



ORGANISATION SCIENTIFIQUE  
ET TECHNIQUE INTERNATIONALE DU VOL 'A VOILE  
- O.S.T.I.V. -  
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL  
ORGANISATION FOR GLIDING  
(Affiliated Member of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale,  
F.A.I.)

President: L.M.M. Boermans

Delft, 12 September 2011

Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (F.A.I.)  
**105th FAI General Conference, Belgrade, Serbia**  
11-16 October 2011

---

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC  
AND TECHNICAL ORGANISATION FOR SOARING FLIGHT (OSTIV)  
for the period October 2010 to October 2011.  
Loek M.M. Boermans, President of OSTIV.

---

### **In Memoriam**

On February 24, 2011, OSTIV's Honorary Member **Dr. Dr. Joachim P. Küttner** died at the age of 102 years, surrounded by his family, in Longmont near Boulder, Colorado, USA. Dr. Küttner dedicated his life to studying the earth's atmosphere, driven by his never-ending scientific curiosity and creativity, energy and imagination. Despite his enormous personal achievements, he was always extremely modest and humble when cooperating with others.

Dr. Küttner was a gifted student pilot who obtained his glider license in 1931. He completed many flights for the German Research Institute for Gliding to study local gliding conditions, flying as far north as Lapland, and discovered many new phenomena, including updrafts in shear lines above water and the wave lift around the city of Hirschberg, and wrote impeccable reports to document his findings. After his first PhD in 1931 at Breslau University he received his second doctoral degree in meteorology from the University of Hamburg in 1939.

During WWII he was test pilot and flew 45 different airplanes and prototypes, and nearly lost his life when the ME 321 cargo glider Giant broke apart in flight.

After WWII he went to USA, became scientific field director for the Sierra Wave project undertaken to increase the safety of the growing air traffic in the USA by investigating air currents, strong turbulence at high altitudes and mapping the jet stream. The research flights were predominantly done in sailplanes. Küttner set an altitude record of 13015m above sea level.

In 1954 Küttner earned the Gold C with Three Diamonds, the most prestigious award for soaring pilots. In 1955 the FAI CIVV awarded him the Lilienthal Medal and three years later he became the first person to receive the OSTIV Plaque. He earned the Plaque for his many scientific achievements, his flights during the Sierra Wave Project, and his work as founding chairman of the Scientific Section and the Meteorological Panel of OSTIV.

From 1960 to 1980 Küttner worked with Wernher von Braun on the Mercury and Apollo programs, served as Chief Scientist of the National Weather Satellite Centre in Washington, took charge of the department for advanced research projects of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and was International Director of the Global Atmospheric

Research Program of the World Meteorological Organization, co-supervising the Global Atlantic Tropical Experiment where 70 countries participated, using 30 research vessels and 13 airplanes.

In 1982 Küttner headed the Alpine Experiment ALPEX and in 1985 he joined the First Himalayan Soaring Expedition in Nepal, organized by Spanish glider pilot Alvaro de Orleans-Bourbon.

In 1986 Küttner joined the staff at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, both in Boulder, Colorado, and until 2004 he took part in numerous scientific research programs all over the world as GALE, TAMEX, TOGA-COARE, CEPEX, INDOEX, MAP, and T-REX.

To encourage pilots, Küttner established in 1987 the Joachim Küttner Prize and Trophy, under the aegis of OSTIV's Scientific Section and Meteorological Panel, to be presented to the pilot who made the first 2000km straight distance soaring flight. It took many years and many attempts to make this flight and finally on November 23, 2003, Klaus Ohlmann, member of OSTIV's Mountain Wave Project - where several details of such a flight were elaborated - completed the flight. In 2004 at the age of 95, Küttner had the great pleasure to present the Prize and Trophy to Klaus Ohlmann.

After that event, Küttner increased the flight distance necessary to win the new OSTIV - Küttner Prize and Trophy to 2,500 km.

In 2010 the lifetime achievements of Joachim Küttner were officially acknowledged when the President of the Federal Republic of Germany awarded him the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, one of Germany's highest civilian honours.

This overview of Küttner's life and activities is a summary of the obituary written by René Heise, Manfred Reinhardt and Peter F. Selinger and translated by Evelyn Zegenhagen in cooperation with Frauke and Wolf Elber, and Russ Lee. The complete obituary will be published by OSTIV in the International Journal of Technical Soaring and on the OSTIV website.

### **OSTIV Speaker Track**

For the first time OSTIV, in cooperation with the Soaring Society of America (SSA), organized an **OSTIV Speaker Track** at the SSA Convention, held from 28 to 30 January 2010 in Little Rock, Arkansas, USA. During 3 days, 17 lectures were presented on a variety of technical, operational and meteorological subjects, and 2 panel discussions were held on safety and on OSTIV's activities.

Due to its success the second OSTIV Speaker Track was held at the SSA Conference, held from 27 to 29 January 2011 in Philadelphia, USA. Short summaries of the lectures and panel discussions were published in OSTIV's Journal of Technical Soaring.

The third OSTIV Speaker Track will be organized at the SSA Convention in Reno, USA from 2 to 4 February 2012.

### **Next OSTIV Congress**

Preparations are going on to organize the XXXI OSTIV Congress from 8 – 15 August 2012 in Uvalde, Texas USA, at the site of the 32 FAI World Gliding Championships in the Open-, 18m- and 15m Class.

### **Panel meetings**

At the meetings of the **Training and Safety Panel** and **Sailplane Development Panel** in 2009, the panels took up the worries of the IGC President about safety in gliding in general and the safety awareness of competition pilots in particular.

The **Training and Safety Panel** elaborated the report “Pilot Safety in Gliding, Recommendations for Immediate and Long-term Safety Initiatives” which was presented by the TSP Chairman Ian Oldaker at the IGC meeting in 2009. This was followed by report “Implementing a Safety Management Program for Gliding Organizations” presented by Ian Oldaker at the IGC meeting in March 2010.

The **Sailplane Development Panel (SDP)** extensively discussed the safety awareness of competition pilots and finalized the document “Safety Pays” with proposals for competition rules to enhance flight safety. The document was presented by the SDP Chairman Helmut Fendt at the IGC meeting in March 2011.

All these documents were approved by the IGC plenum.

As a result, the IGC President installed a working group for the implementation of the proposals formulated in the “Safety Pays” document. The members of the IGC Safety Pays Working Group are competition pilots, organizers and stewards, all well-known in the gliding community. And the IGC President suggested the TSP to help the Secretary General of FAI implementing Safety Management System across all air sports and all National Aero Clubs.

The **next meetings** of the Training and Safety Panel and the Sailplane Development Panel, both separately and joined, will be on 19 and 20 September 2011 in Prague, Czech Republic. Many items are on the agenda of both panels, all are focussed on the improvement of safety.

The **Meteorological Panel (MP)**, chaired by Dr. Hermann Trimmel, had its bi-annual meeting from 25 to 27 September 2009 in Pfaffstaetten near Vienna, Austria. Since that meeting several activities took place in the framework of the Mountain Wave Project: physiological measurements in St. Auban, preparation of Field Campaign in Tibet, development of a high altitude research aircraft, and lectures were presented at the Leewellensymposium Universität Hannover, at the Atmospheric Gravity Wave Conference of the American Geophysical Union, at the Bundeswehr Flight Camp in Vinon, France, at the 6<sup>th</sup> Extrem Weather Congress in Hamburg, Germany, and at the Aerospace Medical Association, Conference Anchorage.

**Next meeting** of the Meteorological Panel will be from 23 to 25 September 2011 in Atalya, Turkey.