



News Release

For Immediate Release - July 29, 2018

HFCC Announces the Passing of its Founder Oldrich Cip

Oldrich Cip, founder and Vice Chairman of the High Frequency Coordination Conference, known as the HFCC, passed away on 27 July following a sudden illness.



Oldrich Cip, Horst Scholz and Jeff White

Oldrich was involved in radio since he was a child -- first as an amateur radio hobbyist and later as a staff member of Czechoslovak and then Czech Radio in the international broadcasting departments. A college graduate in the field of Humanities, he spent most of his working life as a frequency manager and schedule planner. For a number of years he

hosted a DX program on Radio Prague under the pen name Peter Skala.

After the end of the Cold War, he believed that broadcasters from both sides of the conflict should come together and develop a new system of planning and coordination for shortwave broadcasting. This led to the establishment of the HFCC in 1991. Oldrich was Chairman of the HFCC until 2015. Since then, he was a Vice Chairman of the group.



Oldrich Cip (3rd from the left) at a HAM radio field day in 1950s



Oldrich Cip in a studio of Radio Prague

Oldrich lived in Prague, although he frequently spent time in his country house, where he enjoyed woodworking, guitar and country music, vintage graphics, photography and time with his family. His son Vladislav said he spent his last day there: "He enjoyed a quiet evening in the country house, with our families, all four grandchildren around, no

symptoms of anything bad coming. All of a sudden, he suffered probably a heart attack or stroke. An ambulance arrived immediately but he died a few hours later."

Oldrich was married with two adult sons, Oldrich Jr. and Vladislav. Vladislav is the HFCC Secretary who manages the day-to-day operations of the organization.

From 1953 until 1997 Oldrich was an employee of Czechoslovak and later Czech Radio in Prague. He worked as a technical consultant for Czech Radio from 1998 to 2010. He specialized in planning schedules and frequencies, international coordination and distribution of shortwave radio programs for foreign countries.



Oldrich Cip (4th from the left) at a coordination meeting of the Eastern Bloc in Hungary

Beginning in 1959 and for more than 25 years, Oldrich produced a weekly English-language program "Radio Prague Calling All Radio Hobbyists," using the *nom de plume* Peter Skala. In the program, he answered questions from shortwave listeners in many countries and covered a variety of scientific and other topics from the radio industry.

During the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968, Oldrich used his technical expertise to aid the "free Czechoslovak Radio," putting himself in

danger in an effort to provide factual news and information about the events taking place. Thanks to the large number of smaller facilities of Czechoslovak Radio scattered all over Prague and complicated infrastructure that connected them, they were able to continue broadcasting for quite some time.



In the period of reforms around the year 1968, he established secret contacts with his colleagues from Western radio stations. He re-established the contacts after the fall of communism and started an initiative to eliminate interference on shortwave. He became the Chairman of the HFCC, which has continued to meet twice each year in different parts of the world for shortwave stations to coordinate their frequency schedules for the coming broadcast season, thus eliminating interference before each season begins. The principles of international coordination were incorporated into the ITU's International Radio Regulations during the 1997 World Radio Conference.

Oldrich was also an adviser to the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic in the preparation of the first Radio and Television Broadcasting Act after 1990, as well as a member of several EBU and ITU radiocommunication working groups. At the HFCC, he spearheaded the International Radio for Disaster Relief project whereby shortwave stations have allocated specific frequencies in each band for the transmission of emergency information in the event of natural disasters around the world.

Jeff White, Oldrich's successor as HFCC Chairman, said: "The shortwave broadcasting and listening communities have lost one of our most important proponents. The contributions of Oldrich over the years are simply unequalled. He was a humble man, but people in this industry realized the importance of his work. And he has left us a lasting legacy -- an organization which has largely eliminated interference on the shortwave bands, and it has enabled stations to use less power to reach their target areas with a good signal. For that, he will always be remembered."

For more information, contact Jeff White, HFCC Chairman, at jeff@wrmi.net.

