**Report to the ARRL Board of Directors**

**International Affairs Vice President**

**IARU Region 3 Conference**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea**

**September 2018**

**Summary of meetings and conventions attended:**

**IARU Administrative Conference (AC) September 8 & 9, 2018**

**IARU Region 3 Conference, September 10 through 14, 2018**

**IARU Administrative Conference**

The IARU Administrative Conference is the yearly in-person meeting of the IARU officers and two representatives of each of the three IARU Regions. The meeting is typically held immediately preceding a Region conference. Each Region holds a conference every third year on a rotating basis. The purpose of the AC meetings is to discuss, develop and implement IARU policies, programs and strategies. I attended the AC meeting as an observer from Region 2 and to assist in reporting on the results of the Consultative process for election of IARU President and VP.

A broad range of topics were discussed during this two day meeting. The primary areas of discussion were: succession planning; changing regulatory environment; youth and the future of Amateur Radio; QSL Bureaus and branding IARU.

The Succession Planning discussion centered on the need to document the skill sets of existing subject matter expert volunteers and to determine future needs at the regional and international level. In an increasingly challenging environment we need to identify current and potential future subject matter expert volunteers who can identify potentially harmful proposals, explain the risks and effectively advocate on behalf of Amateur Radio. The AC then discussed methods to identify potential personnel, develop training material and improve coordination of task groups at a global level.

The discussion on the Changing Regulatory Environment noted the shift in emphasis from technical to economic basis and centered on how IARU should respond. One proposal was preparation of a white paper identifying this change and the risks to incumbent and future users from spectrum pollution, increased interference resulting from the decrease in meaningful technical evaluation of proposals and reduced regulation. The looming threat is Wireless Power Transmission (WPT). WPT is a threat both as means of re-charging Electric Powered Vehicles (EPV) because of the very large power levels, and to a lesser extent small electronics because of their sheer numbers. WPT for EPV’s presents a real problem with harmonics well into the HF bands. Additionally, there is a plan to have the WPT systems retune the individual device within a band of spectrum to maximize power transfer. This would result in the potential for a broad range of harmonic pollution whereas if a single frequency was employed there would be a significantly limited spectrum affected.

The AC recognized that Amateur Radio is and always has been an evolving set of interests. The survival and growth of Amateur Radio depends on meeting the needs and interests of each succeeding generation. While a fascination with the science and art of Amateur Radio is at the core of each generation’s interest, the specific interests of Amateurs varies from generation to generation. The AC recognizes while its role is spectrum protection and development not member recruitment, this goal requires working with Member Societies to encourage a meaningful future Amateur population. IARU will work to encourage Member Societies to increase the visibility of Amateur Radio, cooperate and exchange successful ideas and programs and ideas to increase the interest and participation of youth in Amateur Radio. In Region 1 a few societies have been successful in finding active, interested young people who, in turn, have brought friends and peers to Amateur Radio. The interest may arise from STEM activities which include wireless communication or control, ARDF or other Radiosport; the key is finding what interests the youth rather than trying to make them fit our mold.

The role of QSL Bureaus now and in the future was another point of discussion. The current IARU QSL Bureau Policy was last revised in 2009. In the intervening years QSL practices have significantly changed due to electronic QSLing and increased postal rates. The cost of operating a QSL Bureau while considered a worthwhile member benefit for many Member Societies, has become an economic burden for some Societies. Recognizing this concern, the AC adopted Resolution 18-1 which provides in part”

“Member Societies are encouraged to continue to offer QSL bureau service in their countries, …..so long as doing so is economically justifiable, and ….amateurs are encouraged to adopt confirmation practices, including but not limited to using electronic confirmation systems that reduce the volume of unwanted or undeliverable QSL cards being introduced into the bureau system.”

Finally, IARU has undertaken an effort toward uniform branding of IARU and its three Regional organizations. This branding includes a new webpage template and format for IARU and the Regions that projects a uniform image and is easily accessible and navigable.

**Region 3 Conference**

IARU Region 3 includes nearly all of that portion of Asia (not part of the Former Soviet Union) east of and including Iran, plus Oceana and Australasia. Region 3 meets in conference every three years. ARRL is part of Region 3 because the US territories of Guam and the Northern Marianna’s are within Region 3.

