and abroad, representatives from several schools and colleges, Bharat Scouts and Guides and other Non-Government Organisations, witnessed the impressive developments in promotion of amateur radio and latest amateur radio communication technologies by NIAR over the last 25 years. The members of electronic and print media attending this event gave wide publicity to the event.



The Amateur Radio Service has a long and rich history of technical innovation. The benefits derived from the effective utilization of radio spectrum resource by amateur radio operators and their study on propagation conditions for terrestrial communication around the globe is a reference to make better-informed decisions about the management of this important resource. The success of continuous technical experimentation on contemporary techniques of wireless transmission and reception has transformed the way we communicate speech and image signals.

HAMTECH-2008 was a very successful & unique event conducted in Hyderabad which showcased the developments in amateur radio wireless communications tools and technologies practiced by amateur radio operators in pursuit of gaining knowledge and upgrading their skills for societal development.

NIAR has received a very positive feedback from National and International Ham delegates attending the conference. All the dignitaries attending the event lauded the invaluable services rendered by Hams and NIAR over Two and Half decades by providing much needed communication support during various kinds of emergencies and also carrying forward vision of late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, VU2RG with its activities and programs to further increase Ham Population in the country. The electronic and print media extensively covered the proceedings of the event.

Many delegates including the senior officers of Government of India were all praise of NIAR activities and the leadership role it is playing in this region. NIAR is promoting many facets of amateur radio including skill empowerment, self employment, technical exchanges, R&D, improving security

environment etc besides disaster mitigation which we all know for several years.

The discussions at this convention addressed various topical issues like Promotional Aspects of Amateur Radio, Discussion on Roadmap for creating 1,00,000 Hams, taking forward Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Conference (GAREC) decisions, in India and other countries with the support of governments in the region. The event also focused on amateur radio modes like Voice, Morse Code, Visual, internet related and digital & satellite communication technologies, and also focused on latest technology developments in Antennas & propagation, Dxpeditions, HF&VHF Communications. There was an open forum to discuss on disaster management particularly the experiences, lessons learnt in the recent natural calamities shared by experts.

There is a need for greater awareness on amateur radio activities and encourage hams to discuss, display and demonstrate the latest amateur radio communication technologies used by hams internationally.

Hamtech 2008 featured forums for technical discussions on latest trends amateur radio communication technologies used by Hams around the world in combination with amateur radio operations. The outcome of this event has provided a strong basis of International support to future programs for development of amateur radio activity in this region. The highlight of this event has been the professional make up of teams for amateur radio operation and their dedication to compete among themselves and prove to the world that their skills in the art of two-way wireless communication are second to none under not so favorable HF propagation conditions during this period.



Venue & Expo:



The Hamtech-2008, International Expo & Conference was held during October 18-20, 2008 at National Institute of Amateur Radio Campus, Hyderabad. The Expo included an impressive display of wide range of HF/VHF/UHF amateur radio wireless communication equipment and accessories from popular manufacturers like YAESU, ICOM, KENWOOD etc. and antenna systems of StepIR, Hi-gain, Create, Force-12 etc. The accessories included power supplies, antenna tuners, antenna rotators, towers. Several Hams from India have also exhibited their home devices and accessories including HF transceivers, antennas, baluns etc. The members from student community participating the event were particularly attracted to Direction finding devices which is used for hunting hidden transmitter in the game of 'Fox Hunt'.



Participants:

The 3-day event was attended by over 400 delegates from India and abroad. The participants of this event include radio amateurs from representatives from educational institutions as well as State and Central Government agencies from various parts of the country. People from all walks of life including students, Lecturers, Doctors, Businessmen as well as from government service participated in the interactive meeting.

A Report on Inaugural Session:



The Inaugural function of Hamtech- 2008 was held at "Swami Vivekananda Conference Hall" at NIAR Campus, Hyderabad on October 18, 2008 at 5.30 PM. Hamtech-2008, International Expo & Conference was formally inaugurated by Mr. K. Rosaiah Garu, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Govt of AP and other distinguished guests. The inaugural function was attended by delegates from India and abroad including several local citizens.

Welcome Address:



Mr. S.Suri Convener, Organising Committee HAMTECH-2008 while presenting the welcome address explained the objectives of the event and informed that this event was co-sponsored by Department of Information Technology, GoI. He also gave a detailed account on the genesis of amateur radio development programs undertaken by NIAR with continuous support of Department of Information Technology, Govt. of India since 1983 and explained the tangible results achieved in terms of upgrading skills of Indian Hams, International cooperation, Ham tourism and expanding the knowledge base by increasing Ham population in the country, to this date. He specially mentioned the support and encouragement received from Ministry of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs and Department of Telecommunications for various programs undertaken by NIAR in the last few years. Mr. Suri informed that foreign and Indian participants would display, demonstrate

their skills as well as interact with other delegates to share knowledge on technical developments achieved in their countries. International Ham Tourism to India was also one of the objectives of this event.



Mr.S.Ram Mohan, VU2MYH gave a report on activities of NIAR conducted over last 25 years which include Awareness, Training, establishing Ham Clubs, contributions to policy making and others. He also gave detailed account of promotional activities by way of Demonstrations conducted at various institutions, Lectures programs, Seminars, as well as innovative and interactive programs like painting competitions, fox hunt conducted by NIAR with involvement of students and colleges to bring youth closer to the activity. He also explained the achievements of NIAR though technical study on Propagation Conditions in amateur radio communications for Coastal areas in the state of Tamil Nadu with support of Department of Information Technology, Government of India and evolving a concept paper for increasing Ham population to 1,00,000 in the next two years.



Mr. V Hanumantha Rao, Hon'ble Member of Parliament & Chairman HAMTECH 2008 Organising Committee said that NIAR is serving the nation since its inception in 1983 and fulfilling the vision of Mr.. Rajiv Gandhi by taking communication technology tools to the masses and making them partners in the national development. The voluntary service rendered by the members of NIAR in all major calamities/ disasters throughout the country is well appreciated by all governments. The outcome of this event is expected to encourage many young radio amateurs in the country with hands on experience in several technologies demonstrated by participating Hams and improve their technical skills in the art of two-way wireless communication. He also suggested the agencies of government like Telecom, Disaster Management to collaborate with NIAR and to use its services for further benefit of society.



Mr. K. S. Rao, Hon'ble Member of Parliament while addressing the gathering said that HAMTECH-2008 is a very Innovative and informative technical Exhibition which has several models of amateur radio communication ranging from low cost home made devices to modern state of the art technology devices, the variety of Antennas and accessories. Amateur Radio can become a medium for connecting people, bridging gaps in the medium of information exchange between urban and rural/remote areas as well as in case of calamities. He also requested the Govt. of AP to support NIAR by giving grants-in-aid regularly.

Mr.. B. Vedavyas, Hon'ble MLA and Mr.. B. Kamalakar Rao, Hon'ble MLC appreciated the role of NIAR and its members for their excellent service since many years to further promote and popularize amateur radio in the country. They also requested the Chief Guest to consider the registration of the allotted land in the name of NIAR.



