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**EARTHQUAKE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

July 16, 2019

To whom it may concern,

In cooperation with Turkish Radio Amateurs Society (TRAC), the 2 meter Amateur band APRS station, which has been operated by TRAC in our premises since 2005, is an essential alternative source for the distribution of observational information to the Black Sea, Aegean Sea and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

It is obvious that, during emergency events most of the public communications systems break down. With this APRS infrastructure, it is possible to transfer uninterrupted disaster relevant information to the "last mile" even in case of internet/phone interruptions during a disaster. The usefulness and necessity of the system has proved in many real events.

All the earthquake data's greater than  $M_s=3$  automatically distributes all over the APRS clients via 2m amateur digipeaters without any human intervention. This data can be received by regional Emergency Management Centers with the installed APRS equipment on this sites. Also receiving this data via handheld radios possible for on-site personnel.

Best regards,

  
Prof. Dr. Haluk ÖZENER  
Director