



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2014 General Conference – Varna-Albena, Bulgaria

21 – 27 September 2014



Subject	STARS WG Report		
Society	STARS WG	Country:	
Committee:	C4	Paper number:	VA14_C4_18
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STARS WG Report

1) Introduction:

According to the recommendations of the 2011 conference in Sun City, South Africa, it was necessary for us to continue but especially to strengthen the experiences of the previous projects. It is with this view that we have worked.



2) Main events in 2013:

Project of Burkina Faso

Equip in material (transceivers, accessories, etc.) the two radio clubs of the ARBF in order to allow them finally to work correctly. This project will also permit us to gather all the STARS SRC to participate in a workshop dedicated to spectrum, WRC preparations and Regulatory Affairs. This workshop will take place in conjunction with the official delivery of the equipment to the ARBF in Ouagadougou.

Support to Rwanda

Bring our support for the creation of a Radio Amateur society and its membership to the IARU

3) Northern Africa and Middle East

Libya. We have good contacts but with the political “events” it is not possible to plan anything.

Tunisia. There is a real craze for the radio amateur activity, but following the Arab Spring, there are 2 associations there, ARAT and ASTRA. I shall not like returning on quite the debates behind the creation of the ASTRA lead by Anis or the ARAT lead by Achraaf.

Given that the IARU recognises only a single association by country following the example of United Nations; our action is to bring the various parties to hear each other to create a unique association. It is necessary to underline that the task is not as well easy as we could believe it. It is necessary to use diplomacy, patience and especially not to forget that what matters for us is the promotion of amateur radio. Ignore it is to penalize all these young Tunisians in expectation of license who want to discover this new World.

ASTRA for example has requested STARS for equipment. You understand that if we don't solve the problem of the two associations before, it would be a worsening of the situation that they already accuse IARU of having generated.

We plan another visit in this country so that with the local authorities we can together find a definitive solution to this problem.

4) **Western Africa**

Benin. Since the report of Mr Serge Koudjo on the creation of an association (ABR), no advance was largely noticed, due to the fact that the main actor was professionally very busy during all this period.

Thanks to the first meeting of the African group for the preparation of the WRC-15 in Dakar, the long discussions with the Beninese delegation, which delegates are themselves members of the new ABR, made us understand their problems, which can be summarized in a few words: Training, Equipment and how to make the amateur service known.

ABR is expected to apply for IARU membership before the end of 2013. Following this membership we will be able to put them in the list of our priority projects.

Meanwhile, the ABR by means of STARS can facilitate the obtaining of licenses for the DXpeditions in Benin.

Burkina Faso. It is the main STARS project for 2013. Since his election, Hugolin Pooda, XT2HB, arranged nothing for the promotion of the amateur radio service in Burkina Faso. He organized numerous workshops for the students and the pupils in which took part some high authorities of the state. ARBF facilitated the obtaining of radio licenses in the various DXpeditions and foreigners in visit in the country.

Finally, ARBF received during this year (2014) some material from STARS to help them in the implementation of their radio Club. An inauguration is planned before the end of the year

Côte d'Ivoire. After the post-election crisis that the country lived in 2011, the access for safety reasons in radio club of the ARAI was impossible. In this case, to put the project in our priorities depended before out on the access to the site. Since the end of February 2013 it is a possible thing today. The authority of regulation even promised to help ARAI rehabilitated its places. The project Ivory Coast, which was to be in wait, is thus going to find its place in our priority list.

In spite of the promises made, the authorities did not still react to their promises. Nevertheless ARAI pursued its activities. It recorded the coming of 20 new young radio amateur. I also helped and supported an Italian DX expedition team (TU2T), and a German-French team. This last team generously offered some equipment to help ARAI in the restoration of its radio club (TU2CI).

At the level of STARS, the ARAI project was not born for reasons of easy access in radio club yet. But this blocking comes from raised hearth this last march. It is a project which we hope will be born before the next 2014 conference.

Ghana. Thanks to the first meeting of the African group for the preparation of the WRC-15 in Dakar, some good contacts and discussion have been made in particular with Mr Henry Kan, a director at the National Communication Authority. It is aware that the amateur radio activity in Ghana is not radiant as in the past and wish that together we find a solution for to revitalize the association (GARS). An ARAC organized by ITU has been organized in June 2013.

After the ARAC, new contacts were made by Hans, PB2T. Contacts which we shall restrict to exploit to revitalize the radio ham activity in this country during the next months.

Senegal. ARAS has requested some electronic kits to support the radio club of EMST which wins in popularity with the foreign students who attend the school. The administration of the school would even want to incite the students to pass their 6W amateur radio license before returning in their country.

