

CIAM at multi-sports events

After the 2009 World Air Games in Turin, FAI paid more attention to every opportunity to bring air sports into focus. The aim is to promote air sports by showcasing the most attractive, spectators-wise, among them and ultimately benefiting from the enhanced recognition to put forward the other sports represented at FAI.

Three air sports had been identified after WAG 2009 as having the best potential :

- **Paragliding landing accuracy**
- **Parachuting canopy piloting**
- **AeroMusicals (F6B)**

World Games

FAI had these three sports included in the forthcoming **World Games 2013** taking place in Cali, Colombia in August, 2013. World Games are a multi-sports event similar to the Olympic Games, but including only non-olympic sports. AeroMusicals will be there as a demo sport and, if successful, will be permanently included in the future World Games schedules on a 4-year cycle.

In-country expenses are covered by the World Games organiser.

5 pilots are expected to fly there. After discussion within the Working Group, it is proposed to compose the FAI team with the WAG 2009 medal winners and two US competitors. Donatas Pauzuolis (Lithuania), bronze medal at WAG, declined and is to be replaced with Andres Leoni (Spain). Besides being one of the top European AeroMusicals competitors, Andres Leoni would be the only CIAM participant speaking Spanish.

Although the World Games will take place in 1 ½ year time, I recommend the CIAM Bureau to ask AMA for pilots nominations as early as possible, so as to make coordination easier.

World Artistic Games

Last May, I was advised that SportAccord was preparing a whole set of multi-sports events. SportAccord is the umbrella organisation uniting all international sports federations. Two such events (**World Combat Games** and **World Mind Games**) already took place or are taking place this year, while a third event, **World Beach Games**, was scheduled for 2012. A fourth event, **World Artistic Games**, was in preparation but was not to be made public until all necessary legal contracts were set.

FAI has AeroMusicals (CIAM F6B) included in the World Artistic Games schedule with 24 competitors. The aim is to include the World's 24 best competitors in the class, but with a few additional requirements : at least 4 continents represented and not more than 2 competitors from any country. Both in-country expenses and travel costs are to be covered by the organiser.

At this time (December 2, 2011) the World Artistic Games still cannot be publicly announced, although it is necessary that CIAM be involved right now in view of the very short time remaining as the event is scheduled November 18-25, 2012 in China (the exact location has not yet been revealed).

There has been a long discussion within the Working Group on how to handle things. Here are the conclusions for which I request the CIAM Bureau formal approval :

- 1) The three WAG 2009 medal winners to be automatically selected.
- 2) Other competitors, up to 2 per country, to be selected through international contests or nominated by their NAC.
- 3) The final list of WArtGames competitors to be made by the F6 Working Group according to the international ranking expanded to the international contests taking place up to the end of March, 2012, with the addition of competitors of renown not able to take part at international selection contests but complying with the required number of countries (so as not to include more than 2 competitors for any one country) or continents.
- 4) The Working Group recommends including within the 24 invited competitors one Chinese competitor and, to this purpose, requests the CIAM Secretary to write the China NAC/Chinese Delegate to nominate one competitor with enough remaining time for him to practice to the AeroMusicals rules and, in any case, before the deadline for approval of the final competitors list which should be the April, 2012 Bureau Meeting. The competitors registration, according to the latest received information, should begin already in May, 2012.

The Working Group identified at least 18 countries that may be involved in the process, making it easy to comply with the SportAccord requirements. This includes, pending other candidate nations, one competitor each for Asia (Japan), Oceania (Australia) and Africa (Republic of South Africa). In America we do not know of any other nation than the USA with competitors of the required level, so we request AMA to agree on nominating two competitors, then to nominate them not later than end of March, 2012.

World Air Games

The expected WAG 2013 organiser withdrew recently, due to the economic crisis and poor visibility at two year's distance. As a result, FAI will start in due time the WAG 2015 bid process while reverting to a 4-year cycle, thus alternating World Air Games with the World Games in which three FAI air sports are now involved.

Summary

FAI is now involved in three major multi-sports events, one (WAG) with all air sports as the « in-house » flagship event, one (World Games) with three air sports and one (World Artistic Games) in which only CIAM is involved but with a strong potential as it is an in-city event with easy access for spectators and Media and a SportAccord partnership with a global sports television agency.

We expect that promotion derived from these events will contribute making air sports better known and ultimately bring forward the other FAI and CIAM competition classes.

Guy Revel
CIAM Media Consultant
Chairman, F6 Working Group