Mr. B.M. Baveja, Sr. Director, DIT explained the support providing by the Dept. of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & IT to NIAR over 25 years and also conducting various projects including R & D Projects like "Propagation Conditions in Amateur Radio for Coastal Areas, Digital Connectivity in Rural/ Urban and Remote areas as well as for organizing international seminars and Dxpeditons in A& N Islands and Lakshadweep Islands including the HAMFEST-2006, HAMFEST-2007 and also the HAMTECH-2008. He also suggested the state government should support NIAR for implementing various projects in Andhra Pradesh and in the country.



Smt. Usha Chandrasekhar, Post Master General, Hyderabad Region presented the special postal cover & cancellation commemorating successful completion of 25 years of service to society by NIAR. The special cover & cancellation was released through the Hands of the Chief Guest Mr. K. Rosaiah, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Govt of Andhra Pradesh.



Chief Guest Address:

Mr. K. Rosaiah Garu, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Govt of AP in his inaugural address as the Chief Guest on the occasion while appreciating the voluntary service by hams through their radio contacts add great value for service to society by passing information during the critical hours when communications are essentially required. He said it was a unique and historic occasion as such a large gathering of National & International hams was organized in Hyderabad in the country. He also released a souvenir brought out by NIAR to mark the occasion.

Earlier, Mr. K. Rosaiah inaugurated the International Expo consisting of various kinds of amateur radio wireless communication equipment and accessories. He was particularly impressed by the display of various working models of communication equipment and technologies related to Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS), Direction finding, other HF/VHF/UHF transceivers, Antennas and accessories ranging from low cost devices to high-end models.

Mr. Rosaiah speaking on the occasion said that the number of Hams needs to be increased keeping in view of invaluable services during the disasters, specialized training programs needs to be imparted to un-employed youth for skill development and prepare them to respond for emergency communication needs of our country.

He also expressed the need to implement advanced concepts in communication technologies that assist in faster dissemination of information in the times of disaster. He also assured to take up the issues related to promotion of amateur radio with the respective government departments as well as provide financial resources to the activity.

He also gave away HF transceiver award to Mr. Naman Batra, Student from Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram New Delhi and also felicitated the foreign Ham experts attending the event.



Presentation of Awards & Certificates:

Mr. Naman Batra, Student of Delhi Public School, RK Puram, New Delhi receiving HF Transceiver award through the hands of Chief Guest Mr. K. Rosaiah, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Govt. of AP.

HF Contest: NIAR had earlier released an announcement inviting foreign and Indian Hams to participate in Silver Jubilee HF contest on 7 & 14 Mhz band in various categories organised during 16th - 17th August 2008.



Mr. Franz Berndt DL9GFB, presenting a trophy to Dr. Rajashekar, VU2HMY on winning NIAR Silver jubilee HF Contest under Home Brew category in first place.

The Silver Jubilee HF Contest committee headed by Mr. Franz Bernt, DL9GFB gave away the awards and certificates to the winners in various categories as follows:

Category A.1. Dr.Rajasekhar, VU2HMY

Category B:1. Ms. Nisha M.Mohan, VU2NIS

2. Nr.Jayan U., VU2JYU

3. Mr.L.M.Rajeev, VU2OCY

Category C. 1. Mr.Charles Harpole, HS0ZCW

SWL 1. Mr.Alokesh Gupta

2. Mr.Manu M.Pillai

3.Mr.Edara Venkateswara Rao

All others who have sent contest entries will receive participation certificate

Certificates to Painting Competition: As part of NIAR's Silver Jubilee Celebrations to encourage and to create awareness among the students, a painting competition in Kendriya Vidyalaya No.2 School on the theme "Amateur Radio in Disaster Management" with over 50 students have participated. The certificates were distributed to the winners and participants.



The program concluded with the vote of thanks.



Cultural events:

The cultural program included young artists giving a scintillating dance performance in an ancient dance form called 'Andhra Natyam' which is derived from soup of south Indian dance forms like Kuchipudi and Bharatnatyam. This art is the spiritual expression of the Telugu people and another unique dance form of this state. The artists enthralled the audience performing the Andhra Natyam item, Dasavataram, Sivakaivaram, Tripura Samharam with different mudras and abhinayam, facial expressions amply reflected the soul of the lyric and precise footwork that impressed the foreign and Indian participants, a treat to watch enticing the audience at the end of an eventful day.



Program - Day 1: 18th October 2008 Pre Inaugural Discussions



Session-I : 10:00 AM ~ 11:30 AM

Chairman: Dr. Armugam , Vice-Chairman, Kumaraguru College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore. In his address to the gathering, he emphasized the need for getting youth particularly in technical education to undertake activities such as amateur radio explaining its benefits. The inspiration from the leaders in this field like Mr.Suri would go along way in the shaping the scientific temper among the young minds. He said all the technical institutes in the country need to encourage their students to participate in amateur radio related activities which provide immense personal benefit as well as benefits transferred to society in times of need.

Speakers:



Mr. S. Suri VU2MY, Founder & Chairman, NIAR welcomed the delegates and guests, he explained the vision and mission that inspired to carry forward the message of service to the society as an NGO through amateur radio activities raising from humble beginnings at the time inception of NIAR and its journey over last 25 years with the help of Govt. of India, Govt. of AP and other institutions. He emphasized that establishing partnerships with like-minded institutions, channelizing efforts of increasing ham population, need for organizational framework to carryout objectives, initiating policies that integrate with the nation-building process and scientific development. He also explained that our has country has a large geographical area and diverse needs, amateur radio has a role to play in igniting young minds to inculcate scientific temper, provide alternate communication channels in disaster management, disseminating knowledge and information on latest developments, empowering people even in rural and remote areas to access information at negligible cost, above all ensuring security and overall development. He also extended

an invitation to all Hams and Ham Clubs in India and abroad to join in the efforts to create 1,00,000 Hams in the country.



Mr. Martin Leybold, DL2NED, Germany speaking on the occasion said that the International Community of Hams is supporting this event with the demonstration of technical excellence in amateur radio communications from several countries. Ham Radio has always been an inspiration to many radio amateurs to become leaders in various fields of wireless communication art like the Voice, Digital, Morse Code and internet related communications technologies using special designs of antennas, transmitters, receivers, interface devices are used to enhance the wider coverage of signal to reach every nook and corner of the world. The knowledge sharing and experimentation has in many ways brought superior standards in the technology they use.

Mr. Hans Elhers, DF5UG explained that in a contrary to the wide spread telephone/mobile communication systems, amateur radio gives an individual the necessary technical and operation skill as well as understanding of communication technologies used by people for making a two-way radio contact. He appreciated the role and the service of NIAR and its members.



Mr. Lakshmikanth, VU2LKP, an NRI entrepreneur based in USA, shared his experiences from the past being one of the most active student members participating in various calamities as a volunteer. He also explained how amateur radio encouraged him to improve his skills in personality development, leadership qualities and technical advancement.

He also explained that in present day's context of globalization, our country needs to study and learn from progressive policies in amateur radio adopted by developed countries like USA and in Europe, which give us many progressive examples. He also added by saying that only progressive policies backed up with committed implementation program can only bring desirable results for our country.



Dr. Vijaya Ragavan gave an impressive lecture and paper presentation on "Creative Mindset Building in Radio Usage". In a though provoking lecture he explained the methods that can be followed for Social and Personality development as a result of interactions with the people. The practical examples involving the participants particularly youth and children to self motivation and success attracted the audience.

