



FAI Secretary General's report to the 107th General Conference Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 4-5 October 2013

Mr. President, dear Delegates, Ladies & Gentlemen,

A year ago, when reporting to the General Conference in Turkey, I expressed my hopes that 2013 would be a year of consolidation allowing the continuation or completion of projects initiated the previous year. Even though we could not yet reach all the objectives we had ahead of us, I am glad to report that positive results have been achieved in a number of areas, and that the staff situation at the FAI Office stabilized; the workload for some of us in Lausanne is however still far too high.

Before reporting on the activities and challenges addressed by the FAI Office since the last Conference, I would like to give you as usual some statistics on the activities held in 2012 :

FAI Membership

Taking into account the decisions the Conference will be invited to make later today, the FAI Membership stands now at :

- 87 Active Members
- 14 Associate Members
- 8 Temporary Members
- 4 International Affiliate Members,
- For a total of 113 Members

Competitions

The 2012 competition season has been marked by the Parachuting Mondial in Dubai, the largest FAI Championship ever held in a single air sport. The Mondial not only contributed to increasing the visibility of parachuting, but also statistics. In 2012,

- 48 First category events (including 25 World Championships)
- were held in 26 different countries
- on 5 continents.
- 79 FAI Member countries participated in FAI First category events,
- with a total of 4638 participating athletes.
- Results were provided to the FAI in the best cases on the last day of the competition, in the worst case after ... 94 days, or 3 months later. This is an encouraging improvement compared to the "worst score" of 5 months achieved in 2011, but still, 3 months to communicate final results of an FAI First category event doesn't contribute at all to the credibility and image of our events towards the outside world.

International Records

In 2012,

- 142 International Records have been ratified,
- 77 % of them being World Records.

These figures are almost unchanged compared to 2011.

Flight Safety

Out of the only 18 replies to the annual questionnaires received from national member federations this year, a total of 200 fatalities have been reported in air sports in 2012, compared to 253 fatalities reported by 35 national federations in 2011.

Unfortunately, due to the low response rate to the annual questionnaire, these figures are not representative at all.

*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

FAI Head Office Activities

Coming back to the FAI Office, the slide below provides an insight into the many activities that have been carried out by our staff in Lausanne since the last General Conference. In addition to the daily operations shown in the left column, the FAI Office continued providing support to and managing the projects initiated by the Executive Board. While special projects such as FAME or Breitling required less time this year from the FAI Office, significant resources have been allocated to projects such as the IPC-IPETA or The World Games 2013 in Cali.

Agenda # 7 – Report of the Secretary General

FAI Head Office Activities		
DAILY OPERATIONS	SUPPORT / WORK ON PROJECTS	SPECIAL PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Support to ASCs➤ Members Management➤ Support to EB/RMS/EGs➤ Office and Staff Management➤ Finance➤ Organisation of Meetings➤ General Conference➤ Admin. of Competitions➤ Records & Awards➤ IOC / IF Relations➤ Website & Media➤ Anti-Doping➤ IT Maintenance➤ «Bush-fires» / Pressures➤ Etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ New accounting system and software➤ Sporting Licences DB➤ IWGA World Games➤ FAI World Air Games➤ New Organiser Agreement➤ Fundraising➤ New central database➤ Electronic voting system➤ New Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Breitling<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Competitions▪ New Awards➤ FAME<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Support▪ ASC Projects➤ Red Bull<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Exploring new opportunities➤ IWGA World Games, Cali➤ IPC - IPETA

107th FAI General Conference



New IT Systems

Since our new IT Manager Visa-Matti Leinikki joined the Office last year, our IT Systems have been running more smoothly and the replacement of some ageing systems has been successfully achieved, thus giving Visa-Matti more time to focus on the new IT infrastructure the FAI will need to improve its services and efficiency : Further developments and tests have been achieved on the FAI Sporting License Database - A new, more performant and less expensive IT Service Center has been implemented - The electronic voting system the Conference had been expecting for many years has been selected and will be used this year for the first time - A video-conferencing system will soon be made available to the FAI Community - And, last but not least, an ambitious project has been launched earlier this year to develop a completely new FAI Database.

Once available next year, this new database will provide the first stone needed to develop new applications to improve the services offered to FAI Members, Commissions and Event Organisers. I am particularly glad that good progress has been achieved in modernizing our “working tools”, and I express my warmest thanks to Visa-Matti for his work.

Accounting System

Unfortunately, we still experienced significant problems with the French-based accounting software introduced in 2011. Now that you have approved the 2012 Financial Statement, this software will be definitely discarded. Fulfilling the target of providing more detailed information on our Commissions’ assets and liabilities has been more difficult to achieve than expected, thus delaying the production of the 2012 audited financial statement, and delaying as well the delivery of final 2012 figures to our Commissions. I am sorry for this unsatisfying situation, but I have good hopes that the progress achieved and the new Swiss-based accounting software implemented at the beginning of 2013 will progressively improve the situation.

I would like to thank our Office & Accounting Manager Cosette Mast : Running 2 accounting systems in parallel while providing at the same time new financial data and keeping accounts and payments up-to-date has not been an easy task for her, in particular considering the accident that kept her away from the FAI for the first three months of the year.

FAI Staff

I am pleased to report that the staff situation has been stable this year. We have a motivated and efficient team of 8 full-time employees. It is a real pleasure to work with this team, and I express my warmest thanks to all of my colleagues for their dedication and involvement. I am sure that I will miss them when I will leave the FAI later this month.