Worldwide Reaction to the Passing of HFCC Founder Oldrich Cip

Most sincere condolence to the family members and to associates. It's a pity that we lost an excellent person with the global thinking, who made so much for the international broadcasting, the Man with wise and kind eyes. We are grateful to fate for meeting Oldrich Cip once and to know him for a long time. Many solutions will be accepted on the principles developed by him. Memory about the excellent person, appreciation and melancholy will be with us constantly. With respect for all,

Anatoliy Ivanchin, Rashel Staviskaya and associates. Russia

Vladislav, Receive our deepest condolences for the loss of your father. We will always remember Oldrich as a good person who did everything he could to resolve conflicts and organize solutions. Best regards,

Fernando Almarza

RNE-RTVE - Spain

Dear Vladislav.

I'm saddened to learn your father's loss news. He's a very kind and valuable person. I share your sadness in this painful incident. I wish you and your family patience. May Allah give you good and long life. We will always honor your father with respect...

Best regards.

Yüksel SOYLU

TRT, Türkiye

Dear Vladislav,

Our deepest condolences on the passing away of your father. It was always a pleasure to see Oldrich at the HFCC and to have an opportunity to spend a few moments with him discussing various subjects that he was well versed in. He was a fountain of knowledge and the embodiment of the HFCC, which, remains his legacy.

Sincerely,

Daniel Robinson - RED

We are sorry for your loss. Our thoughts are with you and your family during these difficult times. Our collective hearts are heavy with sympathy, and our prayers are with you and your family. With great condolences.

Mohammad Hassan Kasaeian

Head of Shortwave department

IRIB - Iran

Dear Vladislav, I am deeply saddened by the news of your loss. I pray that God will grant you the strength. I can't imagine what you must be feeling right now, but I would like to accept my condolences You and your family are in my heart and mind. My condolences on the passing of your father. Best Regards.

Ali Sharifi - IRIB - Iran

So sad to hear the news! He was such a great humble person who loved radio!! These kinds of people are a rarity these days.

Adil Mina (formerly with Continental Electronics) - Greece

Dear Vladislav,

On behalf of FEC family we would like to express our deepest sympathy to you and your family for the loss of your father. May the good Lord continue to grant you peace and comfort during this difficult time in your life.

Sincerely from FEC,

Sammy

Samuel E. Ponilas

Transmission Manager

Far East Broadcasting Company, Philippines., Inc.

Dear Vladislav,

Receive our sincere condolences to you and your family. We are very proud that we have had the opportunity to meet such an unselfish person and he will always stay in a very nice remembers. He always helped us with advice and contacts. It is our duty to continue working on his ideas.

Best regards from Croatia.

Slaven Božo, Research and Strategic Planning Senior Expert

Transmitters and Communications Ltd. (OIV)

Condolences From RTC

We were very sorry and shocked to hear Mr. Oldrich Cip's passing away. Please accept our heartfelt condolence and convey our profound sympathy to his family. Mr. Oldrich Cip devoted all his life to the radio broadcasting and made a great contribution. In particular, he founded the HFCC which promotes the coordination of shortwave frequencies among national broadcasting organizations. Meanwhile, he was an old and dear friend of many Chinese shortwave frequency managers. We still remember his laughing and kindness. We will always remember him.

RTC - China

Dear Vladislav

Please accept our heartfelt condolences on the demise of your father, and a good friend of us all in the radio and shortwave community. The role he played in the development and upkeep of the shortwave broadcast community is immense. He will be remembered with fond memories. It is a privilege to have had the chance to meet with him and work with him albeit few and far between. His vision and foresight for the shortwave community was always positive and with that positive energy he managed to drive everybody involved forward. On behalf of the ABU and specially the ABU-HFC members we would like to put on record our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the work Mr Oldrich has done to keep the shortwave broadcast community relevant and active throughout the region and the world. Once again our deepest condolences and may he rest in peace. Kindest regards,

Ahmed Nadeem - Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, ABU-HFC

Good day Vladislav,

Please accept and convey our sincere sympathy to you and your family on your father's passing. He was truly a global influencer in the international broadcast community. We are praying for you and your extended family to experience the Peace of God during this time.

