



ORARI IOTA DX-pedition to Ohoi Ew-Kei Islands OC-221 was successfully operated on March 20 – 26, 2012. This expedition is the first ORARI IOTA DX-pedition that operates simultaneously in 10 bands. The expedition netted 20.354 QSOs from 123 countries during its weeklong activities.

The team assemble and arrive at the beautiful Ohoiew Island in three waves. Since they arrived at March 16, 2012 the advance team work hard under the extreme weather setting up the station. When the second group came in March 18 and followed by the third group at March 19, 2012 all the antenna was already in the position. All 10 antennas are set-up along the shore of Ohoiew Island.

Last preparation was done by the whole team. While YB0AZ, YB0ECT, YB0JS and YD1XUH were preparing the High Band Stations, YB0KVN & YB1GJS covered the shelter with plastic sheet to prevent the radios from the rain that come and go at all time.

At the other site of the island, YC0LOW, YD1JZ, YB1CCF and YD1GCL lined-up the equipments for the Low Bands.

As soon as the equipment ready, Technician Team consist of YC0VKI, YC0Lly, YD1ORZ & YD1MRI reported the readiness of the antenna, all the operators were calling CQ to make the radio check necessary, especially the possible interferences within stations. Without any further delay YB1MH was made some contacts to Stations at 6 meter band.

At midnight the whole team was gathered to pray for the blessing of GOD The Almighty.

During radio test (19/3) that night not less than 12 Stations heard at 160 meter band eg. Hawaii, New Zealand, Finland and Japan. All were made just before sunrise.

At the High Band sections, the first contacts were made with Amateur Radio from France, Philippine, and United States.

The rain was accompanied us the whole night with storm and heavy wind that blew down the 160 and 30 meter bands antennas.

1st Day ; After a short nap under the heavy rain, our technicians was able to repair the downed antennas. After a brief gathering to check the preparedness of each stations assigned to transmit this morning, the first call were made (20/3) at 09:00 local time (GMT+9) with an Amateur radio from Japan, JG1WCT.

Unfortunately our power generator unit had a problem with its diesel supply unit. By the end of day one, 1500 QSOs were made on 20, 17, 15 & 10 meter bands. On the end of day one, our high bands kept working with five 120A batteries. We tried every possibility to make the engine running but then the mechanic said that it due to injector failure. So Mr John Resubun, our Team Leader, called the supplier to send the necessary parts but the parts will only be available in another two days (that means our fourth day).

The team gathered for a meeting and decided to continue the QSO using the battery and we priorities high bands until all batteries dried. We log no less than 2000 QSOs under that condition.

The weather was great after midnight, but then rain and storm came again and brought down two antennas. YB1MH's 6 meter band antenna went down and YB0KVN's R-7000 were broken into three pieces. Mr. Endu Ahadiyat, a staff of Infocom Ministry found the upper part on the evening about 100 meters from its original location.

YB1MH, YC0VKI & YCOLLY then remake the antenna with the available materials.

2nd day at 3 PM, YB9YZ came back to the island with another new but smaller Power Generator. It was a 7KVA power generator. As soon as the electricity is available, all operators run to their base and made more than 4000 QSOs at the end of the day.

Meanwhile, we had a lot of visitors from the Kei Kecil Island that so eager to know our activity

And at 3rd day ; YC0TSU and YC1KAF joined our CW team. They came with our fellows from the Ministry of Information and Communications.

On the sunny 4th day, the fanatic operators still glued themselves to their corners. QSOs are mainly made on 18 (YB0ECT), 21, (YD1JZ), 24 (YC0TSU) and 28 (YC1KAF). All team members are in the high sprit to reach the highest score on each of 10 bands.

The 5th day, mark the start of the CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest. On this contest, YB8Y only operate on 5 bands. During the contest, 2.735 QSOs were made, and in the end of the week (March 26th, 2012) 20.354 QSOs were made.

Our antennas are spread out along the shore, most of them are monoband homebrewed yagi, prepared by YCoVKI, YCOLLY, YD1MRI, YD1ORZ & YD1GCL. For 6 meters, YB1MH brought and set-up his own antenna that downed by a strong wind then replaced by Ito san's antenna. For back-up we also set-up a

Cushcraft R-7000 vertical antenna that YB0KVN got from YB0DPO. Unfortunately this antenna was also broken down to three pieces by the storm. We're lucky the whole parts of the antenna were found the next day.

The majority of our radio are Icoms. IC-718 (4), IC706-MKIIIG (2), IC-756 (1) & IC-7000. From the Kenwood family we use TS-590 (1) & TS-450 (1). Yaesu FT-1000 MP (1) and Elecraft K-3. Some bands are equipped by linear amps such as Ameritron AL-811, Kenwood TL-922, Acom 1000 and Emtron DX-3.

We got two power generators and 100AH battery (5) to support this DXpedition.

Thanks to OM John Resubun YB9YZ with the group of supportive locals that provide us with a so nice facility that keep our spirit up.

(YB0KVN & Team reporting from the IOTA OC-221)

