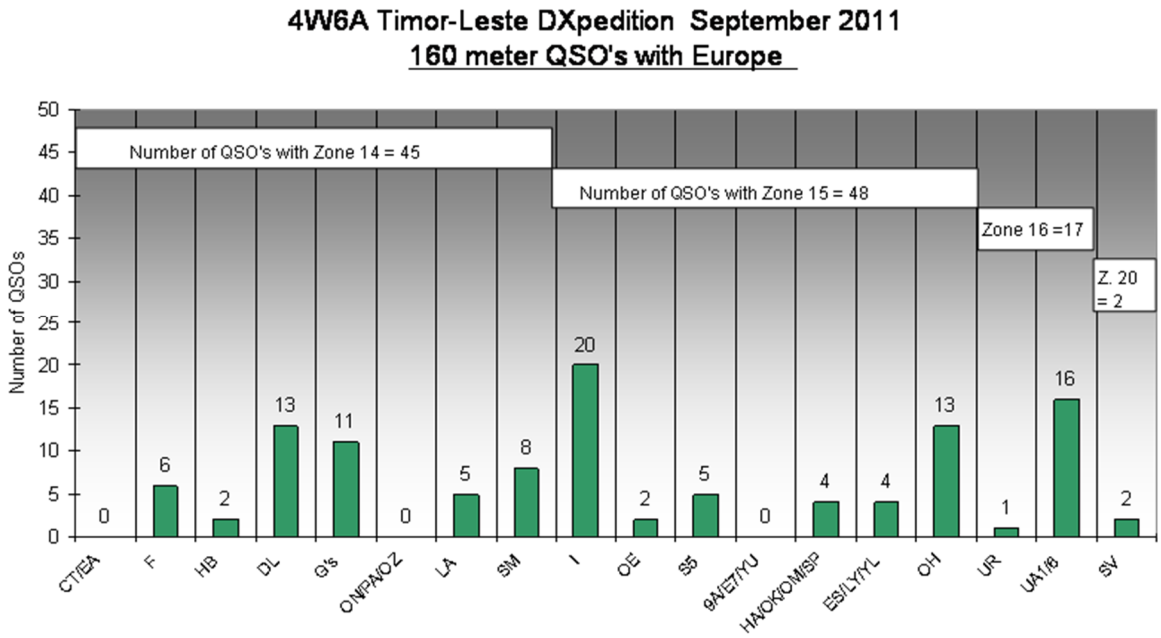
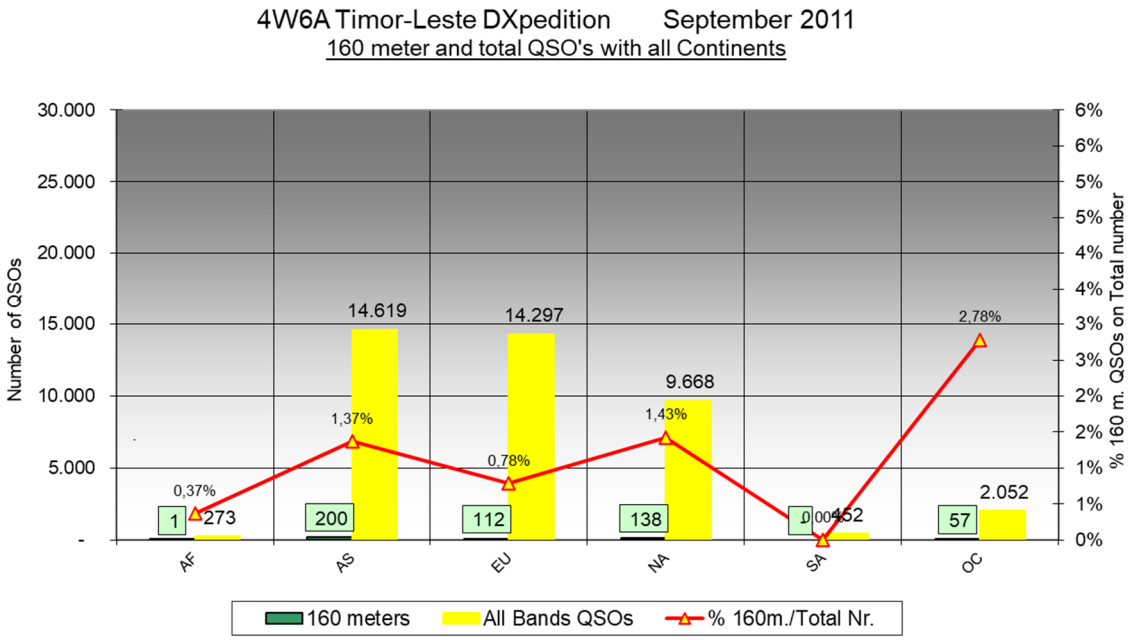
Sept. 2011: 4W6A - Atauro is. - Timor Leste DXpedition.

by Pierluigi "Luis" Mansutti, IV3PRK

The operations took place between 16 and 26 September 2011, with four stations, but despite the choice of a small island as a free-noise location, good operators and a great effort on 160 meters, it has been quite difficult to work this DXpedition from Europe.

All the QSO's have been made before 19.00 z (only a couple of Russians around 20z) without anyone near sunrise peak, which is usually the best time for that area, that is after 21z!