At the end of the session, Dr. Armugam, Chairman of proceedings for the session honored the speakers for sharing their experiences. Mr. S. Suri, VU2MY, Chairman of NIAR has honored Dr. Armugam for his cooperation and support for the event.

SESSION-II

11:45 ~ 13:15 Promotional Aspects of Amateur Radio:
Discussion on Roadmap for creating 1,00,000 Hams

Chairman of Proceedings: Mr. Gulab Chand, Asst. Wireless Advisor to GoI

Speakers: Ms. Bharathi Pradas, VU2RBI

Mr. Satyapal, VU2FI

Mr. K.G. Nadarajan, VU2KGN

Mr. D.N.R. Rao, VU2DNR

Mr. Chaitanya Kumar, VU3MCK



Mr. Marcus, VU2VTM

Mr. Gulab Chand explained the initiatives taken by Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) wing, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India for issuing special permissions to foreign and Indian hams to operate their amateur radio stations from Lakshadweep Islands as well from Andaman Islands during various occasions in the past and also during this year. The special call signs VU7SJ, VU7NRO, VU4MY and VU4RG was issued for radio amateurs to operate from Kadmat, Agatti of Lakshadweep Islands as well as Port Blair with a view to encourage more hams to participate in these activities. He said that their department would welcome and

keen to support any progressive proposals for development of amateur radio activity in the country.

Speakers:



Ms. Bharathi VU2RBI explained that over the years the need for use of amateur radio in emergency communications have increased and new challenges have been thrown up with more frequent occurrences of major disasters. It requires elaborate planning, preparedness and a motivated group of young enthusiasts to meet these challenges. It is essential to tap the vast human resource in our country and hence the idea to create 1,00,000 hams is envisaged to meet the needs of our future. It is essential to have the concrete program that can become part of a development process of the country, supported by strong economic models that can be replicated for its sustenance and enhanced growth. It is essential to motivate all sections of society to build confidence, bring communities closer by using affordable technologies as well as benefit from such programs. The dx-peditions provide a forum for hams to work as teams, exhibit their technical expertise and channel their resources to be prepared for any eventuality.



Mr. Satyapal, VU2FI, Director Indian Institute of Hams, Bangalore appreciated the services of the regulatory agencies particularly the Department of Telecommunications and Department of Information Technology for their continuous support to amateur radio activity and said the issue of new licenses and renewals has been expedited in the recent years as compared to the past. He also said that even after 110 years of invention of radio, most educational institutions are unaware of the activities of amateur radio and their usefulness to the society, the fault is not with the people but lack of organizational framework to reach out population in a massive way to cover geography and population of India. We need to conduct massive awareness programs in a befitting way through our clubs or individuals. He suggested that each ham may identify atleast 5 schools in their localities and organise awareness programs, it is not difficulty to make 1,00,000 hams. We need to become active and bring a directory of active people.



Mr. K.G. Nadarajan, VU2KGN, President QARL supporting the program to create 1 lakh hams in the country said that Kerala State has been among the forefront in encouraging amateur radio activity and explained that necessary steps are needed to be taken to ensure atleast 1 ham operator in every village. He also said that state governments should adopt suitable policies to expedite this objective and provide resources to meet the targets, the returns of which are ensured through Disaster Management activities. The prolific use of computer & Internet based technologies like Echo-link provide needed stimulus with practical application of this activity. He also said that computer based training and examination would simplify conduct of ASOC examination and achieve desired results. He also said QARL has been achieving 60-80 % success in ASOC examinations conducted each year and would like to continue to train more students as well as associate with other clubs to get some more support.



Mr. D. N.R. Rao, VU2DNR while appreciating the services of NIAR over 25 years said political will is essentially required to carry the message of amateur radio to the people, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, VU2RG being an active Ham himself and as a politician promoted this hobby in our country. It is most appropriate that we do remember his support and NIAR has become synonymous for amateur radio activity in our country. He suggested that the syllabus of ASOC examination needs to be reviewed and modified to make suitable changes to accommodate latest developments in technology as well as having question bank with objective type of questionnaire in examination will go a longway in simplifying procedure for conducting these examinations. The modern equipment is easy to import from abroad as manufactures like BEL in India serve the needs of defence organizations, Duties levied on the these equipment and accessories may be scraped. Not many young people are getting involved in making their own equipment, it requires to create a talent pool in India that would encourage young minds into assemble their own kits. The Morse code for ASOC is not serving the objective as there are many new practical ways that experimentation is conducted using computer softwares. It is highly recommended and that of entire ham community that Morse code is no longer needed to be part of ASOC examination.



Mr. Chaitanya Kumar, VU3MCK observed that while the country is progressing well in various fields, we are still waiting for suitable favorable policies to be initiated for promotion of amateur radio, it is essential for institutions like NIAR to work more aggressively with the policy makers to achieve desirable results. He explained that while student community is most targeted sections for amateur radio resource emphasis should be given to technical institutions, NGOs and Disaster Management agencies. He said motivation for an individual to pursue this hobby can only be sustained by expediting conduct of ASOC examinations, issue of results, issue of Licenses and other administrative aspects as long as they adhere to a specific time frame. He also explained the benefits of amateur radio is not limited to individuals self attainment of knowledge and skill development but also work for community development, awareness should about the hobby needs to start from ones family and his neighborhood.



Mr. Marcus, VU2VTM speaking on the occasion said that amateur radio activity is not an expensive hobby as many perceive it, awareness is most important task, it was suggested to have National Amateur Radio awareness day celebrated by bringing all Hams and Ham Clubs together. The syllabus and conduct of ASOC examination must ensure that a person at the age of 12 years is able to qualify for the same. It is also necessary to update the policies for upgrading the license grades for amateur radio licenses as the syllabus and examination is same for various grades. It is certainly possible to achieve the target of 1,00,000 hams in the country when is a concerted effort from Amateur Radio organizations, Hams and regulatory agencies of Govt. of India.

At the end of the session, Mr. Gulab Chand, Chairman of proceedings for the session presented mementoes to the speakers and thanked them for sharing their valuable experiences. Mr. S. Suri, VU2MY, Chairman of NIAR has honored Mr. Gulab Chand, Asst. Wireless Advisor to Govt of India and thanked all the officers of Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) wing, Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India for their cooperation and support to this event.

SESSION-III

14:00 ~ 15:45 Amateur Radio Satellites:

Chairman : Mr. Franz Berndt, DL9GFB

Speaker: Mr. B.A. Subrahmani, VU2WMY



Mr. Franz Berndt, DL9GFB addressed the gathering on behalf of the team of amateur radio operators visiting Agatti Islands appreciated the Government of India for issuing necessary permissions for International Hams to make suitable preparations to showcase their technology tools and skills on amateur radio operations. He also appreciated the initiatives and effort of NIAR to foreign hams since many years to operate the amateur radio stations from A & N Islands as well as Lakshadweep Islands.

He also presented a memoir - photo album on VU7RG expedition at Lakshadweep Islands during January 2007 in which he was also a participant. He also presented the "Sea of Peace" award to NIAR for its Silver Jubilee special callsign

"AT25MY" operated during 26 July 2008 to 22 October 2008. While appreciating the developments of NIAR, he also readout the message from the Mr. Franz Langner, President of German DX Foundation on the silver jubilee occasion.

