

# **FAI Report to GAC Meeting 2010**

*Presented by Jean-Marc BADAN, FAI Sports & Development Director*

## **104<sup>th</sup> FAI General Conference 2010, Dublin (IRL)**

The 104<sup>th</sup> FAI General Conference was held from 7 to 9 October 2010 in Dublin, Ireland. 47 FAI Member countries, 10 Air Sport Commissions and all Technical Commissions were represented.

## **New FAI President & New FAI Executive Board**

Mr. Pierre PORTMANN being at the end of his third two-year term as FAI President, the Conference elected Mr. John GRUBBSTRÖM (SWE) as the new FAI President. Born in 1948, Mr. Grubbström is a medical doctor specialized in internal and aviation medicine. He holds a professional pilot licence for hot air balloons, competed at several FAI championships (including at each edition of the World Air Games), served as FAI Official at many competitions and has been President of the Swedish Air Sport Federation since 2004.

To assist the FAI President in his challenging tasks, the Conference re-elected as Executive Directors Messrs Alvaro de ORLEANS-BORBON (ESP), Robert CLIPSHAM (CAN), Robert HENDERSON (NZL) and LEE Jonghoon (KOR), and newly elected Messrs Otto LAGARHUS (NOR) and Beat NEUENSCHWANDER (SUI)

## **FAI Membership**

The FAI Membership now stands at 84 Active Members, 6 Associate Members, 12 Temporary Members and 3 International Affiliates.

The 2010 Conference approved Azerbaijan and Ecuador as new FAI Active Members, Iraq and Syria as new Temporary Members, and Mali as new Associate Member.

## **Next FAI General Conferences**

105<sup>th</sup> FAI General Conference : 11 to 16 October 2011, Belgrade, Serbia

106<sup>th</sup> FAI General Conference : Antalya (TUR)

## **FAI Strategy, Activities & Projects**

### **FAI Strategy**

Since he joined the FAI in February 2010, our new Secretary General Stéphane Desprez initiated work on analyzing and updating FAI's strategy and structure, which would be focused on the following objectives :

- To strengthen our organisation (more efficient structure, shorter decision-processes)
  - To unite our constituents (common goals and branding, sharing of best practice)
  - To service our constituents (dedicated resources to sport and members)
  - To promote our sports, (new website and communication tools, increasing value of competitions)
- Achieving these objectives should allow increasing practice of our sports.

The priorities for 2011 would be to :

- Improve FAI structure, budget control and financial management
- Finalize the 5-year Strategic Plan
- Develop a new website and new collaborative tools
- Restructure Technical Commissions
- Encourage close working relationship between FAI Headquarters and FAI Commissions
- Use the World Air Games 2013 for initiating common projects (scoring, tracking, etc.).

### **New FAI Staff structure**

Over the last ten years, the workload on the FAI Secretariat had significantly increased (More competitions, world records, badges and medals; emergence of new ranking lists; development of the World Air Games and other special projects, organisation of Commission Plenary Meetings, etc.).

During the same time, the number of staff positions had only increased from 5,5 in 2000 to 6,5 in 2009, before going back to 5,5 in 2010. In order to increase the service capacity of the FAI Headquarters, the Executive Board had recently decided to increase the resources available at the FAI up to 7.5 positions. New staff members recently joined the FAI Team and the working structure was changed to allow management by projects and allocate resources to dedicated functions :

- Stéphane Desprez : FAI Secretary General / Sports Marketing
- \*Jean-Marc BADAN : FAI Sports & Development Manager / Deputy Secretary General
- Cosette MAST : Finance and Office Management
- Faustine CARRERA : Communication Manager
- Ségolène ROUILLON : Members Services
- \*Rodric NERI : Sports Manager
- \*Christine ROUSSON : Competitions Manager
- \*Marcel MEYER : World Records and IT assistance

Comments :

\* These persons have been grouped within the new "Sports Department"  
IT management and development has been outsourced to two external companies.

### **FAI new headquarters**

By the end of March 2011, the FAI Headquarters will move to the Maison du Sport International (MSI), thus bringing the FAI to the heart of the world of sports. Meeting rooms for up to 50 persons will be available at the MSI free-of-charge.

### **Guidelines for FAI Competitions**

Based on a concept initiated already 6 years ago, the new Guidelines will aim at :

- Providing practical tools, references, guidelines and services to potential hosts, event organisers, Commissions, FAI Members and FAI Staff,
- Sharing experience
- Facilitating access to information on FAI First Category Events
- Harmonizing the presentation of our competitions

The Guidelines will however not replace the Sporting Codes and Competition Rules controlled by the FAI Air Sport Commissions.

