



Journal Title: Telecommunication Journal

Journal Issue: vol. 53 (no. 7), 1986

Article Title: The Regional Television Broadcasting Conference in Nairobi

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Page number(s): pp. 365-366

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(ITU) للاتصالات الدولي الاتحاد في والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم أجراه الضوئي بالمسح تصوير نتاج (PDF) الإلكترونية النسخة هذه والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم في المتوفرة الوثائق ضمن أصلية ورقية وثيقة من نقلاً.

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The Regional Television Broadcasting Conference in Nairobi

The African VHF/UHF Television Broadcasting Plan currently in force dates from 1963. Although it has served its purpose well its revision has become necessary for a number of reasons.

The 1963 Plan was drawn up on the basis of the frequency bands allocated to VHF/UHF broadcasting in Region 1 at that time, namely 87.5-100 MHz (band II) for sound broadcasting, and 47-68 MHz (band I), 174-223 MHz (band III), 470-582 MHz (band IV) and 582-960 MHz (band V) for television broadcasting.

The 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-79) made extensions to Region 1 allocations for the broadcasting service, up to 108 MHz in the case of band II and up to 230 MHz in the case of band III. For sound broadcasting in band II a new plan was drawn up for the whole of Region 1 at the Regional Administrative Conference for FM sound broadcasting in the VHF band (Region 1 and certain countries concerned in Region 3) held in Geneva in 1984. A new plan for VHF/UHF television broadcasting for the African broadcasting area and certain neighbouring countries is to be established by the Regional Administrative Radio Conference for the planning of VHF/UHF television broadcasting in the African broadcasting area and neighbouring countries—AFBC, the First Session of which will open in Nairobi (Kenya) on 22 September this year.

In 1963 not all the African countries had been able to participate in the Conference and since that time many more sovereign countries have emerged which need to be included in a new plan. Furthermore, television broadcasting has developed considerably with a consequent increased demand for frequencies.

At the time of the 1963 Conference, propagation data applicable to the Region were, in many areas, incomplete or even totally non-existent. Since then, considerable effort has been devoted both by administrations and the ITU permanent organs to fill such gaps. In 1983, as part of the contribution to World Communications Year, the ITU with CCIR specialized support organized a seminar/meeting on radio propagation in Africa. In September 1985, at the request of WARC-79, CCIR Interim Working Parties 5/5 (Propagation) and 11/5 (Planning and protection ratios) prepared a technical report to the First Session of the forthcoming AFBC.

For the Arab States members of the regional organization called GULFVISION (Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), ITU's Technical Co-operation Department was involved in propagation studies, starting in June 1980, for bands II, III, IV and V. The Ministries of Information of these seven countries, through GULFVISION, signed in

May 1979 an agreement with ITU in the form of a project document, to determine the best use of the bands allotted to television and sound broadcasting in the area and to prepare the draft proposal for a television frequency sub-regional planning. The special propagation conditions in the area were studied in particular.

Administrative Council Resolution No. 914 extended the scope of the AFBC Conference to include "neighbouring countries" which were those designated as belonging to the regional organization GULFVISION as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the study, one workshop and three seminars on radio propagation were held in March and November 1981, and January and September 1983. In addition, several technical co-ordination meetings were held with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Like almost all ITU Administrative Radio Conferences with the responsibility of drawing up a plan, the First Session of the AFBC is to prepare the technical bases, planning principles and method for the establishment, at a later session, of a frequency assignment plan. The agenda for the Second Session would be established by the Administrative Council in consultation with the members and in the light of the conclusions and decisions of the First Session.

Broadcasting will also be an important theme at AFRICA TELECOM 86 to be held at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre in Nairobi from 16 to 23 September, immediately prior to the Broadcasting Conference. AFRICA TELECOM will comprise both an exhibition and a special session of the World Telecommunication Forum which will have broadcasting as one of its three key themes.

Broadcasting is a key communication resource for all countries. And the power of the image gives television an enormous potential for mass education, for the diffusion of information on health care, hygiene and agriculture, for the stimulation and encouragement of national cultures and many other areas in the field of economic and social development where it can act as a catalyst in the advancement of a nation.

This vital role of broadcasting was amply underlined in the programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade and in

the Lagos Plan of Action and it was with this role in mind that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided financial support for a project of preparatory assistance for the development of broadcasting in Africa.

The great potential of broadcasting was also recognized by the African States with the result that they organized, in June 1984 in Harare (Zimbabwe), a Technical Consultative Meeting (TCM) on the development of broadcasting in Africa attended by senior national experts from the whole of the continent.

One of the most important recommendations of the TCM concerned the need for proper planning and management of broadcasting systems and the training and development of manpower in these fields.

In response to this, the ITU, in collaboration with the International Programme for the Development of Communications (IPDC), launched a regional project "Planning and management skills for development of broadcasting in SADCC countries". SADCC—Southern African Development Coordination Conference—comprises nine members which are: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Studies have been carried out in eight of these nine countries with a view to assessing each country's national broadcasting physical and manpower development plans together with the capacities of existing national institutions for training in broadcasting engineering planning and management. Within the framework of this project, an important seminar/workshop was again hosted by the Zimbabwe Government in Harare from 2 to 8 April this year at which experts in different fields of broadcasting engineering and management, coming from many different countries, shared their experience with the participants.

All this activity on the part of the administrations, the broadcasters, the UNDP and the permanent organs of the Union, augurs well for the successful development of broadcasting in the Region. The opening of the First Session of the AFBC and neighbouring countries Conference will be another step towards co-ordinative planning for the countries concerned in the African continent of this unique development medium of broadcasting.

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