



**FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM)
Report to the 105th General Conference
Belgrade, 14-15 October 2011**

Report on the activities of the Commission for International Aeromodelling (CIAM) for 2010-2011

The CIAM is, as always, very active on the competitive front, but there is a need to incorporate events and activities of a more general nature. Several large, spectator and media-friendly events take place on an annual basis and these are not necessarily billed as FAI events, and are not placed on the calendar. In November last year, the national aeromodelling federation in Korea staged a very successful, non-FAI exhibition and local competitive event, and it was extensively branded as an FAI event. This demonstrated what may be achieved to promote the FAI, even if it were not a championship.

At the end of 2010 the CIAM had to endure considerable strain as a result of an NAC withdrawing its support of an elected CIAM Bureau officer. Despite intensive negotiations, the situation could not be resolved. The issue was exacerbated by what was experienced as non-support and over-reaction by the FAI secretary general. With the intervention of the CIAM President of Honour and the Swiss Aero Club, the situation was rescued. An impression of imbalance is created, where the Sporting Commissions are subject to the whims of NACs. Often, the NACs are ignorant of the activities and requirements of some of the sections.

Several times during the period under review, the CIAM officers had the perception of a confrontational approach by the FAI management, rather than one of cooperation. There was also the impression that there is an obsession with image, rather than practical operations. The website is a striking example. Despite several promises of its restoration, there exists several sections of the website that are inaccessible at different periods. This was acutely experienced at a very critical moment, just prior to our April Plenary meeting. The promised "new" website has yet to see the light.

In short, the Commission confirms that it is willing to fully cooperate, provided there is mutual cooperation, consultation, and respect. All of our officers are volunteers, who offer freely of their time and expertise, and criticism, if not of a constructive nature, is counter-productive. The CIAM and its officers not to offer excuses, but rather to help in finding sustainable solutions to the improvement of airsport.

Transportation of models remains a challenge, and lately, the transport of lithium-polymer batteries too. The ever-growing popularity of aeromodelling results in new classes emerging every year. Although this places an additional burden on NACs, it has also created a challenge for the CIAM, to manage the retirement of less-popular classes.

The CIAM is financially sound, but its Bureau is naturally concerned by the goals of the FRTF to create mechanisms where the FAI may be able to use the Commission's funds. A few national aeromodelling federations have questioned the relevance of the FAI for general aeromodelling, and are considering cheaper options, by affiliating to their NACs, only those aeromodellers who are competitively inclined. This may have financial implications for the FAI.

During 2010-2011, there were numerous well-attended and successful world and continental championships, in a variety of classes. Concern exists over a championship that was awarded to China, with a distinct lack of communication, despite regular

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requests for improved reporting, which often went unheeded. This created uncertainty with NACs and prospective participants, and has had a direct result of a very low entry for this championship.

FAI Model Aircraft World Championships conducted in 2011

Free Flight – Embalse, Argentina

Gliders with automatic steering for Juniors and Seniors – Sentjernej, Novo mesto, Serbia

Radio Control Aerobatics – Muncie, U.S.A.

Radio Control multi-task Gliders – Laiwu, China

Radio Control Helicopters – Calcinatello, Italy

Radio Control Pylon Racing – Bundaberg, Australia

Radio Control Hand Launched Gliders – Arboga, Sweden

FAI Model Aircraft Continental Championships conducted in 2011

Free Flight for Juniors and Seniors – Slovenia

Free Flight Indoor – Serbia

Control Line for Juniors and Seniors - Czestochowa , Poland

Radio Control Gliders for Juniors and Seniors (hand tow) - Slovenia

Scale Model Aircraft – Romania (cancelled)

Space Models for Juniors and Seniors - Romania

FAI Model Aircraft World Cup Events staged in 2011

Free Flight

Control Line

Electrics

Radio Control Gliders

Radio Control Aerobatics

Space Models

My thanks to my fellow Commission Presidents for the cooperation during the period under review. My grateful thanks to the FAI staff for their valued support, especially one member who provided very valuable support, and has since left the FAI.

Report submitted by Bob Skinner, CIAM president, Alberton, September 2011