

Country Development working group

Annual report 2009-2010

The bulk of work conducted by the working group this year involved the Online Pilot Survey. About 3400 pilots from 55 countries participated in the survey, representing about 2.8% of the world's glider pilots. In addition to that, about 2000 people registered to participate in further follow-up research to be conducted by the group.

The results of the survey, which will be available for the IGC plenary session, will be significant in enhancing the group's understanding of the global gliding movement and in defining the shape of development initiatives to come.

The group also worked to refine its strategy for the rollout of future development efforts. As a result, a decision was made to develop an internet presence to act as the corner-stone for future initiatives. This website is expected to come online in Spring 2010. At first it will feature the reports delivered by the group as well as a Soaring County Directory, which will aggregate information compiled by the research on a per country basis. The site will be further developed to act as a focus point for information and discussion of development issues.

In parallel, a Pilot Exchange Program will be introduced, through the website, which will link experienced pilots willing to fly in new places with gliding locations in emerging countries wanting to share experiences and learn from expert pilots.

The working group will also focus on building on the research already conducted by reaching out to contacts already established for follow-ups as well as contacting major stake-holders in the movement such as NACs and clubs.

Another major priority will be to increase participation by interested parties in the workings of the group so as to gather additional resources for development work and build networks with key persons within the individual national gliding movements.

This work will lay the foundation for further development efforts, for which planning will start this year.

January 2010

Alexander Georgas

Chairman - Country Development working group