WORLD COMMUNICATIONS YEAR

Development of Communications Infrastructures

1983

> *The General Assembly,*
>
> *. . . . .*
>
> *Recognizing the fundamental importance of communications infrastructures as an essential element in the economic and social development of all countries,*
>
> *Convinced that a World Communications Year would provide the opportunity for all countries to undertake an in-depth review and analysis of their policies on communications development and stimulate the accelerated development of communications infrastructures,*
>
> *1. Endorses the proposal made by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1981/60 and proclaims the year 1983 World Communications Year: Development of Communications Infrastructures, with the International Telecommunication Union serving as the lead agency for the Year and having responsibility for co-ordinating the interorganizational aspects of the programmes and activities of other agencies;*
>
> *2. Requests all States to participate actively in the attainment of the objectives of the World Communications Year;*
>
> *. . . . .*
>
> Extract from United Nations General Assembly resolution 36/40 adopted on 19 November 1981

News about the National Committees

Cuba

(Source: *Ministerio de Comunicaciones*)

On 8 April 1983, the WCY National Committee of Cuba was formerly constituted at a meeting presided by the Minister of Communications, Mr. Pedro Guelmes González.

Three Deputy Ministers and senior officials of the Ministry as well as representatives of several agencies were also present.

The National Committee has been formed following a decision of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers and after the National Assembly of the Republic had endorsed the decision.

It consists of 10 members representing the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of External Relations, the National Assembly, the Ministry of Education, the Academy of Sciences of Cuba, the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, the National Union of Workers of Communications, the Central Junta of Planning, the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Culture.

The setting up of the National Committee was made known to the national press on 13 April 1983.

Prior to the establishment of the Committee, Cuba had initiated several activities to commemorate World Communications Year. An Exhibition entitled "1983 World Communications Year" marked the launching of WCY in Cuba.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Mr. R. E. Butler, Secretary-General of the ITU and Co-ordinator for WCY and Mr. Guelmes González, and took place at the Ministry of Communications, a short distance from Revolution Square.

The Exhibition's nine sections highlighted various aspects of the development of communications in this Caribbean island during the revolutionary process. They covered international co-operation, production of components and parts, development of the country's communications, nationally produced equipment and the development of international communications.

Other subjects were associations (radio amateurs, pigeon-fanciers and philatelists), publications, communications in the struggle against tyranny and for defence and postal printing.

In connection with the inauguration of the Exhibition, the commemorative stamp for World Communications Year was postmarked by Mr. Butler and Mr. Guelmes González in the Postal Museum of Cuba. This museum is one of the most important of its kind in the world by virtue of the valuable collections it contains.

During his stay on the island, Mr. Butler visited several installations and telecommunications centres.

The *Laboratorio Central de Telecomunicaciones* (LCT), one of the places visited, is the chief location for applied research on the development of prototypes and pilot production of telecommunications equipment.

The LCT, which is a UNDP project, has been carried out since 1974, with the ITU acting as executing agency. Two phases of the project were completed between 1974 and 1981. Financing is sought for the third phase (see "Pilot project" section).

This project, which is considered as a model by UNDP and the ITU, has laid the foundations for the development of Cuban technol-

ogy in the design and construction of professional telecommunications equipment.

Ethiopia

(Source: WCY National Committee)

On 16 June 1983, an exhibition was inaugurated in Addis Ababa to celebrate World Communications Year. The objective was to give a historical retrospective of the development of communications systems and highlight the present situation and future trends of this development. It was organized by some 10 Ethiopian agencies providing communications services or using communications systems, among which were the P&T, the press (radio, television, news agencies) and the transport sector (maritime, aviation and railways organizations).

Korea (Rep. of)

(Source: Ministry of Communications)

The Ministry of Communications established early this year its National Co-ordination Committee for World Communications Year. In addition to representatives of several telecommunication industries, associations and institutes, the Committee comprises three ministries (Communications, Foreign Affairs, Culture and Information) and two telecommunications operating agencies.

Dr. Soon-Dal Choi, Minister of Communications, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Hae-Wook Rhee, Director General of the Telecommunications Policy Bureau, has been nominated correspondent.

Various commemorative events for WCY 83 have been endorsed by the Committee including an exhibition, a telecommunication symposium, a youth art competition and a postage stamps exhibition.

WCY 83 Telecommunication Exhibition

This Exhibition, organized by the Korea Telecommunication Authority in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications, has been held from 1 to 10 August 1983, at the Korea Exhibition Centre in Seoul.