Lauren Libby

International President/CEO

TWR international

Dear Vladislav & All,

I am so saddened by these news about Oldrich.

I would like to extend sincere condolences to you, to your family and to all HFCC members on behalf of ASBU and I.

We have lost a respectable, courageous and special man who dedicated many years of his life to Radio development in Czech Republic and beyond .

Thanks to his enthusiasm, high-level proficiency and dedication, we managed together to make progress towards the elimination of interference on the shortwave bands and to the extension of people's access to radio stations' programs.

He believed in the importance of cooperation between our organizations and of their strength when they work together to achieve a common target.

He also contributed to the consolidation of relations between ASBU and HFCC and ensured the development of the Short Wave (SW) service throughout the world and in particular the Arab world by contributing to the elimination of the interference of the Arab voices broadcast over SW.

With my sincere and warm regards,

Abdelrahim Suleiman

Director General, Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU)

Dear Vladislav,

I would like to express my sincere condolences to you, Cip's family and our great HFCC family, created by Cip. For me he will always be a man ready to help, with a friendly smile on his face.

Best regards,

Moma

Momcilo Simic

Vice-President of the Management Board

Association of Electrical Engineers of Serbia

Belgrade

Dear Vladislav.

We have great sorrow of the news of your father's death. On this painful occasion, we extend to you and all members of the extended family our warmest condolences, to grant you patience and to provide the deceased with a vast paradise.

Mondher GUIRAT

Tunisia - Telediffusion.net.tn

I would like to express my sincere condolences to all and to the family of Oldrich CIP !

May he rest in peace. We won't forget him in our prayers.

Kind regards,

Mandialy BODIAN

ARTP - Autorite de Regulation des Telecommunications et des Postes, Senegal

Hello Dear Vladislav,

We are deeply saddened by the loss of your father. He was a great human being and he was such a wise man who never seemed to mind sharing his knowledge with anyone who asked for advice. We all feel the loss very deeply. He was loved by all of us and he will be cherished in our memories forever. Please accept our condolences, and know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Sincerest Condolences,

Shahnaz Ghavami

Global Strategies and Negotiation Division

Cross Border, Negotiations & Treaty Compliance Branch

International Bureau

Federal Communications Commission

Washington, D.C.

Dear Vladislav

It is with a great deal of sorrow that I read about the passing on of Oldrich, your respected father.

Kindly accept heartfelt condolences from Vijay and me. Peace be on his soul.

With this, a chapter on Shortwave broadcasting has come to a close, a golden chapter.

My association with Oldrich began when we met at the first meeting of Asian and 'Rest of the world' SW broadcasters in Tunis in 1998. And it continued for a decade and a half. During that time we met in Kuala Lumpur and elsewhere every year.

I had the privilege of being his host (and yours too) at my home in KL one evening. That day all the most-prominent SW broadcasters in the world graced our humble abode, something I will always remember with pride.

Oldrich was a man of many parts, consistent, forward looking and at the same time consolidating the progress made. And with him at the helm, SW frequency coordination made progress in huge strides, from diskette and manual approximations to the most modern and versatile web-based cutting edge processing.

He evangelised the concept of friendly coordination and charmed SW "friends" and SW "enemies". But he worked with great zeal and compassion and the results are what we see now.

I always looked up to him as a benevolent master, a guide and also a friend. And I will always keep very fond memories of him with me.

I devoted a lot of time and effort to SW broadcasting and he helped me to spread the word in this region.

Indeed a chapter has come to an end.

Kind regards.

Sharad Sadhu, formerly ABU-HFC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Dear all,

We have received with great sorrow the sad news of death of Mr Oldrich, founder and Vice Chairman of the High Frequency Coordination Conference, known as the HFCC. I am presenting, on my behalf and on behalf of my ASBU colleagues, to his family and to HFCC community, our sincere condolences. May he rest in peace.