Mr. Franz, DL9GFB also presented a "Sea of Peace" award to Ms. Nisha M Mohan, VU2NIS for contacting amateur radio stations around the black sea during the contest period in July 2008.



Mr. Franz, DL9GFB also presented a "Sea of Peace" award to Mr. Jose Jacob, VU2JOS for contacting amateur radio stations around the black sea for the year 2007 .

Speaker:

Mr. B. A. Subramani, VU2WMY, Secretary, Upagraha Radio Club, ISRO, Bangalore gave an excellent and informative power point presentation on Satellite Communications. He also explained that the ten satellites placed in orbit in one launch and seven out of them are amateur radio related satellites.



He explained the lineage of Space communications with the launch of World's first Artificial Satellite –Sputnik 1 which marked the beginning of the space age and importance of use of satellite technologies for remote sensing, weather forecasts, groundwater conservation, relief and rescue. He explained the need of satellite for amateur radio communications using VHF/UHF communication which gives us an opportunity to understanding space technologies as Hams always try to learn many new concepts. Through satellites hams can learn more about digital communications, space science, operating skills improvement, skill of tracking and communicating to various orbiting satellites etc., this gives techniques and exposure to hams.

The most fascinating thing is contacting International space station and talking to Astronauts. All space mission shuttles carry amateur payloads: Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment'. Ham astronaut's on-board space station thrills many schools and hams on earth with a call from space.

An other experiment: Amateur Radio experiment on International Space shuttle. ISS is having permanent ham setup and callsign NE1SS. Most of the astronauts are hams and ISS can itself communicate with hams on earth with digital modes and functions as a cross band repeater.

Amateur Radio still remains Astronauts and Cosmonauts electronic connection to life on earth and a constant home life companion. Most of the Architects are designed, developed and launched by hams from USA, Germany, Canada, Russia, France, Italy, Australia etc., in some countries which are not having their own satellites systems but launched amateur satellites which shows the interest of hams.

Though India joined late, it launched its first satellite "HAMSAT" called Vu Sat or VO-52 on 05.05.2005 which is in the orbit now. It's a linear transponder working with 60 khz bandwidth. HAMSAT is termed as a 'Good Will ambassador' on the air. A world class satellites by ISRO/India ...CQ CQ CQ CQ Ham sat CQ Hamsat CQ Hamsat. The skies reverberated by carrying these messages, the moment when the Indian pay load transponder of Hamsat was switched on 6th May 2005 after the Hamsat soared into space aboard PSLV on that magical day 05-05-2005.

He said India has vast potential with the student community among various universities that needs to be galvanized to conduct experiments in amateur satellites.

At the end of the session, Mr. Franz, Chairman of the session honored the speaker for his informative presentation. Mr. S. Satyapal, VU2FI, Governing Council member of NIAR have honored Mr. Franz for his excellent presentations.

SESSION-IV

15:45 ~ 17:00 Expeditions / Contesting

Chairman : Mr. B.M.Baveja, Sr. Director, DIT

Speakers:



Mr. Norbert Meyer, DJ7JC, Germany

Ms. Jeanie Parker, WA6UVF, USA

Ms. Kyoko Miyoshi, JR3MVF, Japan

Mr. B.M. Baveja, Sr. Director, DIT which speaking on the occasion said dxpeditons are unique by which amateur radio operators excel in a team event, working for a common objective and also strike a social chord among participants. He reminded the fruitful interactions during Hamfests organized during 2006 and 2007 which involved participation of foreign and Indian hams, exhibiting tremendous physical and technical ability, professionalism on par with the best in the field which are unique qualities of radio amateurs. He congratulated all the team members of VU7SJ,VU7NRO, VU4RG, VU4MY dxpedition and appreciated the role of international ham community for the supporting amateur radio activity in India.

Speakers



Mr. Norbert Meyer, DJ7JC, Germany shared his expedition's experiences to the participants. Personal Development in making own Crystal radio, Short Wave radio and intrinsic motivation of individual for expanding knowledge, participate in social causes for working in disaster. The dxpeditions provide an opportunity to develop deep friendship with other like-minded people around the world. He also gave insights into planning, preparations team roles and responsibilities, raising resources to organize a good dxpedition with an interesting power point presentation on TI9KK expedition on "Isla Del Coco", Costa Rica in 2008.



Ms. Jeanie Parker, WA6UVF, representing Young Ladies Radio League USA congratulated NIAR and its team for celebrating Silver Jubilee. Ms. Ellen J Parker from USA thanked the Government of India for encouragement given to foreign Hams to operate their amateur radio stations earlier and recently from Lakshadweep islands as well as A&N islands and providing an opportunity to exchange their views on promotional aspects of amateur radio. She also explained that participation of women is important in the technically challenging activities as it builds their self-confidence and motivates them to exhibit their professionalism on par with men in the field. She also suggested having exclusive activities with women ham members in the country that will go a long way in promoting the cause of amateur radio.



Ms. Kyoko Mioyoshi, JR3MVF, President Japan Ladies Radio League Japan



The success of the earlier Hamfest 2006 in Port Blair, A&N Islands and Hamfest 2007, Lakshadweep Islands has encouraged hams to take active role in co-ordinating this major event. The International Ham community is proud to be associated with the NIAR. She lauded the support given by the Ministry of Communications and IT for all the major events of NIAR for promotion of amateur radio in India. She suggested that young generation needs to be motivated by encouraging them to participate in group events, technical debates, constructing of electronic kits.

Ms. D. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI and Ms. S. Yamini, VU2YAM of NIAR honored Ms. Jeanie Parker, UA3UVF for her continuous support to amateur radio activities in India for over three years.

Program- DAY-2, 19 October, 2008

SESSION-V

10:00~11:30 Emergency Commun

ications: Prepare for Social Response

Chairman : Mr. Denzil B Atkinson, Ex-MP

Speakers : Mr.S.Suri, VU2MY

Dr. Vijayaraghavan

Mr. Hans Elhers, DF5UG

Lion Ajoy, VU2JHM



Mr. Denzil B Atkinson, Ex-MP said that understanding of amateur radio concepts has not reached the sections of policy makers who are unaware of the potential use of this activity for community development. He shared his experiences and difficulties inherent in the bureaucracy that failed to understand his proposal to establish amateur radio stations in over 25 institutions across the state was not favorably considered. However, his continuous effort to achieve this objective has given the opportunity for 4 schools to encourage their students to take part in amateur radio activities. He said people of the country needs to be educated that ham radio is a communication tool and more useful than any other communication system. After seeing the growth of ham and importance, it is my duty to write to C.M, MP'S and others about this hobby. Even under present circumstances of prolific use of Internet and mobile phones, all the officials like Collectors etc., are not able to send messages to other officials during calamities. My suggestion is to improve ham population by way of making atleast 1 million hams and setting of stations in each district head quarters. And that should go down to panchayath level and lower levels. Latest developments in amateur radio using GPS may be used for helping society in disasters. Students must be made aware of this useful hobby through their curriculum at school and all the institutions who can afford to setup ham radio should encourage the same for their children.

