

FAI Report to FAI Aeromodelling Commission Meeting 2010

103rd FAI General Conference 2009, Incheon (KOR)

For the first time during the last 24 years (1985 - New Delhi, India), the FAI General Conference was held again in Asia, perfectly hosted by the Federation of Korea Aeronautics in association with a professional conference organiser, the Incheon Municipality and major sponsors, including the two Korean airlines, Korean Air and Asiana.

Over 20 Asian nations attended the Conference, many of which had never been represented at the FAI General Conference. This had been made possible by the invitation of the Asia Pacific Parachuting Federation, with which the FAI has a Memorandum of Understanding.

“Incheon Declaration” on the Development of International Air Sports

The FAI Conference unanimously adopted the “Incheon Declaration”, which recognizes the great importance of Asia for our future, and commits FAI to doing everything in its power to support East Asian countries in their efforts to develop air sports.

New FAI Members approved by the Conference

New Active Members : Ecuador - Iran – Mongolia (Upgraded to Active) – Moldova (upgraded to Active)

New Temporary Members : Palestine – Qatar – Trinidad & Tobago

Today (21 Jan 2010), the FAI is represented in 92 countries by 97 member organisations (84 Active, 7 Temporary, 6 Associate Members) and 3 International Affiliates.

After the Conference, Azerbaijan and Mali also applied to join FAI and have been provisionally accepted by the Executive Board.

Finance

The FAI remains financially in good shape, despite the world financial crisis. Conference noted that the proportion of FAI's liquid assets held by Commissions was now approaching 50%, and that ways had to be found of applying some of these funds to help the Secretariat improve services to Commissions.

The Conference unanimously accepted to keep unchanged the 2010 Scale of Subscriptions. For the 7th consecutive year, the FAI was able to continue freezing the level of annual subscriptions. FAI's association with the Red Bull Air Race significantly contributed to this favourable situation.

FAI Statutes & By-Laws

The Statute relating to eligibility for the post of FAI President was modified by the General Conference. For the next election (due to be held in October 2010) any person duly nominated by a FAI Member or Air Sport Commission will be eligible – (eligibility is no longer limited to FAI Vice).

FAI will move to new headquarters in 2011

The FAI decided to purchase a floor at the Maison du Sport International (MSI) in Lausanne. The move will take place next spring. This will bring us to the heart of world sport. The purchase has been partially funded with money from Rolex, and will not entail any increase in annual outgoings, whilst improving FAI's capacity to serve all Members and Commissions

Meeting rooms for up to 50 persons will be available at the MSI. These meeting rooms will also be available to FAI Commissions not needing the auditorium at the Olympic Museum for their meetings.

Next FAI General Conferences

104th FAI General Conference : 5 to 10 October 2010, Dublin, Ireland

105th FAI General Conference : 11 to 16 October 2011, Belgrade, Serbia

FAI Activities & Projects

IWGA World Games

From 16 to 26 July 2009, some 3'100 athletes, coaches and officials from 105 countries gathered in Kaohsiung (Chinese Taipei) during the 8th World Games. Air sports were represented by 85 top parachutists competing in 5 disciplines.

The next World Games will be held in 2013 in Cali, Colombia. The FAI and IWGA are currently considering introducing Paragliding and Aeromodelling disciplines on the sports program of the 2013 World Games.

World Air Games 2009

On 6 June 2009, some 10'000 spectators attended the opening ceremony held at the San Carlo central square in Turin. The opening ceremony was crowned by the lighting of the Icarus Flame, the Hellenic Aeronautical & Air Sports Association had flown in directly from Greece.

265 athletes from 41 nations successfully competed in 19 disciplines, involving 8 Air Sport Commissions and the FAI Amateur-built & Experimental Aircraft Commission. No serious incident or accident occurred.

A 15-minute video has been produced and distributed to each Delegate to give a "taste" of the World Air Games 2009. The Delegates were invited to copy and show this video in their countries to promote the event.

In spite of the poor economic climate the LOC had to face, the 2009 Games were successful, have been a major step forward, and allowed us gathering very valuable know-how and experience. The new format of our multi-air-sport event is a good one and will be continued. However, there is still great scope for improving the World Air Games product, especially in areas such as management structure, integration and cooperation between sports, and presentation of air sports to the public and media.

Red Bull Air Race

As approved by the 2008 Conference in St-Vincent, the 2009 Red Bull Air Race series has been sanctioned by the FAI and successfully conducted under the title of "Red Bull Air Race World Championship". Six successful races took place in 2009 (Abu Dhabi, San Diego, Windsor – CAN, Budapest, Porto, Barcelona). Cooperation with Red Bull was excellent, providing benefits to both partners and significantly increasing the popularity and visibility of air sports to the outside world.

Cooperation with Red Bull is continuing through 2010, with races planned in Abu Dhabi, Perth, Windsor, New York, Budapest, Lisbon, as well as in Germany and Brazil.

TV Production – airsports.tv

FAI's cooperation with Flying Aces Ltd continued through 2009. The 2008 TV series is now available for sale (at FAI or at airsports.tv) as a 3 DVD set proposed at the attractive price of 11 EUR. The 2009 TV series is currently under production and should be available later this spring; in the meanwhile, video footage is already available on-line at <http://www.airsports.tv>. Our cooperation with Flying Aces will continue this year, and the organisers of events planned to be included in the 2010 TV series should soon be contacted by Flying Aces soon.

SportAccord Video Hub

Thanks to SportAccord FAI membership (www.sportaccord.com), a new video channel for presenting air sports will soon be available. Delegates and event organisers wishing to provide videos for publication are invited to contact the FAI (jmb@fai.org).

FAI Sporting License Database

Technical problems were at the origin of significant delays. These problems have been solved and the new FAI Sporting License Database will be made available as soon as all NACs have provided their updated data.

JMB