Unfortunately, daily business, ambitious projects and pressures exerted on the FAI Office have not reduced the too high workload on our staff. The situation of overtime hours still remains critical. If the FAI wishes to continue expending and improving its services, in particular to better meet with our sponsors' expectations, then the development of the new working tools I mentioned a few minutes ago will not be the only solution. The FAI will also have to consider increasing the resources available at the FAI Office, in particular in the event management area, or to reassess the services you are expecting from the Office.

Air Sports at the IWGA World Games

An area of satisfaction this year has been The World Games 2013 organised in Cali (COL) under the patronage of the International World Games Association (IWGA). In spite of the high workload put on our Senior Sports Manager Rob Hughes and the many difficulties experienced during the preparation phase and during the first days at the venue, the result has been very positive for our sports.

The FAI Parachuting Commission once again demonstrated the maturity of Canopy Piloting. The Paragliding Landing Accuracy event appeared for the first on the sports programme of The World Games.

And Indoor AeroMusicals, the latest and promising discipline developed by the FAI Aeromodelling Commission, has been invited as a demonstration sport and raised a lot of interest and enthusiasm from the public. Our athletes have been very much impressed by the highly

responsive public. We are now waiting for the IWGA evaluation of our events, which will serve as basis for establishing the programme of The World Games 2017 in Poland.

Rob Hughes will provide you with more details later on during the Conference. He did a great job in Cali and his efforts have been recognized by his recent appointment as the new FAI Sports Director. Congratulations, Rob, thank you very much and all of the best in your new position !

I would not close this subject without thanking all the volunteers who contributed to the success of the event, and my special thanks go to Markus Graeber, who invested a lot of his time and energy to make air sports events at The World Games possible.

New blood at the controls of the FAI Office

After a long period of assessment and thoughts, I announced to our President six weeks ago my decision to leave the FAI. I had informed our President about the process I had initiated, but I understand that my decision came as a surprise to many of you. I will not expand on all the reasons behind this decision, but when limits have been exceeded, when your private life and health start suffering from your job, when you don't feel comfortable anymore with some of the latest developments and some parts of your daily work, then you have to draw the consequences. This is what I did. After more than 11 ½ years at the FAI, my decision has not been easy to make, especially as, today, I don't know yet where the aircraft I have just boarded will land. I am however looking forward to explore new horizons, even if they might be outside of the aviation world.

During my time at the FAI, I have had the opportunity to manage a number of challenging projects that, hopefully, contributed to giving the FAI a more modern image and new perspectives. I am thinking in particular to the new corporate identity introduced almost ten years ago, the FAI Centenary, the new World Air Games format introduced in 2009 in Turin, or the first steps achieved last year in commercial activities with the signature of the Breitling sponsorship contract.

I hope that the "new blood" that will soon flow at the controls of the FAI Head Office will also bring renewed energy, fresh ideas, different background and experience, and other ingredients that will contribute to bringing the FAI to another step ahead.

Before I conclude what will be my last report to the General Conference, I would like to quote a sentence the former Secretary General Max Bishop had written in his last report to the Conference a few years ago : *"My successor will have to steer FAI through a clash between the values of commercial companies and those of a non-profit organization"*. Even though some positive progress has been achieved in this area, this sentence is still valid.

I expect that a number of lively discussions will take place during this Conference on strategic issues, new challenges, new priorities. You are the owners of the FAI and you will decide how you will wish to shape the FAI for the next 5 years and beyond. However, whatever decision you will make, please keep in mind that the FAI is an international sports federation recognized by the IOC. As such, the FAI has to continue encouraging, rewarding and recording sports performance as it did during its 107 years of existence.

FAI « IS » Sports !

- FAI = IOC-recognized International SPORTS Federation
- Encourage, reward, record SPORTING PERFORMANCE
- 107 years of history, traditions, know-how = Asset

But :

- Commercial income needed
(Development of sports, defense of interests, servicing sponsors, etc.)
- Continue learning how to ATTRACT and RETAIN sponsors/partners
(Heroes, attractive events, special programmes, young people, etc.)
- Less time and energy spent on rules, statutes, etc.



Traditions and history belong to the assets you also have in your hands, but it is not enough. The FAI recently entered a new era, where partners' expectations must be taken into consideration : Creating heroes, encouraging new challenges, promoting young pilots, developing more attractive and more professionally organized events will be more and more essential to attract and retain sponsors. The income generated by these partners is not only needed to source the further development of air sports, but also to support FAI's effort in ensuring that airspace will continue to be available to future generations.

I therefore ask you all please to contribute to this effort : There is still a lot of work to further improve the presentation and quality of our competitions. Some of our Commissions already opened the way and created events such as Canopy Piloting, Indoor AeroMusicals or Paragliding Aerobatics for example. Please continue down that way in each of your sports, work together towards common objectives and in close cooperation with the FAI Office and FAME. And last but not least, I would wish that the FAI in general, and the Conference in particular, invest more time and energy in doing their core business (sports, performance, motivation of the next generations, defense of interests to name some of them) rather than on rules, statutes and by-laws : We need rules to run sports, but we need good sports and heroes to attract and retain partners !

FAI is sports, and we have wonderful sports !

I wish the FAI all the best for a bright future of Air Sports and I thank you for your attention.

Jean-Marc BADAN
FAI Secretary General

Kuala Lumpur, 4 October 2013