Speakers



Mr. Suri VU2MY explained the steps taken by NIAR to improve emergency communication skills of Indian hams by joining the international amateur radio community Hams with greater emphasis on training at Austria, Interaction with the experts in Dayton and participation in GAREC conferences during the recent years. He stressed that Indian hams should learn to use latest technologies that can be implemented for providing better services to the administration in times of need. He encouraged participation in Disaster management exercises, interaction with other NGOs and Disaster Management agencies for better inter-agency coordination. He also informed that a database of interested ham volunteers is being maintained and equipment resources are being upgraded to meet the future challenges. He also stressed that Hams and Ham Clubs in India should work with a single objective of service through society as well as develop human resource of hams in different parts of the country for efficient emergency communications response.



Dr. Vijayaraghavan explained about the methods of creative mindset to achieve success to most complex challenges for Ham community and society in general and to look forward for solutions from a non-ham perspective which could achieve desired results. He said while the experience gained by the individual in the field helps in evolving a thought process but to overcome these challenges sections of society other than hams can also provide suitable professional advice that evolve strategies and tasks that assist ham organizations in improving their skills for emergency communications, team work, organizing abilities and creative environment. He also distributed prizes to the participants who actively participated in various memory improvement tests etc.



Mr. Hans Elhars, DF5UG explained that individuals need to understand about the importance of amateur radio service and should develop a commitment to pursue a hobby with intent of service. He said that several International agencies including the United Nations have realized the potential of amateur radio service and encouraged the same. He said that it essential to

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prepare a directory of committed radio amateurs, understanding technical skills as a hobbyist and commitment for service to society.



Lion Ajay, VU2JHM explained that amateur radio emergency communications for social response as a coordinated effort by way of networking of resources of various organizations and agencies that are depended on communications for providing efficient Disaster Management. As there are more agencies Lions, Rotary Clubs and others that get involved in Disaster Management activities, amateur radio operators are also expected to exhibit their professionalism in their skills to match their support. It is required to have continuous training, mock drills and be prepared. He also extended invitation to all participants to join again in Bangalore to celebrate 50 years of BARC.

The speakers of the session were later felicitated by the Chairman of the session Mr. Denzil B Atkinson, Ex-MP.

SESSION-VI

11:45 ~ 13:45

Home Brew Techniques

Speakers

Mr. S.B. Ram, VU2LIC

Ms. S. Yamini, VU2YAM

Dr. Rajashekar, VU2HMY

Mr. K.C. Pandey



Dr. Rajeswara Rao, former DDG (Telecom) said radio spectrum is a natural resource that needs to be exploited for benefit of the people. Amateur Radio operators utilize this abundant natural resource for two-way communication, disaster management technical experimentation and scientific advancement. The people of the country must be made aware on the benefits of this communication technology and organizations like NIAR with their experience of 25 years in this field must work for bringing suitable policies with the government seeking support from all sections of society. The leadership of the organization should work closely with Indian administration and also encourage people to people understanding, International relationships with neighboring countries and South East Asia. The spectrum of Ham Radio is a major resource available for developing countries that can be used to improve scientific advancement and suggested case

studies on the above subjects may be placed on internet for wider understanding of the people.



Dr. Rajashekhar, VU2HMY gave a detailed technical presentation on the low cost home made 'HMY2K8' HF transceiver designed and developed by him having a double conversion receiver and achieving a power out put of 40-50 Watt. The power source of 12 V - 1 Amp can either be a batter or a low cost rectifier input. He explained the circuit operation with complete schematic diagram and detailed construction. A detailed report is also published in the HAMTECH 2008 Souvenir. He also said that further developments are underway for improving the quality of the equipment for multi-band operation soon.



Ms. S. Yamini VU2YAM shared her experience of "TI9KK" International Expedition to Cocos Islands, Costa Rica, Central America being the First Indian and only woman participant of a 12 member team comprising of Hams from Europe, USA and Asia hams to work on SSB,CW, RTTY, EME and Pactor operation. She explained the challenges met by the team to succeed in their goal which has won the members of the team several prestigious awards nationally and internationally.



Mr. K.S. Pandey While congratulating NIAR for successful completion of 25 years in service explained that amateur radio is a unique resource by which the developing countries can network even remote regions with an excellent communication network among the people. He said that our country has vast geographical area where technical difficulties arising of wire line

connectivity at many places cannot be addressed considering the scale and scope of disasters. Hence, people must be encouraged to build a network of amateur radio communications along the communities particularly the coast-line and remote regions.



Mr. Balaji Kumar shared his experience on how amateur radio assisted to gain self-confidence in life through participation in several activities like Asiad'82 games and other disaster management programs even being a physically challenged person.



Mr. S.B. Ram VU2LIC gave detailed account of his experience since 1982, his association with the amateur radio activity and the inspiration of NIAR founder Mr. Suri about the Vision and Mission for which NIAR was established. He said several members of NIAR have shown utmost commitment to achieve the objectives of the organization. He explained that administrations and policy makers need to be made aware on the benefits of amateur radio and its technologies on regular basis. He suggested that stake holders of amateur radio activity in the country must work as a united force to achieve desirable policies from Govt. of India.



Mr. S. Suri, VU2MY presenting a memento to Dr. Rajeswara Rao, former DDG (Telecom), GoI for his support to promote amateur radio.

SESSION –VII- Presentation of Awards:

HF Transceiver Award presented at HAMTECH 2008

G-QRP CLUB and QRP-ARCI Jointly sponsored 20 MFJ 9420 HF SSB Transceivers to encourage Amateur Radio activity among young Indian hams, who are interested and willing to promote the activity.

National Institute of Amateur Radio had earlier made an announcement requesting nominations for the HF Transceiver Award. Several nominations were received from across the country for the above said award. A committee chaired by Ms. D. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI finalized the list of award winners and the awards were presented at the HAMTECH 2008 organised by NIAR during October 18-20, 2008.

As per the criteria, the awards were presented to Hams those are most deserving and shown keen interest to operate and promote amateur radio activity in the region. Preference

was given to the school children, Ham Clubs in schools and colleges and active amateur radio volunteers and amateur radio clubs so as to encourage them to further promote the activity.

Several of these stations are already on the air and have sent encouraging reports of not only contacting stations within India but also with hams from other countries.

We are thankful to the sponsors of this award - G QRP Club and QRP ARCI and their encouraging support to strengthen amateur radio activity in the country.



Name : Mr. Naman Batra
 Callsign : VU3NBA
 Designation : Student, Delhi Public School
 Address : C 317, DDA Flats, Saket
 City / State : New Delhi
 Pin : 110017
 Email : vu3nba@gmail.com
 About him : A School boy from Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram, Sec 12, New Delhi.



Name : Ms. M. N. Machamma
 Callsign : VU3HVC
 Designation : Asst. Director, Northern Region, NCTC, Bharat Scouts & Guides
 Address : B-263, New Ashok Nagar
 City / State : New Delhi
 Pin : 110096
 About her : She deals with activities for both adult and youth by organizing Disaster Preparedness Course, Adventure / Trekking Programs etc. Hosts Jamboree on the Air/ Jamboree on the Internet for Scouts & Guides.



