

V6J(OC-254) rare IOTA DXpedition struggles

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First of all, we are really grateful to GDXF for your great support of our IOTX DXpedition last year and this year, as well. We were able to work 350 German stations and 71 GDXF members this time.

We operated from a rare IOTA OC-254 in Micronesia as V6J this year. It is not easy as pie to operate from a remote island in Micronesia. Because you would have to clear three hurdles, 1). to get the operation permit from the island Chief, 2). to have a generator, 3). to secure logistics. It is a must for us to get the operation permit from the island Chief if we want to operate from the remote island in Micronesia. So we got the operation permit from the Ta island Chief at the beginning of this year through our friend who lives in Pohnpei. Our plan was to send the generator, gasoline, drinking water, etc., to Ta island by the Micronesian government ship before our departure. We planned to fly to Ta island by a small Cessna plane from Pohnpei.



We left Kansai airport on July 15 and we arrived at Ta island on July 18 via Guam island. We operated from Ta island for fourteen days until July 31. V6J members are consisted of three people, JA3FGJ, JJ3CIG and JP3AYQ(YL). Although the condition was very bad, we were able to work 7,456 stations. The QSO ratios by region are JA 40%, EU 30%, NA 25% and others 5%. We wanted to work more stations in EU and NA, but the signals from these areas were not strong enough to make the QSO number increase. However, we had a good success to give a very rare IOTA of which the credit is 11% to many stations.



We operated from the Chief's second house which is located in the middle of the island. The Chief gave us permission to install any antennas we wanted to install. We used a building with an open ceiling space made of concrete which stands next to the Chief's second house. What bothered us a lot were mosquitoes, ants and flies. These bugs irritated us a lot making our operation very difficult. When everyone was typing the call signs on the PC, we were bitten by mosquitoes. So the arms, legs and faces were swollen. My beauty was screwed up.(hi)

The temperature was 35 degrees C even in a shade with high humidity. So it was very hard for us to operate from the island under the condition of no air conditioners and no cool water. The transceivers and amplifiers didn't always work well. Many unexpected things do happen during the operation from islands.

We were relieved to be able to arrive here in time using a small Cessna plane. But our generator went down once and the amplifier from Elecraft was completely dead possibly due to fierce heat. FT991 suddenly had a mal-connection problem at the antenna connector. It was unable to be used anymore. So just two stations operated at the end of the DXpedition. There was an interference problem with the island 8Mhz communication equipment. As a result, we had no choice but to halt our operation up to a maximum of two hours a day. We originally had an intention of operating around the clock, but it was impossible. The island guard was watching us from morning till night and the guard had to go back home at midnight. So we had to go QRT at 23:00 local time.

Scenery of the sea and the island was so beautiful. The island people were very kind to us. We would like to have a countermeasure for the bugs issue next time. I am very pleased to have been called despite the bad condition. We are planning to go to one of the rarest Micronesian island next year, as well We have not decided exactly where we will go next year. But wherever we go, we would appreciate your support very much for our next IOTA DXpedition.



Thanks very much indeed for your help. The DXpedition is hard, but still worth doing it, though suffering,,,,