The conference business consists of certifying the credentials of the Delegates and alternates, choosing Committee and Working Group Chairpersons, assigning proposals to Working Groups (WG), acting on WG recommendations and electing R3 Directors for the next three years. Most of the work takes place in the WG’s. Policy Issues were handled by WG1, chaired by Greg Kelly, VK2GPK. Operational Issues were addressed by WG2, chaired by Ta-Wei Tao, BV2FP. When a proposal has both policy and operational components it is reviewed by both WG’s. The Financial Committee was chaired by Andrew Cheong, VR2XXC.

The recommendations of the Committees and Working Groups are presented to the full Conference in Plenary Session for approval or modification.

This was a paperless conference. Conference Documents can be found at <http://r3.org/the-17th-triennial-conference-of-the-iaru-region-3-documents/> .

President Roderick was the ARRL Delegate and I was the Alternate. This was his first R3 conference and it appeared most of the significant proposals were going to be discussed in WG1, including several band planning issues, so we both spent the majority of the time in WG1. The primary issues or proposals presented in WG1 were:

**Document 31 Youth Activities in IARU R3**

There was an extensive discussion of what we can do to get more youth interested in amateur radio. We must recognize that efforts to interest today’s youth in ham radio has to be broader than what we experienced whenever we became Amateurs. Among the ideas presented were the following:  
 a. Listen to youth for ideas as to their interests.   
 b. Let youth help design and organize their activities.   
 c. Partner with youth centered organizations such as schools, Scouts & Cadets.   
 d. Recognize individual MS may well have totally different circumstances and challenges. For example, Hong Kong youth are parent driven to tutorials and

activities to the extent there is little or no recreational times. In those circumstances in school programs geared to STEM may be best answer.

e. In Region 1 they find having someone under 30 is crucial in promoting youth interest. activities. In the EU satellites, ARDF and to a lesser extent contesting are common points of interest.

f. Region 1 also found nothing has continuing success unless the Member Society is serious about working to attract youth.

g. Government regulations are a significant barrier in parts of R3. In Thailand the Regulations are more than 50 years old and very unwieldy. In other R3 countries

restrictions and tariffs on importing Amateur equipment are a barrier.

h. Region 3 is also considering appointing a Region 3 YOTA officer to lead and monitor Member Society efforts to attract and involve youth in Amateur Radio. This position would look to the Region 1 YOTA officer for guidance but would be tailored to the needs of Region 3.

**Doc. 32 Permit for Foreign Hams & Reciprocal Agreement (KARL)**

Last year the Korean Regulator discovered that while it has been granting broad operating privileges to foreign amateurs the same consideration has not been afforded to Korean nationals in foreign countries. As a result, the Korean Regulator changed their regulations to only allow guest licenses to amateurs from countries with reciprocal treaties. This change impacts several hundred US military and civilians in Korea.

Amateurs from countries without a reciprocal agreement may obtain a temporary operating permit for 3 months which may be extended for a further 3 months. After 6 months the individual must leave Korea and return under a new temporary visa in order to re-apply for an operating permit. Korean authorities have submitted a request for a Reciprocal Agreement with the US nearly a year ago. The Request must be processed through the US State Department. Apparently only one person at the State Department is authorized to process such requests. For a variety of reasons that person has been out of the US or otherwise occupied, and the Request remains in his or her in-box.

When this problem was raised at the conference, we contacted ARRL HQ to see if Jon Siverling or Chris Imlay could inquire as to the status and progress of the Request. Both Jon and Chris have contacts at State. The response was essentially it will be reviewed when we get to it and further inquiries will only slow the process. I am restraining myself from further comment.

As part of the discussion of this problem the Korean Amateur Radio League (KARL) delegate was made aware of the option of seeking reciprocity through the CEPT process.

**Doc. 36 Report from EMC Coordinator Report on The Evolution of Spectrum Management in a Period of Hyper-Connectivity and its Impact on Amateur Radio**This paper was received and engendered extensive discussion among the members of WG1 and the Plenary Sessions. The concerns and suggested responses mirror those we have heard in the US. They are so crucial to the future of Amateur Radio that the warrant repeating. The main themes were:

1. Spectrum allocation decisions are continuing to shift at an increasing pace from technical justification to political action motivated by economics.
2. The views in recent World conference have shifted from a technical forum to a policy forum where spectrum is viewed as a natural resource of value to the government.
3. The potential value of spectrum is therefore an increasingly important consideration in governmental decision making. We need to be aware of the potential value of Amateur Radio spectrum. Dale Hughes, VK3DSH, said that using a recent evaluation of similar spectrum by the Australian government, the value of the VK Two Meter band is approximately two billion Australian dollars.
4. We need to change the way we go about protecting amateur spectrum.
5. We must use it or lose it.
6. We must evaluate our spectrum and determine where there is the greatest risk of loss and the most product use of resources to protect that spectrum.
7. Creative usage of spectrum, particularly at UHF and above must occur if we are to keep that spectrum
8. In addition to working with Regulators we need to work with and engage others such as politicians and strategic partners because decisions will increasingly be made on a non-technical basis.
9. We need to foster relationships with other groups with similar concerns as to spectrum pollution.
10. We should encourage STEM activities using Amateur spectrum by licensees.

**Doc. 22 Proposal Establishment IARU Region 3 Band Plan Committee**Region 3 established a Region 3 Band Plan Committee to provide ongoing updates of the Region 3 Band Plan and to work with the Region 1 and Region 2 Band Plan Committees for the mutual benefit of amateurs in all three regions.

**Agenda Item 11.6 Revised Amateur Satellite Allocation 15 Meters**

The Report of the IARU Satellite Advisor noted there is no specific Region 3 provision allowing spectrum for a 15 meter satellite uplink. When WG2 presented its proposal to allow amateur satellite uplinks in a part of the 15 meter band we noted that under the proposal FCC regulations would preclude US amateurs from using digital modes in that spectrum. We were able to have the proposal modified to include spectrum permitting US amateurs access via digital modes.

**New Region 3 Directors and Officers**

President

Wisnu Widjaja, YBØAZ

Secretary

Shizou Endo, JE1MUI

Directors

Ken Yamamoto, JA1CPJ Jakkree (Jack) Hantongkom, HS1FVL

Peter Young, VK3MV

Don Walllace, ZL2TLL

Mohd Aris Bin Bernawi, 9M21R

**The next Region 3 Conference will be sponsored by the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) and will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in the Fall of 2021**

**Personal notes regarding the Conference, Korea and travel**

Occasionally a comment is made that these meetings are junkets. Working with amateurs from other countries on issues of common interest to all amateur is enjoyable and provides a sense of accomplishment. It is also true that the opportunity to visit a distant country, even for a short time, expands your view of the world. That said, it is worth noting that attending the conference and AC meeting requires 11 days. Travel from home to Seoul involves two air flights (MSP to DTW and DTW to ICN) totaling 15+hours and a disappearing day, plus airport time. The Seoul International Airport is in Incheon some 45 miles from Seoul. In traffic that is another hour and a half. The AC meeting covers the better part of two days and is immediately followed by 4 days of conference and one day with and organized tour of Seoul. For reference, think of a 6 or 7 days of Board meetings with travel two and one-half the distance from CA to CT each way. This isn’t a complaint, simply something to consider for anyone interested in working internationally.

Seoul has a metro population in exceeding 20 million and a central city population of 10 million. The Conference site was the PJ Hotel. The area the hotel is located is several blocks from the main street where the Express bus dropped us off. Even at 8:00 in the evening the street is teeming with people. Side streets intersect the main street at unusual angles, sometimes with 3 or more streets crossing. Between the main street and the hotel there are many narrow, unlit, alleys with tiny shops, factories and businesses connecting streets in a maze-like fashion. While the arrangement is easily navigable in daylight, it was a bit daunting to a very tired, suitcase hauling, couple with less than perfect directions. After some 30 minutes with the help of a very kind twenty-something Korean couple we stopped on the street and Google maps (to assure us we were heading in the correct direction) we found the hotel.

Seoul had a population of 2,500,000 in 1960. In the past 50 years the population has increased nearly 10 times. Less and less of old city buildings remain as they are replaced by rows of towering apartment buildings, offices and factories that go on for mile upon mile. Surface traffic is bumper to bumper well into the evening. Fortunately, there is an abundance of inexpensive taxis with knowledgeable drivers. For those who can read Korean, there is also a subway system that is among the best in the world.

Though we didn’t have much opportunity to tour the city, the overall impression is one of a huge yet friendly place. We stopped in one of the seemingly endless mom and pop mini-restaurants during a break. There was a very nice young couple in the place who asked where we were from. When we told them the US, they offered to pay for our snacks. The most astounding aspect is that all this growth and prosperity is happening 45 miles from North Korea.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the Conference, the issues discussed or impressions of Seoul.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Bellows, KØQB