Togo. “We don’t really know where to begin”. These are the words of Mr Batchassi, one of the delegates of the Togolese team at the meeting of Dakar and one of the representatives of the Togolese delegation in the ADP seminar of Abidjan. The SRC of the Western Region (Jul Diallo, 6W1QL) will help them in the various stages of the creation of an association.

5) Central Africa

Cameroun: In spite of all the efforts in particular in donation of material, ARTJ does not still manage to take its flight.

Mr El Hadjar, one the Regulatory board and in charge of the management of the frequencies, took the firm resolution to help STARS to see how we can together find a solution to this generally known lack of promotion of ARTJ.

Congo Brazzaville and Congo Kinshasa. Called to become one of the big STARS projects of these last years, the Project of 2 Congo does not know the success we expected. For the DRC (ARAC) this disappointment arose partially from problems of persons. Differences between the new management team and the former team. Which on the ground, is translated by a blocking in the allocation of licenses to the newcomers and this, in spite of the appreciated support of the two Belgian volunteers from MSF (Anton ON6NL and Henk ON4AHF).

As we draft this report, we can assert that we solved the problems of persons but the 9Q license remains still inaccessible to Congolese (around \$US 902 according to an official document).

On the other side of the Congo River, URAC in Congo Brazzaville also knows problems, certainly different in the shape of that of ARAC but also blocking. Unfortunately, due to a reshuffle in the administration, URAC has not been able yet to obtain a call sign for the club station.

In the last piece of news, the secretariat of the URAC decided to go to show to the authorities the equipment received from STARS project, to make them understand

that if nothing is made all this equipment is going to get damaged. We hope that it will make things move on. But retain that it is today very easy to obtain a TN license for a foreigner than for a Congolese.

Gabon. Romuald TR8NOR continues his efforts to attract interested people.

Rwanda. A society has been created (RARC) but has not applied for IARU membership yet. Three radio clubs have been created in the country with support of the Management and Monitoring Service. Mr Francis Ngabo, SRC of this region in replacement of Cyprien Kahundira, on the base of all this enormous work requested the assistance of STARS for training of his members and for a more greater popularization being heard that the ICT of which he is the director decided to equip in material the various created radio clubs.

Burundi. The newcomer. With the support of STARS, Mr Jean Claude Kamwubusa makes presently an enormous work for the creation of an association (ABART) which should in the coming months ask to subscribe to IARU.

It will be the opportunity, for STARS to have a starting point in this region which asks for an intense development in the radio amateur activity.

It is also necessary to underline the fragility of the spirits in this region. Indeed the gap between radio amateur activity and broadcasting radio is very badly understood. It was necessary to see to revise all the texts in the light of bylaws governing IARU so that veils are raised and so that no incomprehension remains.

We count on the enthusiasm of people of the region so that one more time the magic of the radio can take place through all these young people in wait (expectation).

The STARS project in this region will be made as follows: continue the help and support to the creation of the ABART, follow by an ADP (African Development program) to make sensitive the authorities of regulation and support in the implementation of the radio clubs (training and equipment).

6) Eastern Africa

Ethiopia. With the departure of Amantee and the death of Sid May, we are very tuned in to the evolution of the activities in the country. But things should take place well in consideration of the implication of the young people in the activity radio ham.

Uganda. Bill, 5X1JM, and Dave, 5X1D, are still trying to get UARS back on track.

7) Southern Africa

Reaching out to neighbouring countries

At the South African Radio League AGM in 2012, a motion was accepted to allow radio amateurs from SADC countries to have a free membership with the SARL on certain conditions. The radio amateur must be a member of the IARU Member Society of his/her country and his/her subscriptions must be fully paid to his/her MS. The free membership entails access to the Members Only section of the SARL web

site, access to the SARL Forum, access to the electronic SARL QSL system and the ability to download the electronic copy of Radio ZS, the journal of the SARL.

Unfortunately, the response has not been what the SARL expected. The membership scheme is still available.

SADC Agreement

The establishment of cross-border operation in Southern African Development Community (SADC countries) is still on the agenda of the Communication Regulators Association of Southern Africa (CRASA). The SARL provided a document to our regulator, ICASA, who was tasked to prepare a document for consideration at the next meeting of SADC regulators. This agreement will be similar to the CEPT agreement. Such an agreement is already in place for the long haul truck industry.

The Namibian Member Society has also contacted their Regulator requesting that the Regulator to support ICASA at the CRASA meetings.

The 4x4 community has also asked ICASA to request CRASA for a SADC licence scheme. They have requested the support of the SARL in their request.

8) Europe / Asia

Mongolia. One more time STARS helped the local association in obtaining 12 ARDF kits to allow them to participate in the regional championships of this discipline.

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