



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

Highlights 2011

1. CIA Annual Meeting

The CIA's 2011 Plenary meeting was held in Tokyo from March 11 to 12. Delegates from 24 NACs were present or represented. The FAI was represented by President John Grubbstrom and the Sports & Development Director Jean-Marc Badan. 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 CIA secretary).
- The delegates appointed and approved the FAI International Juries and key officials for the 2011 sanctioned events.
- The delegates regretted once again that an outstanding issue with the UAE FAI Member could not yet be resolved. The UAE NACs failed to abide by their obligations and were not responsive to the FAI and CIA requests to help settle the outstanding issue. The CIA therefore decided to continue its efforts to recover the cost for the organisation of the failed 2007 CIA Conference in Abu Dhabi.
- 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 2011-2012 budget and the 2010 accounts.
- The delegates decided that the 2012 CIA Plenary Meeting will be held in Bristonas/Lithuania from March 21-24.
- 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 2010 CIA Events

17th FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship (AX)

The Event was hosted by the Spanish NAC and organized by local Balloon Associations in Lleida from September 15 to 23, 2011. The event had 77 competitors and was directed by Event Director Claude WEBER (LUX). The new European Hot Air Balloon Champion is Stefan ZEBERLI (SUI). Results can be found at (<http://www.europeans2011.org/lleida/>).

55th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett (AA)

The event was hosted by the French NAC and organized by French Aerostation Federation with the help of the local association CARNVOL. The event took place in Gap-Tallard from September 9 to 14. The 12 balloons from 6 countries took off from Gap-Tallard aerodrome on Saturday night (Sept. 10). The entire competition was tracked by satellite and the public could follow the developments over 2 days on the dedicated internet site (1.7 million hits).

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The event was won by Sebastien ROLLAND and Vincent LEYS from France. Results can be found at: http://www.ballon.eu/2011_coupe_eboard.html

3. Other CAT1 events staged in 2011:

LUXGSM World Balloon Trophy	Echternach/Luxembourg	27 th to 31 st July
Tochigi HAB International Balloon Championship	Tochigi/Japan	22 nd to 27 th November

4. FAI Championships to come:

1st Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship	Marijampole, Lithuania	22 nd to 27 th May 2012
20 th FAI World Hot Air Championship	Battle Creek, Michigan/USA	17 th to 25 th August 2012
56 th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett	Toggenburg / Switzerland	31 st August to 8 th Sept. 2012
2nd FAI Women's European Hot Air Balloon Championship	Frankenthal / Germany	17 th to 22 nd September 2012

5. FAI / CIA Awards

Montgolfier Diploma-Best performance Hot Air Balloon	John Petrehn (USA)
Montgolfier Diploma-Contribution to the Sport	Albert "bert" Padel (USA)
Santos Dumont Gold Airship Medal	Leonid Tyukhtyaev (RUS)
CIA Hall of Fame Inductees (posthumous)	Larry Newman, Ron Clarke, Rocky Aoki (USA)
CIA Hall of Fame Inductees (living)	Olivier Roux Devillas (France)

6. Major Projects

CIA Competition Loggers

The CIA continued its efforts to establish a pool of 120 competition loggers to be ultimately used as the official CIA loggers at all CIA sanctioned events. This being a major financial effort, it is split over several years and acquisition of loggers is planned to be complete by 2012. Acquisition is financed from FAI/CIA funds and it is planned that rental fees return the full acquisition costs. The rental system is working as planned, the system and the devices are well accepted, and nearly all major events are now organised with the CIA competition loggers (except the 2012 AX World Championship in the USA). The use of CIA competition loggers dramatically improves the task setting, scoring and results publishing in any balloon competition.

CIA Hall of Fame

After several years of efforts to find a new home for the CIA Hall of Fame, on May 18, 2011 President John Grubbstrom signed an agreement with the ANDERSON ABRUZZO INTERNATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM FOUNDATION in Albuquerque NM, USA, granting to the Museum the sole and exclusive right to have the permanent home to the FAI Ballooning Hall of Fame. The first Induction Ceremony to take place at this new Hall of Fame home will be held on September 30. The Museum, appropriately located near the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta take-off site, is attracting many ballooning enthusiasts as well as the general public.

7. Future plans

The problems we experience today to “bring our sport to the market” are basically due to the fact that we are unable to adapt to the present day requirements of the “market”. Instead of blurring the lines between sport and business and share mutual dynamics, we remain too much focussed on the differences. We are very good at administering our sport, but we miserably fail to manage our events. In order to move forward, the CIA will try in the future to develop its sporting events, in addition to the pure sport administration, with a clear focus on management and media. It is a major project to be launched, and how we will achieve this remains to be seen, but we are convinced that all stakeholders, NACs, CIA and event organisers stand to win from these efforts.

Concluding, I would like to acknowledge the support received from the NACs and the FAI Staff in Lausanne, and to sincerely thank them for their efforts on behalf of the CIA. It has been ma pleasure and honour to serve FAI and ballooning with your help for more than 30 years, and I hope that your continuing support will make it possible for ballooning to strive and to remain one of the FAI's show-case activities.

J.C. Weber, President,
FAI Ballooning Commission