Over 20 domestic and 18 foreign telecommunications companies displayed telecommunication equipment on an area of 7500 m², illustrating the theme of the Exhibition "The important role of telecommunications in modern society and future life style: past, present and future of telecommunications".

A postage stamps exhibition was organized in parallel to show the past and present status of the Korean postal service and to display philatelic material representing the culture and civilization of Korea.

Art competition

A youth art competition was also organized last April by the Ministry of Communications and the *Hankuk Daily* newspaper for youth. Entries to a total of 2059 were registered, one of which being selected for the design of

the WCY commemorative stamp issued on 20 June 1983.

International symposium

"Telecommunications and future society" was the central theme of this WCY symposium held in Seoul from 3 to 5 August last. Co-sponsored by the Ministry of Communications, the Korean Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Research Institute and the Korean Institute of Communications Science, the symposium examined the future prospects and strategies for an information society in Korea and focussed on the development of telecommunications technology.

Among the 25 guest speakers were two senior officials of the ITU, Mr. R. C. Kirby, Director of the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR), and Mr. F. Bigi of the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT).

Further details on the Cuban programme of activities for World Communications Year are forthcoming.

Kuwait

(Source: WCY National Committee)

Kuwait is involved in a number of activities organized both at the national and international levels as part of World Communications Year.

During a press conference earlier this year, the Chairman of the Kuwait WCY Committee announced activities programmed for WCY.

An illustrated commemorative publication highlighting the achievements of the State of Kuwait in the field of telecommunications over the past 25 years was widely distributed in schools, colleges and a number of other establishments throughout the country and daily press reports on WCY were published. Several activities involving the participation of schools were organized. Among them were visits to major communications facilities of the country such as the Telecommunication Centre, satellite earth stations and television and radio-broadcasting stations. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, video films on various aspects of telecommunications, television, radio and postal services were shown to young students.

Schools were also encouraged to participate in exhibitions with special stands devoted to communications.

It is also interesting to note that a permanent stand featuring World Communications Year has been established at the new National Museum of Kuwait.

Several other activities are under way including the preparation of Kuwait's participation in TELECOM 83, the "Youth in the Electronic Age" competition and the "Golden Antenna" Film Festival; a number of seminars on communications issues are also planned.

WCY News

Major WCY Essay Award

The Langton Information Systems Limited/ Department of Industry World Communications Year United Kindgom Essay Award was formally announced by Mr. John Butcher, MP, parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry, during the recent presentation of the Langton IT Year Essay Awards. The Department of Industry is responsible for co-ordinating United Kingdom/WCY activities and events.

The Langton 1983 Essay Award, which is part of the United Kingdom Government's WCY awareness programme and has been organized in close co-operation with the Department of Industry and with support from industry and commerce, offers winners the opportunity of a one-week all expenses paid visit to Cable and Wireless (Hong Kong) Ltd., Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. and visits for two of the major WCY international event, TELECOM 83, in Geneva.

The organizers have made the contest as open as possible. Contributions are invited from students, graduates, industry specialists and others. Wherever possible, prizes will be allocated in terms of suitability. Essays of between 1000 and 2000 words are invited on the theme: "Telecommunications: a challenge and opportunity for the developing world".

The contest was closed on Tuesday 9 August 1983 and the award presentation, hosted by British Telecom, will take place early October 1983. Judges include many prominent authorities on world communications.

For further information, please contact: "Mr. Alan Simpson, Essay Project Coordinator, Langton Information Systems Limited, 133 Oxford Street, London W1R 1TD (United Kingdom)". Tel.: (01) 434 1031 or (01) 360 1729.

Australia's participation in WCY

Radio frequency management training in South Pacific…

A further example of Australia's participation in World Communications Year and in the provision of telecommunications training assistance in the South Pacific area is the recent visit of Mr. Bill Pike, an officer of the Department of Communications, to Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. His mission was to provide advice and assistance on radio frequency management.

During the four weeks spent by Mr. Pike in each country, a wide variety of radio frequency management tasks were undertaken, with particular emphasis on training staff in each administration to handle radio frequency management issues rather than the actual achievement of results on specific issues during the visit.

A theme common to each location was the need to attend to the registration of frequencies of these newly independent countries with the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB). Another area of common interest was the setting up of a master frequency register.

This mission by Mr. Pike follows an earlier visit in 1981 by Mr. John Wigg, also from the Department of Communications, who undertook a similar mission in Tonga and the Cook Islands.

In Mr. Wigg's case, the mission was funded by the ITU whilst Mr. Pike's activities were funded jointly by the Australian Government and the South Pacific Bureau of Economic Co-operation (SPEC). The mission to Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu was arranged by the ITU Regional Representative in Suva, Mr. Graham Davey.