Name : Ms. Vineeta Mathur
 Callsign : VU3DXX
 Designation : Teacher
 Address : 404, Gulmohar, D. S. K. Ranwara, NDA-Bawdhan Road,
 City : Pune
 State : Maharashtra
 Pin : 411021
 Email : vineetamathur@rediffmail.com
 About her : Ham not having any equipment.

Promotes Amateur Radio in among school Children her area.



Name : Ms. Vineeta Mathur
 Callsign : VU3DXX
 Designation : Teacher
 Address : 404, Gulmohar, D. S. K. Ranwara,
 NDA-Bawdhan Road,
 City : Pune
 State : Maharashtra
 Pin : 411021
 Email : vineetamathur@rediffmail.com

Operating with the new MFJ HF Transceiver



(Ms. Lissy, VU3LMS receiving the set)

Name : Amateur Radio Club
 Callsign : VU2VLF
 Address : Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, Uppal
 City : Hyderabad
 State : Andhra Pradesh
 Pin : 500039
 Email : vu2vlf@gmail.com

About Club : The club is conducting demonstrations and JOTA for students and regular Amateur Radio training classes.



Name : Mr. R. Hiremath
 Callsign : VU3IGP
 Designation : Administrator, The Presidency Public School
 Address : Gurukula, Amarapura Road, Sira
 City : Tumkur Dist
 State : Karnataka
 Pin : 572137
 Email : administrator@sirapresidency.org

About him : Participated in providing communication during many car rallies. He is interested in popularizing HAM Radio activities in Presidency group of institutions, where he is working.



Name : Mr. Deepak M. Chauhan
 Callsign : VU2DMC
 Designation : Holy Cross Matriculation Higher Secondary School
 Address : K. N. Colony
 City : Salem
 State : Tamilnadu
 Pin : 636014
 Email : salemholycross@hotmail.com

About him : He is promoting amateur radio in the school. He is conducting annual trekking 10 km. Bro. Gerard memorial mini Marathon race.



Name : Mr. S. Vijayan and Ms. Rajeswari Mariappan
 Callsign : VU2WDP
 Designation : Prof. & Head, Dept. of ECE, KCT Ham Club
 Address : Kumaraguru College of Technology, Box 2034
 City : Coimbatore
 State : Tamilnadu
 Pin : 641006
 Email : rajeswarim@gmail.com
 About club : Promotes Amateur Radio in the college.



Name : Mr. K. R. Kasi Viswanathan
 Callsign : VU2FFM
 Address : 18, Agraharam, Karatholuvu
 City : Udumalpet Tk,
 State : Tamilnadu
 Pin : 642203
 Email : vu2ffm@rediffmail.com
 About him : He is Radio Dxr providing communication during rallies, voluntary communication support provided to police dept. Helps forest department during the annual census of wild animals.



Name : Dr. Sanjeev Attri
 Designation : Lecturer, Life Science, GGSSS
 Address : c/o R.D.Gautam, 254/1, Ram Kundi
 City : Nahan
 State : Himachal Pradesh
 Pin : 173001
 Email : sandeepbatra_nhn@yahoo.co.in
 About him : He is interested in promoting HAM Radio to the school children of Nahan.



Name : Dr. R. Rajasekhar
 Callsign : VU2HMY
 Designation : Doctorate in Zoology.
 Address : 201, Krishi Nilayam, 10th Cross, Magunta Layout
 City : Nellore
 State : Andhra Pradesh
 Pin : 524003
 Email : vu2hmy@yahoo.co.in
 About him : He is promoting HAM Radio by giving demonstrations in schools & colleges. He designed and developed multi band HF transceiver (HMY2K8).



Name : Mr. K. Leela Krishna
 Callsign : VU3LGX
 Address : 1-63, Ramalayam Street,
 Ramavarappadu
 City : Vijayawada
 State : Andhra Pradesh
 Pin : 521108
 Email : niar007@gmail.com
 About him : He is very active NIAR volunteer
 and participated in Demonstrations / Dxpeditons.



Name : Mr. Mukesh Kumar Gola
 Callsign : VU2MCW
 Address : T-743 A, Faiz Road, Karol Bagh
 City / State : New Delhi
 Pin : 110005
 Email : vu2mcw@yahoo.com
 About him : He has lot of interest in HAM
 Radio. Done many activities in Himachal Pradesh & Bharat
 Scouts & Guides and helping in amateur radio promotion
 activities in North India.



Name : Mr. K. G. Nadarajan
 Callsign : VU2KGN
 Designation : President, Quilon Amateur Radio
 League
 Address : MC 249, Beach Road
 City : Kollam
 State : Kerala
 Pin : 691001
 Email : vu2kgn@yahoo.com
 About club : Quilon Amateur Radio League,
 VU2QAR, a very active club in Kerala received excellent active
 club award promoting HAM Radio. Conducts Fox hunt & Ham
 Fair every year during the World Amateur Day.



Name : Mr. Sampath Kumar
 Callsign : VU2YZ
 Designation : President, Bangalore Amateur
 Radio Club
 Address : Box 5053, GPO
 City : Bangalore
 State : Karnataka
 Pin : 560001
 Email : sampathmrs@yahoo.com
 About him : He is almost a professional in
 founding amateur radio clubs. Founder member of Repeater
 Society of Bangalore. Promoting amateur radio activities in
 Karnataka state.



Name : Mr. Rajesh T.C.
 Callsign : VU2TRH
 Designation : Space Rays Amateur Radio Club
 Address : Anthikad
 City : Thrissur Dist
 State : Kerala
 Pin : 680641
 Email : spacerays@yahoo.com
 About him : Space Rays Amateur Radio Club provides vital communication support to the local authorities and public during the time of emergencies. Conduct awareness programs / seminar/ demos / Training / conducting ASOC examination etc.



Name : Mr. Alex Kuncheria
 Callsign : VU2AJL
 Address : Pushpalyam, Nalugody
 City : Changanacherry
 State : Kerala
 Pin : 686548
 Email : alexkuncheria@gmail.com
 About him : Active handicapped ham



Name : Mr. Tapas Chakraborty
 Callsign : VU2TKC
 Designation : President, Indian Wave of Amateur Radio
 Address : FL 501, 60 New G. T. Road, Uttarpara
 City : Hooghly
 State : West Bengal
 Pin : 712258
 Email : vu2iwa@gmail.com
 About him : He is promoting Ham Radio activities in Kolkata.



Name : Mr. Joy Chakraborty
 Callsign : VU3JCH
 Designation : Journalist
 Address : 23 Kali Kumar Majumdar Road, Santoshpur, Battala, 2nd Floor
 City : Kolkata
 State : West Bengal
 Pin : 700075
 Email : vu3jch@gmail.com
 About him : Interested in Promoting Amateur Radio in his area..



Name : Mr. Debasish Ghosh
 Callsign : VU2DGH
 Designation : Electronics Engineer
 Address : Shaikh Lane, Village Shantinagar, Danesh
 City : Howrah
 State : West Bengal
 Pin : 711109
 Email : vu2dgh@india.com
 About him : Home Brewer, Active Ham.



