



CIA President's Annual Report to the 103rd FAI General Conference Incheon (Korea) October 9-10, 2009

Highlights 2008

1. CIA Annual Meeting

The CIA's 2008 Plenary meeting was held in Lausanne from March 13 to 14, 2009. Delegates from 28 NACs were present. The FAI was represented by President Pierre Portmann and Secretary General Max Bishop. The meeting successfully dealt with its agenda and among the items discussed the following are noteworthy:

- CIA delegates reported on ballooning activities in their respective countries (statistics are available from the FAI secretariat).
- The delegates appointed and approved the FAI International Juries and key officials for the 2009 sanctioned events.
- The delegates regretted that, although the FAI Secretariat had been trying very hard to help, two outstanding issues with FAI Members could not yet be resolved. The UAE and Russian NACs failed to abide by their obligations and were not responsive to the FAI and CIA requests to help settle the outstanding issues. Efforts in this respect are to be continued.
- The delegates passed a motion stressing that CIA delegates are obliged to take up any not resolved issue regarding NAC responsibilities and liability with their home NAC, and to report progress to FAI/CIA. They also encouraged the FAI Executive Board to aggressively defend the Air Sport Commission interests in this respect by implementing the existing relevant FAI Rules and Regulations. This may ultimately result in the removal of the sporting rights for that country.
- The delegates decided to purchase an initial batch of 40 competition flight loggers (for a maximum of 32,000.-CHF), developed by the CIA New Technologies WG and built to their specifications. The devices will be rented to FAI event organisers, and it is planned to make their use mandatory at all future Ballooning CAT1 events using flight logging devices. Handling and maintenance of the devices will be outsourced to a specialised company.
- The delegates decided that the CIA Bureau members shall be elected for a one-year term.
- The delegates approved the new CIA Events Calendar, the 2009-2010 budget and the 2008 accounts.
- The delegates re-elected the CIA Bureau for one more one-year term.

President:	Jean-Claude Weber (LUX)
1st Vice President:	Hans Åkerstedt (SWE)
2nd Vice President:	Uwe Schneider (GER)
3rd Vice President:	Mark Sullivan (USA)
Secretary:	Alex Nagorski (CAN)

2. Major 2009 CIA Events

World Air Games Turin

The Hot Air Balloon Event was very well organized and successfully run by the local balloonists from Mondovi and a team of international officials. The event was highly competitive and after 24 tasks saw the following results:

1. Sven Goehler (Germany)	16,873 points
2. Uwe Schneider (Germany)	16,651 points
3. Joe Heartsill (USA)	16,322 points

Unfortunately, and although the Gas Balloon Event was part of the agreed WAG program, the WAG organizers decided unilaterally and at short notice to cancel this event, generating much disappointment and frustration among the CIA delegates and gas balloonists. Participants also regretted the fact that being away from the main venue in Turin by more than 100km, they did not seem to be integrated in the whole WAG effort.

16th European Hot Air Balloon Championship (<http://www.europeans2009.org/>)

The Event was hosted by the French NAC, organised by the French Ballooning Federation (FFA) and the local Balloon Association "Arc-en-Ciel d'Anjou" in Brissac-Quincé from August 21 to 29, 2009. The event which saw 83 participants take part was very successful and highly competitive. All participants, officials as well competitors, highly appreciated the warm welcome by the population of this small but charming French town. The results after 21 tasks are as follows:

1. Stefan Zeberli (Switzerland)	15,708 points
2. Francois Messines (France)	15,335 points
3. Richard Parry (UK)	15,284 points

53rd Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett (<http://www.geneva.gordon-bennett.ch/>)

The event was hosted by the Swiss NAC, organized by the Office du Tourisme de Genève with the help of the Swiss Ballooning Federation, and took place in Geneva from September 4-12, 2009. The 16 balloons took off from Geneva in perfect conditions on Saturday night for a very dramatic and eventful competition. The entire competition was tracked by satellite and the public could follow the developments over 4 days on the dedicated internet site (+1 million hits).

- 3 teams landed in Algeria after a dramatic crossing of the Mediterranean sea (first ever intercontinental gas balloon flight from Europe to Africa),
- of the 2 female teams one broke the Distance World Record in its category,
- 2 teams landed on the Balearic Island of Menorca,
- 1 team landed in Sardinia, 2 in France, 5 in Spain and 3 in Portugal,
- The winning pilots landed only 4 km from the sea on the most south-westerly tip of Portugal.

The winning results are as follows:

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| 1. Sebastien Rolland & Vincent Leys (France), | 1588.29 km |
| 2. Kurt Frieden & Pascal Witpraechtger (Switzerland) | 1571.88 km |
| 3. Mark Sullivan & Cheryl White (USA) | 1529.56 km |

3. Other CAT1 events staged in 2009:

LUXGSM World Balloon Trophy	AX	Echternach/Luxembourg	29th July to 2nd August
Coupe d'Europe des Montgolfières	AX	Mainfonds/France	30th July to 2nd August
Debrecen Cup & Worlds Test Event	AX	Debrecen/Hungary	30th September to 4th October
Tochigi HAB International Balloon Championship	AX	Tochigi/Japan	18th to 23rd November

4. FAI Championships to come:

19 th World Hot Air Balloon Championship	AX	Debrecen / Hungary	2 nd to 10 th October 2010
54 th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett	AA	UK	Date not yet fixed
1 st Women's European HAB Championship	AX	Alytus/Lithuania	15 th to 20 th June 2010
9 th FAI world Hot Air Airship Championship	BX	Dole/France	13 th to 17 th July 2010
17 th European Hot Air Balloon Championship	AX	Lleda/Spain	15 th to 23 rd September 2011
1 st Women's World HAB Championship	AX	Valmiera/Latvia	21 st to 29 th May 2011

5. FAI Class A and B World Records in 2007

CIA has processed 6 BA-Airship, 4 AX-Hot Air balloon and 8 AM-Gas Balloon World Records during 2008. Details of these records are available on the FAI webpage at http://records.fai.org/balloons/#history_A

6. FAI / CIA Awards

Montgolfier Diploma-Best performance Hot Air Balloon	Pierrick Duvoisin (SUI)
Montgolfier Diploma-Contribution to the Sport	Mako Oiwa (JPN)
Santos Dumont Gold Airship Medal	Jacques-Antoine Besnard (SUI)
CIA Hall of Fame Inductees (posthumous)	Bartholomeu Lourenco de Gusmão (1686-1724), Brazil
CIA Hall of Fame Inductees (living)	Bertrand Piccard (1958), Switzerland and Brian Jones (1947), UK

7. General considerations

Although ballooning is apparently doing well, the activity is still struggling with the same problems as other Air Sports Commissions (air space, licensing, airworthiness, equipment, medical, etc.), and in addition with some homemade ones that have not yet been properly addressed by us: Safety issues at our events, modernisation of our existing competition formats, development of attractive sporting events for the media and public, communication with the grass roots balloonists, rapid aging of our pilot population and the difficulties to recruit new pilots, small proportion of female pilots and competitors. These are the major challenges for ballooning in the future, and we are grateful for the assistance provided by the FAI Members to help us tackle these issues. NAC support is vitally important and only through the participation of their delegates in our Commission's work can we achieve positive results. It is my honour and pleasure to acknowledge the support provided by our delegates, the FAI Secretary General and his staff in Lausanne, and to sincerely thank them for their efforts on behalf of the CIA.

J.C. Weber, President,
FAI Ballooning Commission