

Mr. Amateur radio in Vietnam, Nguyen Bac Ai, XV2A

By XV3TH, Torsten & XYL Quynh Huong.

Visit to Bai Ai's home in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) on 2017-02-23

Bac Ai has been extremely important for the development of Amateur radio in Vietnam.

In 1989, a delegation from Japan came to HCMC, the leader was JA3UB. The delegation has, after many months, got a license to operate in Vietnam, XV2A.

At that time, people did not know about Amateur radio in Vietnam for Vietnamese, therefore the delegation from Japan went to the main post office in HCMC and wanted to work on amateur radio band at the post office.

The director of the post office was a friend of Bac Ai and he told the Japanese delegation to contact Bac Ai at the Post and Telecommunication Training center, Bac Ai was the Principal of that center.

This was the first contact for Bac Ai with Amateur radio,

The Japanese delegation left the callsign, XV2A open and in 1998 Bac Ai got that call sign.

Bac Ai also started up the Vietnamese Amateur Radio Club, VARC in 1996, the call sign is 3W6AR.

VARC has conducted several training courses for Vietnamese citizens to become Amateur radio operators, 180 people have participated.

Bac Ai has been in several schools giving training courses. Examinations have been done and from 1996 to 2010 there were 46 persons to have got the licenses, but in recent years only 18 licenses are on the air.

The examination contents of 50 questions and practical test.

Bac Ai has helped hundreds of foreigners to have the amateur license in Vietnam, he also has helped many DX-peditions to have the license and participated in the Expeditions.

The writer of this article has been together with Bac Ai in two of them, unforgettable Con Co Island, 3W6C and Hoi An expedition 3W3MD.

We are confident that without Bac Ai's work and passion, Amateur Radio in Vietnam would still be in the beginning stage.

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