Mr. Satyapal VU2FI while congratulating the award winners said that the activity is likely to receive major thrust with the equipment support provided to amateur radio operators and clubs. He said the award winners need to re-assure with their active presence on the amateur radio band in operation on a regular basis. He lauded the efforts made by NIAR for distributing 25 radio sets during the silver jubilee year to the most deserving radio amateurs in the country. He also suggested having a suitable HF contest which encourages participation of the radio amateurs including the award winners.

Mr.S.Suri, VU2MY while congratulating the award winners said that the sponsors of the award and the manufacturer have constructed the model for simple and easy to use operation. The equipment was shipped to India and being provided on as is condition. He thanked the QRP-ARCI, G-QRP Club UK, the manufacturer MFJ electronics, USA and also Ms. Bharathi VU2RBI for her dedicated, tireless efforts to implement the awards program for the benefit of amateur radio community in India.



Mr. J.Suryanarayana, VU2JJS congratulated all the award winners and said it was a unique occasion in the country to see many of the most deserving young amateurs and active clubs receive such a quality equipment which will benefit the activity in coming years.



Mr.A Satyanarayana, VU2SAX congratulated the award winners and suggested them to take active participation on radio bands and called for renewing their commitment by participating in Disaster Management activity whenever needed. He said the spirit of volunteerism should inspire many young radio amateurs from across the country to the wonderful scientific activity.

Mr.S.B.Ram VU2LIC congratulated the radio clubs and other hams who received the HF transceiver award and recollected the informal discussions with late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's vision for increasing the Ham population in the country and also providing each ham a radio set. He said with consistent efforts and support from Govt of India, Govt of AP and International organizations, NIAR has made considerable progress over the 25 years. We have made first steps to achieve the goal of having one ham in every village of the country and wish NIAR will continue this kind of service so that in future more and more hams can go on air.

Mr. Gulab Chand, Asst. Wireless Advisor congratulated award winners and NIAR for the excellent program. He appreciated the enthusiasm and spirit of amateur radio operators coming together on this memorable occasion to share their experiences. The programs have been very informative giving insights in various technologies used by Hams. It also gives an opportunity to understand said the participation and active interaction with many amateurs This is a very good program organized by NIAR. We are all well looked after. I was most comfortable. I congratulate Mr. Suri and I hope similar functions would be done in future. We can see great future in this hobby. We all will give our best efforts for promotion o this hobby.



Mr. Gulab Chand honored Ms. Kyoko Miyoshi, JR3MVF for the support to NIAR activities during many years.

SESSION-VIII: Digital Amateur Radio Communications-

Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) for Amateur Radio-Mr. Sarath Babu, VU3RSB

ALE is - A radio system for calling up HF stations for SSB or digital modes, QSOs and Nets, a transceiver feature, that scans HF frequencies for calls and messages, a way of using your computer and ham rig for HF email, HF phone texting, and HF-to-HF message relay and the international standard for initiating and sustaining HF communications.

What Does ALE Do for Ham Radio Emcomm? Maintains Hot Standby Nets 24 - 7 - 365 on demand. Interoperates via SSB voice or Text between various organizations and agencies on HF. HF email with just your HF radio and computer, Tracks GPS positions by HF.

How ALE Works: Each ham radio ALE station uses the operator's callsign as a digital address. When not actively in a QSO with another station, each ALE transceiver constantly scans through common frequencies on all bands, listening for its own callsign. Each ALE transceiver also listens for other callsigns and memorizes the frequency, signal quality, and time each callsign is heard.

ALE Hardware and Software: Most ALE ham operators use PCAL software ALE program with an HF amateur radio SSB transceiver. MULTIPSK software has recently added the basic functions of ALE for calling and messaging. MARS members use MARS-ALE. Hams also use commercial HF radios with ALE built-in... a computer is not needed with these radios. Other ham software programs are now in the process of adding ALE. External ALE controllers are also available (for more details, please refer NIAR HAMTECH-2008 Souvenir).

Mr.Sanildeep, VU3SIO gave a talk on BCDX - Broadcasting Distance Station. BCDXer will be sitting in the home, listening the signal from unknown place and doing this hobby. He also explained the concepts of Short wave Radio listening and challenge to listen international stations from our own shacks with simple antennas. He explained that a dedicated group of individuals and hams have come forward to encourage youngsters to enjoy this fascinating hobby and also sharing information on listening to international stations you will be able to listen to their local songs, local language, listen their local news. It only requires using a simple radio with buildup antenna inside, by monitoring all bands we can listen to some stations broadcasting on some particular frequencies. He said there are books written by good radio listeners that provide exciting insights into the radio dxing.



Mr. Sanildeep, VU3SIO receiving a memento from Mrs.S.Yamini, VU2YAM

Program- DAY-3, 20 October, 2008

SESSION-1X

10:00~11:30 Open forum- Sum up / Recommendations

Chairman : Mr. G.L.Rao, VU2GL



Mr. Ramesh Babu, VU2RDM



Mr. Ramprabhu, VU2DEV

An Open forum with a sum up and also recommendations were taken up at the final and concluding session on day 3 of the Hamtech 2008. The session was chaired by Mr.G.L.Rao, VU2GL former President IEI and Vice-Chairman NIAR. Several representatives of amateur radio clubs were present and shared their views on discussions and deliberations that transpired in the three-day event.

Mr. Ramprabhu VU2DEV gave details on recently made a simple, low cost digital VFO covering 5MHz and shared the information on the technical parameters, circuit design and construction for homebrew transceiver. He said that trials were being made on the stability and further developments will be made based on the performance of the transceiver model.

Mr. Ramesh Babu VU2RDM explained the importance of home brewing in amateur radio as the important aspect for sustenance of amateur radio activity for enthusing young minds in experimentation on electronics and communication. He also explained the design and construction of RM96 transceiver being among the most popular low cost transceiver in India.

The following resolutions / recommendations were made:-

The conference registers its regards and thanks to the Dept of Information Technology, Ministry of Communication and IT, GOI and Ministries of Home Affairs, Defense, External Affairs for sponsoring and supporting the HAMTECH 2008.

A "Research Cell" is to be established at NIAR for taking up need based; time demanding research in Amateur Radio and a Document cell is to be set up for compiling the rear experience of Amateur Radio clubs in the country. This would serve as a food data-base for convincing the policy makers of the contributions and scope of Amateur Radio.

A suitable Awards program may be launched to recognize noteworthy contributions made by Individuals/Institutions/Non-Government Organisations for furthering amateur radio communication concepts in India.

To achieve a target of 1 Lakh Hams in the county, intensive educational campaign is to be triggered on war footing to create a basic awareness among general public on the potential and importance of Amateur Radio Communications. All Amateur clubs in the country may organize a special activity and take a pledge to reactivate the sick clubs and enroll new

clubs as well as organize joint programs with NCC, NSS, Scouts & Guides, Lions, Rotary clubs and other service organizations.

During the National Science day celebration on Feb 28 every year, the students should be encouraged to make small equipments of Amateur radio and be rewarded suitably by local clubs(as said by Gulab Chandji) and the schools as a policy are to be encouraged to go for Amateur radio clubs. The conference request the GOI

To recycle the surplus or condemned wireless equipments in operational condition from various labs, defense and police departments for further use by Amateur after due modifications.

To abolish customs and excise duty on import of amateur radio transceivers and accessories including antennas and radio modems etc.