Best regards

Mohsen Ghommam

Arab States Broadcasting Union

Thanks for this tribute to a remarkable individual such as Oldrich, who leaves a wonderful legacy. Oldrich will be long remembered.

Dr. Dowell Chow, former President, Adventist World Radio

Dear Vladislav,

We are sorry to read the passing away of Oldrich.

He was among the figureheads of HFCC, one of the persons you always have in mind when you talk about HFCC. We couldn't agree more with Jeff regarding all his contributions for Shortwave broadcasting. Thank you very much for sharing his memorial tribute. Despite the circumstance, we hope that he was happy spending his last days among his beloved ones. Vladislav, please accept our sincere condolence from MGLOB, but also from myself and convey it to your family. Our deepest sympathy goes also to HFCC. With kind regards,

Flore

Mrs Flore Ravelojaona, Directeur

Malagasy Global Business

Antananarivo, Madagascar

Dear Vladislav

It is with Great sadness we learnt about the passing away of one of the truly Great radio pioneers, a great expert whose knowledge was doubled by a great love of radio and its possibilities of linking peoples, generations and countries across the world. A true gentleman has left us. RIP. On behalf of the DRM Consortium, we send our condolences to his family at this time. Kind regards,

Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) Consortium

Dear Vladislav,

I just read of the very sad news re. the recent passing over of your father Oldrich. It should be a relief to anyone that he apparently did not suffer, that he was among his dearest in the family, and all was so quick.

I will always remember Oldrich for his profound humanity and our common passion in radio, that goes far beyond earning any salary or popularity in the profession.

Please extend my sincere condolences to all of your family. We lost a great man, who - most humbly - did great things in broadcasting for your country and the world.

73s,

Alfredo Cotroneo

NEXUS-IBA / ANT

Dear all,

It is indeed a sad news. I am presenting, on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues in ITU, to his family and to HFCC community my sincere condolences.

May he rest in peace.

Best regards.

Mrs. Ilham GHAZI

Head, Broadcasting Division, Radiocommunication Bureau,

International Telecommunication Union - Geneva

Gracias de haberme informado. Es una gran pérdida para el mundo de la radio. Que encuentre la paz eterna.

Ladia

Mgr. Ladislava Hudzovičová, redaktor

Španielska sekcia, Radio Slovakia International

Rozhlas a televízia Slovenska

I suddenly thought of Oldrich the other day, just on the day of his passing. The HFCC was and is extremely important in the orderly operation of HF broadcasting and is a shining example of international cooperation in action. Oldrich made a great contribution to HF broadcasting, but he leaves a lasting legacy in the HFCC. HF broadcasting could not function properly without it. 73,

Bob Zanotti

Switzerland in Sound (formerly with Swiss Radio International)

Dear sir It is bad news. Sorry to hear that.

Regards.

Salim Alnomani, Managing Director

Public Authority for Radio and Television, Sultanate of Oman

I am saddened by the passing of Oldrich Cip. What a great positive effect he has had upon all of us involved in shortwave broadcasting. I am sure his death is a great loss for you and his family - indeed for all of us. Please express our sympathy to the family. They will certainly be in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Charles Caudill, President Emeritus

World Christian Broadcasting - Tennessee, USA

My deep condolences and sympathy. Rest in peace.

Renaldi from Jakarta, Indonesia

Oh so very sad. Oldrich befriended me and made me feel so welcomed to the group when I began attending HFCC. In Athens, he saw to it that I was taken to the hospital to get vital medicine I needed. What a gracious and respected man. Our prayers are with you and your family Vladislav.

Glen Tapley

EWTN Television/Radio Network - Alabama, USA

So sorry to hear about Oldrich, but it was good that he was with family and probably did not suffer much pain. This is one of my favorite pics since I've been at Continental.

Calvin Carter

Director of International Sales

Continental Electronics Corporation

