Amateur radio has a lot of room to grow in India. And young Tom Jose, VU2TO, helped plant the seeds of growth by giving a presentation and demonstration of live radio during a recent show in Kerala, India.

Promoting Ham Radio to Youth in India

BY CAROLE PERRY, WB2MGP*

At the 2015 Dayton Hamvention® Youth Forum, we had a special international guest presenter. Then 17-year-old Tom Jose, VU2TO, wowed the audience with his amazing résumé and his stories of helping the police and emergency communications groups in India during disaster situations.

Many of my young presenters continue to stay in touch with me for years after the Dayton Youth Forum. This is one happy, side perk of having moderated the Dayton Youth Forum for the past 29 years. Tom has kept me posted on his visits to schools in his ongoing efforts to introduce ham radio to students in India. His latest communiqué had me beamimg with pride about this young man’s accomplishments.

Tom and his dad, Mr. Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, recently conducted an “awareness” program on ham radio over five days at the JDT Global Edu-connect ’16 Fair in Kerala, India. He forwarded the attached photos and write-up documenting their experiences.

“During the JDT Global Edu-connect ’16, the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) gave an amateur radio demonstration that was spearheaded by Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, and Tom K. Jose, VU2TO. This was an educational fair organized by the JDT Islam Orphanage and other educational institutions and spread around the large JDT Islam campus at Marikunnun, Kozhikode, Kerala, India, during the week of 10-14 April 2016. Br. Nouri Al Nouri of Kuwait inaugurated the event that featured about 300 stalls from assorted government, private, educational, commercial, and non-governmental institutions from India and.

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Tom Jose, VU2TO, stands inside the NIAR booth at the JDT Global Edu-connect ’16 Fair in Kerala India. (All photos courtesy of VU2TO)

Local hams volunteered their time to staff the booth and give live demonstrations of ham radio. Seated here are (from l. to r.) Mr. Sanil, VU3SIO; Mr. Sharoon, KD2AFT; and Tom’s father Jose, VU2JOS.
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Tom Jose, VU2TO, demonstrates a VHF transceiver to a group of children that stopped by the booth.
press covered the fair and provided some exposure to NIAR’s outreach efforts. According to the organizers, approximately 4,000 people visited our booth despite a severe heat wave that struck the area. NIAR is hoping the success of the booth and presentation will draw many new people to become radio amateurs.

I’d like to thank Tom for his report. His efforts in India will help grow our hobby and I hope his example will get others to spread the word. – WB2MGP

Tom discusses all of the activities that ham radio has to offer to a group of women that stopped by the NIAR booth.

Standing room only for Tom’s presentation on ham radio during the JDT Global Edu-connect ’16 Fair. Over 4,000 people attended the fair in Kerala, India, despite record heat.

For 75 years the Young Ladies’ Radio League, Inc. (YLRL) has helped women find their voice in Amateur Radio with members of all ages and interests.

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