Disaster study ordered...

A scenario of three major disasters in a single month is to form the basis of an examination of Australia's communications organization and capability in disasters.

The Minister for Defence, Mr. Gordon Scholes, and the Minister of Communications, Mr. Michael Duffy, in a joint statement recently, said the scenario would embrace:

— a severe earthquake in Adelaide;

— a tropical cyclone and storm surge in Cairns;

— major statewide bushfires in Victoria.

All would be considered as occurring in the same month: January.

The Department of Communications and the Natural Disasters Organization are to undertake the joint study, as part of Australia's activities in World Communications Year.

The Ministers said the study would determine whether existing communications facilities across Australia could meet the nation's requirements in disasters. It would look at the effectiveness of the organization of communications facilities to ensure they could be put in place speedily and to the best effect.

"The study is particularly appropriate in view of the deaths, injuries and property damage inflicted by fire and flood disasters in recent months", the Ministers said.

"We want to ensure that the availability of communications facilities in disasters, and the organization of these facilities, are more than adequate to meet the country's needs."

A working party of officials from the Australian Counter Disaster College, the Natural Disasters Organization and elements of the communications portfolio made preparations for the study which was undertaken at the Australian Counter Disaster College at Macedon, in Victoria, last July.

Communications portfolio representatives on the working party have been drawn from the Department of Communications, Telecom, the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia), the Australian Broadcasting Commission, and AUSSAT Pty. Ltd.

The Ministers said a large number of government and private organizations were to be represented in the study. They included State and territory emergency services and counter-disaster organizations, radio and television broadcasters, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The Commonwealth Government will study the findings closely and wherever practicable, action will be taken to implement needed improvements.

Pilot projects

Cuba

The Cuban Administration is seeking assistance for the third phase of the *Laboratorio Central de Telecomunicaciones* (LCT) which has until now been carried out under UNDP/ITU auspices.

This project, which bears the symbol WCY-CUB-1, relates to the improvement, extension and development of Cuba's telecommunications services.

The LCT carries out applied research on the development of prototypes and also pilot production of telecommunications equipment and has laid the foundations for the development of Cuban technology in the design and construction of professional telecommunications equipment.

LCT's major field of research includes the study of methods for improving telecommunications systems, and the development of telecommunications systems and equipment itself. It also includes the study of electronic components and, more particularly, the assessment of their reliability under tropical conditions.

Among the more important achievements of LCT are quartz resonators and laboratory-developed telecommunications equipment including amplifiers for broadcasting links, private low-capacity PBX's, UHF 24 telephone channels radio-link equipment, 10 and 50 W television broadcasting re-transmitters and data transmission modems.

The main objective of the proposed project is to widen the scope of these activities using LCT's existing infrastructure, to arrive at a continued improvement of technology and equipment geared to the specific needs of the country.

The work carried out in the past by LCT has enabled the development and production, on a small scale, of prototype telecommunication equipment and the laboratory could serve as an important centre of human and technological resources at the regional level, thus producing technical co-operation among developing countries.

Interested donors may obtain further information by contacting: "WCY Secretariat, ITU, Place des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 20 (Switzerland)".

New Zealand

Tokelau telecommunication development

Tokelau has been identified by the ITU as an area much in need of improved telecommunication services.

The Post Office of New Zealand has had a long-standing involvement in co-operating with the ITU on aid projects, particularly with developing countries in the South Pacific region and will be actively involved in this project (WCY-PAC-4).

At present, service is provided by three high-frequency radio transceivers (one at each atoll) operating on a single link to a manual telephone exchange in Apia (Western Samoa). This telephone service is noisy, unreliable and totally inadequate for Tokelau's needs. It also places a heavy operator burden on the Samoan Telecommunication Administration.

By providing a new automatic radio system manufactured by the Canadian Marconi Company, it is proposed to upgrade the facilities in Tokelau. This system provides unique facilities and will enhance the operation and maintenance of telecommunications in Tokelau's circumstances.

In addition to providing inter-atoll working, the scheme will allow Tokelau subscribers access to the Apia telephone exchange. This will allow them to dial subscribers in Western Samoa directly or to establish their own calls to other overseas countries. Provision will also be made for teleprinter operation over the same network.

The total cost of the project is estimated at 750 000 dollars of which the New Zealand Post Office will provide 240 000. The balance is to be provided from the UNDP and by the Tokelau Administration. The Post Office also plans to provide manpower support in the form of installation, commissioning and maintenance expertise.