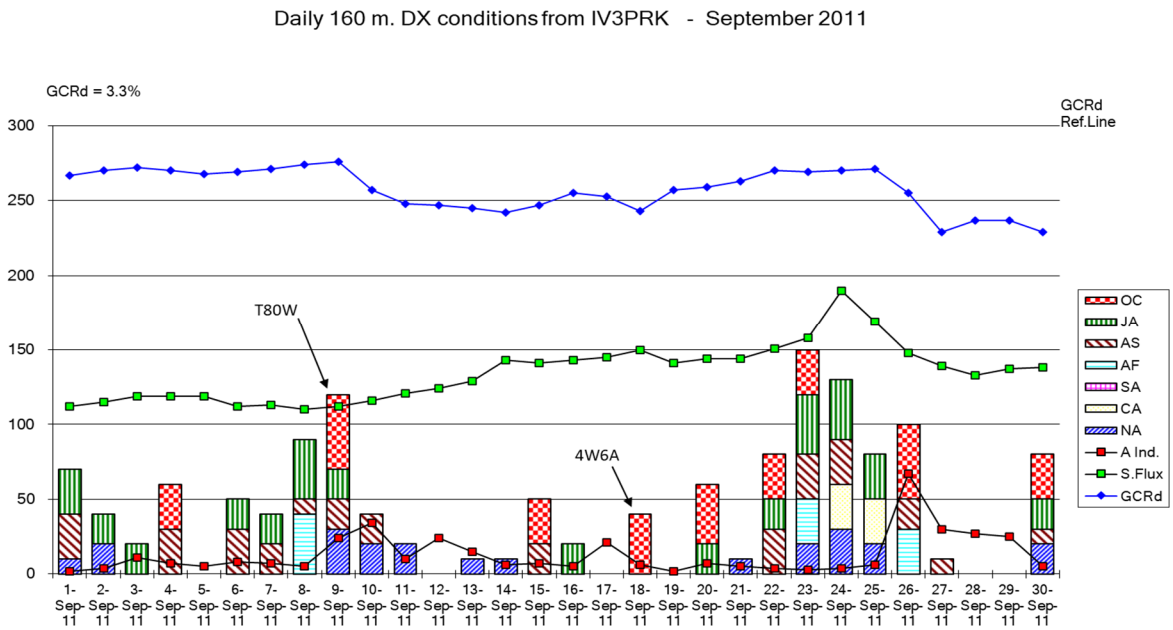




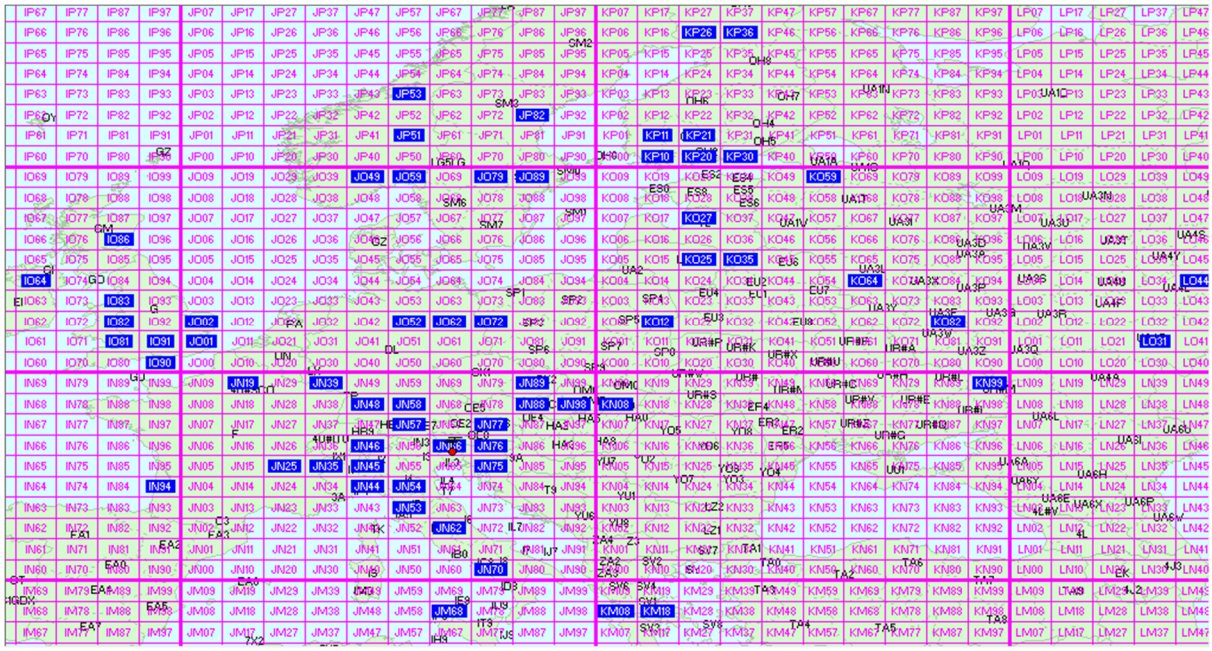
In total, 508 QSOs on 160 meters were made, only 1.2% of the 41k on all bands, not a great effort, despite they were using Titanex V160E vertical antenna but, maybe, lacking the great low-band experience and dedication of the German Team. The path from Atauro Island (PI21ts) is not a tough one

towards Europe: 12.000 km at about 80 degrees, a bit more than Southeast Asia, so at low latitudes. Propagation conditions were not bad, considering the rise of the new solar cycle; the geomagnetic field has been quiet during the DXpedition, with stations, also loud, from the Pacific area (VK and ZL) almost every day reaching Europe. In my paper logbook I see the QSO on the second day of operations:

Sept. 18 at 18.43 - 4W6A 559/599 - followed by a note “soon disappeared… NIL after a few minutes” and never heard them again in the next days.



The following DX Atlas map shows which are the grid squares worked, and it is interesting to compare it with the previous Pacific DXpeditions analysed on my page. Noteworthy is the lack of propagation with Central and Eastern Europe which is usually the most favourite in that direction: only one QSO each in HA, OK, OM, SP and Ukraine …. what a mysterious band!



September 2011 Luis IV3PRK