



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Interim Meeting – Vienna Austria 27-28 April 2019



Document number: VIE19 C4-018 and C5-034

Source: Florian Zwingl OE3FTA, OeVSV, Youth Coordinator

Subject: Youth Activities – growth and future

Committee(s): General

Introduction

This paper is intended to give information on past and current youth activities to ensure future of Amateur Radio Service and help growing member base.

Background

YOTA is a group of young radio amateurs from IARU Region 1. Most of them are under the age of 26. The goal of YOTA initiative is to welcome new and young amateur radio operators to our beautiful hobby. YOTA activities are part of actual IARU R1 budget and are partially funded. Support comes from other sponsors also.

Together with other youngsters all around the world, we can make the difference and give our hobby the future it deserves!

Key points and proposal

Since future of Amateur Radio depends on growth activities among certain target groups, several member societies have made input papers to the General Conference of IARU R1 in former years. The idea got adopted and Lisa PA2LS has been elected chairman of Youth group. Following the huge success of organizing summer camps in Romania, Finland, Belgium, Estonia, Italy, Austria and UK it has been South African Amateur Radio League to host IARU-R1 YOTA camp in August 2018. The event this year did not only bring modern way of Amateur Radio technologies and electronics to the attention of approx. 80 young participants, but did ask for some serious involvement in a train-the-trainer program. The goal is to enable persons to promote Amateur Radio and pass on things they have learned during the camp to other youngsters when they are back home, visiting schools and universities but not to forget Hackadays and MakerSpaces. In addition to the big international YOTA camp, that also hosted guests from Region2 (USA) and Region3 (Japan), several smaller regional camps have been organised in order to enlarge the number of participants and enable local activities in subregions.

The IARU-R1 YOTA group also visited large fairs like in Tokio, Japan and Dayton USA. Chairmen Lisa PA2LS Leenders and vice-chair Flo, OE3FTA took the chance to carry the idea of YOTA outside the Region1 and received very positive feedback from larger audience when holding presentations as keynote speakers.

Besides all the events, the team is progressing extremely fast in using social media to build a solid base of young operators to build a healthy community of very motivated radio amateurs throughout Region1. So whenever someone wants to make some test or propagation experiment, a quick WhatsApp message or tweet will raise attention and youngster will gather together on the band.

There is also a successful YCP –Young Contester Program-, which enables next generation contesters to participate from big gun stations. Some young voices have been very loud from stations like 9A1A, 4O3A, EC2DX, DM9EE, to name just a few. Competitions and radio sport is a great motivation.

At the IARU Region 1 General Conference in Landshut in 2017, it was agreed to create three project groups to address issues of the future direction and growth in amateur radio across the Region. Members of the YOTA group are also heavily involved in the work in these working groups:

Education, Public Relations and Outreach. Unfortunately there is some need to improve the responsiveness from member societies when it comes to questions. More output from these task groups is to be expected shortly.

This is just a short summary of the work and activities of YOTA. A more comprehensive presentation will be available during the conference in Vienna.

More details and information can be found at the well managed web site:

<https://www.ham-yota.com/>

Recommendation:

Did you ever think about the future of amateur radio? Will the hobby change with time and adapt to modern technology? Will the hobby still exist in 20 years, or will it be obsolete? How many active operators will still be on the air in the next decades? We are talking about the future of amateur radio! Youngsters on the air is a highly motivated group of people of all ages and from all over the world working together tightly to make sure that there will still be somebody to answer your CQ call in the future. We ensure that there is a next generation of amateur radio enthusiasts which bring new energy into the hobby. The future of amateur radio rests on the shoulders of Youngsters On The Air but without your support amateur radio might die out in the next decades.

Continue to support YOTA activities!

We therefore propose to read/share and publish provided report and presentation from youth coordinators.

Please also link your member's society website with <https://www.ham-yota.com/>

Financial Implications: positive in future