### **FAI Sporting License Database**

The application has been on-line since July 2010 for testing purposes. Each FAI Member organisation had received an access code and a procedure to upload data. In January 2011, the system will become mandatory, meaning that an FAI Sporting License will only be considered as valid if available in the new FAI Database. As all FAI Members have not yet uploaded their data, please make sure with your NAC that they will take the necessary steps within the next few weeks so that the database is complete when the 2011 competition season starts. By the end of 2010, Air Sport Commissions and Event Organisers will receive access code and instructions to consult the database.

### **New FAI on-line Shop**

A new on-line shop has been available since September at <http://fai.officialshop.ch>  
In addition to the previous traditional articles (pins, stickers, badges, books, DVD, etc.), new articles are now available, including female cut shirts and polo shirts. Later this year, special password-protected pages will be available to NACs, ASCs and Event Organisers and propose special promotions.

### **TV Production – airsports.tv – Flying Aces Ltd**

FAI's cooperation with Flying Aces Ltd continued through 2010. The 2008 TV series was distributed in 2009 over 20 networks such as SkySports, Setanta or ESPN in more than 50 countries, reaching audiences in the millions. The 2009 TV series is being distributed now, and the 2010 series is currently under production. Many videos can be viewed on Flying Aces website [www.airsports.tv](http://www.airsports.tv), as well as on the Sportaccord channel on YouTube (see below). Cooperation with Flying Aces will continue in 2011, but some elements of our partnership are currently being re-discussed to facilitate the management of the rights to our events.

### **Sportshub – airsportschannel**

Thanks to FAI's membership in SportAccord, the FAI launched its own YouTube channel :

<http://www.youtube.com/airsportschannel> .

Episodes produced by Flying Aces are progressively uploaded, but the platform can also be used to share videos showcasing our sports. If you have images of your championships, national events or record attempts, please get in touch with our Communication Manager Faustine Carrera.

### **World Air Games 2009**

Earlier this year, the FAI published a DVD containing a 14'-minute video showing some of the best images produced during the World Air Games in Turin. A copy of the DVD has been provided to each Delegate, encouraging them to make copies and present it in their respective countries to give a "taste" of our flagship event. The video is also available at :

<http://www.youtube.com/airsportschannel#p/c/FA5807D9704E438B/0/nadqT9kkZv8>

### **World Air Games 2011**

In September-November 2009, promising discussions had been held with the City of Odense (DEN). Municipal elections took place in November 2009, resulting in a majority change. The new mayor announced in January 2010 that the Municipal council had withdrawn its interest to host the Games 2011 in Odense. Thanks to the efforts of our NAC Denmark, discussions took place with the City of Herning. FAI Secretary General S. Desprez and FAI Sports Director J.-M. Badan visited Herning in April 2010, met with the authorities and visited the proposed venues. At their meeting on 31 May 2010, the Commission Presidents discussed the evaluation report and recommended to cancel the 2011 Games project. On the basis of this recommendation, and considering that the uncertain financial situation and tight deadlines would involve high operational and financial risks for both FAI and the City of Herning, the FAI Executive Board decided at its meeting of 1 June 2010 to cancel the 2011 Games project.

### **World Air Games 2013**

The 2-phase bid process has been opened on 13 October. Bid documents are available for download at <http://www.worldairgames.org/2013>. Objective is award the organization of the 2013 Games by June/July 2011. The GAC Air Navigation Race has been included in the catalog of sports available for inclusion in the sports program.

### **Red Bull Air Race**

Cooperation with the Red Bull Air Race World Championship had continued in 2010 with 6 successful races. Red Bull had recently decided to make a one-year break in 2011 to re-organise some elements of the event. At this stage, we do not have yet more information about further developments, but the situation might lead to a reduction of the sponsorship money expected for 2011.

### **Conclusion**

International sport is moving and developing quicker and quicker. If we want to keep a place in the world of sports, we need to adjust and modernize our rules, competitions and world records. GAC now has a new competition – the Air Navigation Race. Its feasibility had been demonstrated this year, pilots were interested in this new type of event using modern technologies and requiring less manpower to be conducted : I therefore think that it's now time to promote the ANR and bring it to an international level. I do hope that the World Air Games 2013 will contribute to the development of this new competition, but I also encourage you all to introduce the ANR in your respective countries and consider organising the first international competitions.

I would also invite your Bureau to be more pro-active in promoting its sports and better planning ahead activities such as bids for future championships, nominations for Awards or the preparation of the GAC annual meeting. The FAI Headquarters is here to help and assist you, but we need to better communicate !

I wish you already successful, safe and fair competitions in 2011. Thank you for your attention.

Jean-Marc Badan  
FAI Sports & Development Director