



FEDERACION AERONAUTICA INTERNACIONAL

VICE PRESIDENTE

PRESIDENTE DE LA
COMISION INTERNACIONAL DE RECORDS ASTRONAUTICOS (ICARE)

REPORT FROM ICARE PRESIDENT 104th FAI General Conference, Dublin, Ireland, October 2010

1.- General Activities of ICARE Committee 2009/2010

The ICARE Committee held its annual meeting on April 16, 2010, at the FAI Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Representatives of five nations were present, and we were delighted to have two new representatives, from Sweden and Spain, very young professionals, and quite interested (and working) on Space matters.

Unfortunately the meeting was cut very short. As you may well remember, those were the days when an Iceland volcano was sending clouds of smoke and ashes out in the atmosphere. Clouds that were traced and defined in all radar sets in Europe, and had very well defined limits in height and wideness.

As a member of the aeronautic community, I am still amazed contemplating how our present aeronautic community seems not to be prepared for this happening. Volcanoes have been erupting since far before history of man exists, our technology is pretty well advanced ... and still a small volcano sneezes and grounds all of our beautiful flying machines for days and days.

2.- Main activities and proposals

In the short time we had, before delegates had to struggle to find a way back home, two main items were considered:

- A) Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of the first Cosmonautical flight (Yuri Gagarin, from the former Soviet Union, orbiting the Earth). It coincides with the 30th Anniversary of the first Shuttle Flight, a US major mark in Astronautics. Several initiatives are taking place to celebrate those achievements, and although the shortness of the meeting prevented special initiatives in our part, it was agreed to support in the way we can all those initiatives
- B) Our Commission reviewed the different awards being recognised by FAI in general, and by our Commission in particular. The Commission was unanimous in considering there have been too many awards approved, with the result of considerable reduction of the awards value. More than that, we were concerned with old and well recognised awards being recognised on teams of people. It is clear that present advances in our field can often not be singularised in a particular person. But if that is the case, rules will have to be changed. We did not have the time to review but some of the awards of our own Commission. Thus we are not criticising other groups or FAI in general awards, just warning about our general feeling. Since the awards, including the ones of our Commission, is a matter of the General Code, we decided to refer, by way of the Secretary General, to the appropriate body within FAI the reduction in the number of some of those awards handled by our group.

Dr. S. Sanz Fernández de Córdoba
ICARE President