To provide substantial financial support to encourage projects and programs for amateur radio promotion in the country.

The conference recommends administrative and policy modifications on regulatory issues particularly simplifying the procedures for issue, renewal of amateur station operators licence and conduct of ASOC examination, Syllabus, license categories based on the current developments in the amateur radio wireless communication technologies.

The conference feels it as a necessity to bring out a national policy in colleges/technical institutions/UGC to encourage the involvement of youth at a very young age in Amateur radio activity.



NIAR has been a force for consistent technical advancement, individual skill training and the improvement of emergency communication capabilities not only within India but around the world. Due to these concerted accomplishments, the delegates of the conference unanimously recommend Government of India and its agencies to support up gradation of NIAR as centre for excellence in "Emergency Management & Communications Institute" (as that of ICRISAT & other organizations).

Report on Amateur Radio operations:

The Department of Telecommunications, Government of India issued a special permission to foreign and Indian hams to operate their amateur radio stations from Kadmat, Agatti of Lakshadweep Islands with special call signs VU7SJ, VU7NRO as

well as Port Blair, A & N islands with the calls VU4MY, VU4RG. The amateur radio operations were permitted from these islands during 24 Oct-03 Nov 2008.



VU7SJ, VU7NRO, VU4RG and VU4MY Teams
International Dxpediton team members - Mr. Franz DL9GFB, Mr. Norbert DJ7JC, Ms. Yamini VU2YAM, Ms. Bhanumathy VU2BL, Ms. Nisha VU2NIS, Mr. Madhu Mohanan VU2UWZ, Mr. Jorgen DF7TT, Mr. Jose VU2JOS

This event is unique as 2 Islands of Lakshadweep and A & N islands got simultaneously activated by International and national Hams. This was certainly an excellent display of technical and operating skills by hams, even when propagation conditions were predicted to be unfavorable, the world community of Hams proved that successful two-way radio contacts can be made with other amateur radio stations around the world using SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31, SSTV modes of operation.

Over 43,750 contacts around the world, proves that in any kind of Disaster Management, Ham radio can establish reliable communication to and from any remote region of the world.

The concept of organising an International Dxpediton started as a multi dimensional approach that explain the planning, preparedness, installation and operation of amateur radio stations from remote corners of the world.

The activity also promotes youth to empower themselves with the knowledge and skills on economical models of alternate channels of communication. The humanitarian assistance provided by hams using of amateur radio technologies in times of disaster, explain the social relevance of this technical activity. The information exchange on local culture, people and places encourages tourism through amateur radio.

Summary of International Amateur Radio Dxpediton to Andaman Islands and Lakshadweep Islands during 24th October – 3rd November 2008.

SITE-1: VU4MY Dxpediton Port Blair, A & N Islands



Operators:



YL S.Yamini-VU2YAM



Ram Mohan-VU2MYH

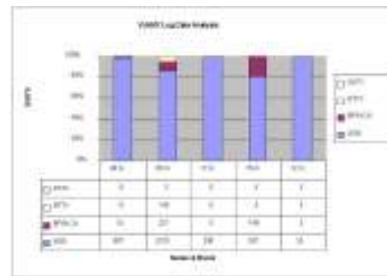


YL M.Bhanumathy-VU2BL

Equipment : IC 7000, MFJ digital interface, NIMM logging software

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Antennas : Spider beam, 20 / 40 m inverted V, All band Buddi pole



Bands : 40 m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m

Modes : SSB, BPSK, RTTY, SSTV



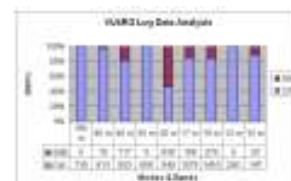
SSTV QSO

SITE-2 :VU4RG



Operators:

Norbert Meyer, DJ7JC (VU3NLF)



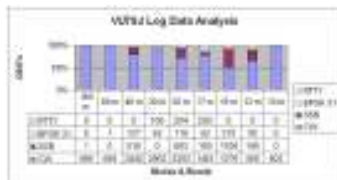
Helmut, DL5DSM (VU3NLG)
 Equipment: FT857; Elecraft K3,
 N1MM, MiXW, HRD
 Antennas: 160m L-Antenna; Vertical for 80 m
 CW, 40m Phased Array (2GP's); 30m GP; 20-10m 5-
 Band-Spiderbeam
 Modes: CW, SSB, BPSK, RTTY
 QTH: Port Blair, A & N
 Islands

SITE-3: VU7SJ



Operators:

DL9GFB OM Franz (VU3RYE) (SSB, CW)
 DF7TT OM Juergen (VU3NKG) (CW, Digital)
 VU2JOS OM Jos (CW, SSB)
 VU3HEM OM Hemant (SSB)



EQUIPMENT : Icom IC 7400, Icom IC
 746, Yaesu FT 747 GX, Yaesu FL 7000
 ANTENNAS : Spider Beam, HF9V, 30 M
 Vertical, 160 M Vertical, 17 M Vertical, Inverted V for
 80 M, 20 M/40 M.

Bands : 160 m, 80 m, 40, 30m,
 20m, 17 m, 15 m, 12 m and 10 m

Location : Agatti Beach Resort, Agatti,
 Lakshadweep Islands

Site-4: VU7NRO : Kadmat Beach Resort,
 Kadmat, Lakshadweep Islands



Operators:

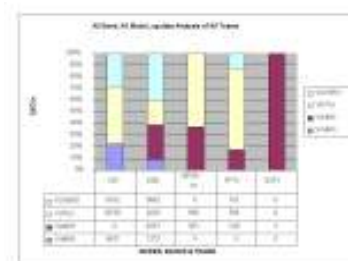
VU2UWZ OM Madhu (Phone & Digital)
 VU2NIS XYL Nisha (CW)

Equipments : Yeasu FT 840, Yeasu FT
 757GX, Yeasu FL 7000, 6 Ele Tri Band, Hustler 6BT,
 Acer TravelMate 4061 Laptop,

Bands : 160 m, 80 m, 40, 30m, 20m,
 17 m, 15 m, 12 m and 10 m

Antennas : Hygain Vertical AV14AVQ-1,
 Icom AH 710 folded dipole, Off centre dipole
 80/40/20, Inverted "V" 20/40, 30 Mtr, 15 Mtr

ALL BAND, ALL MODE, ALL STATIONS LOG DATA



Mr. Joshi, Ex- Wireless Advisor, WPC visited NIAR
 on 1st November 2008. He appreciated the activities
 and role of NIAR. Amateur Radio demonstration was
 shown to him.

Glendale school students visited NIAR

The students of Glendale school visited NIAR on
 16.12.2008. A demonstration on Amateur Radio
 communication technology shown to the students. A
 live demonstration of amateur radio technology was
 also shown to the students. The management of
 school impressed on the role and importance of ham
 radio.

Demonstration to Jain International school students

The students of Jain international school visited NIAR on 10th November 2008. A demonstration on Amateur Radio communication technology shown to the students. A live demonstration of amateur radio technology was also shown to the students. The management of school impressed on the role and importance of ham radio.

APUNA organized its General meeting in NIAR HQ on 07-12-08.



Several members were present and discussed about the activities of APUNA.

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