



CIA President's Annual Report to the FAI General Conference 2006 Santiago de Chile

Highlights 2006

1. CIA Annual Meeting

The CIA's annual meeting was held in Dmitrov / Moscow on 10 and 11 March 2006. 27 NACs were present or represented at this very successful meeting, perfectly organised by the Russian Ballooning Federation and its members. The FAI was represented by 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 (2001-2005 statistics are available from the FAI secretariat)
- The CIA delegates adopted a new Bureau structure clearly defining the CIA Bureau's and its members' responsibilities between Plenary meetings.
- The delegates appointed and approved the FAI International Juries and key officials for the 2006 sanctioned events.
- The delegates approved the CIA World On-Line-Contest project and required that it should become operational as soon as a suitable platform and portal had been found by FAI.
- The delegates decided to financially support the efforts of Europe Air Sports with 1,000.- Euros, and the International Youth Camp organised by the German Ballooning Federation with 1,500.- Euros.
- The delegates decided to grant a sanction to Brazil for the organisation of the 1st South American Hot Air Balloon Championship in 2006
- The delegates decided to grant a sanction to Russia for the organisation of the 11th World Gas Balloon Championship in 2007
- The delegates approved a new Events Calendar allowing for a more flexible approach concerning sporadic sanction applications for AA, AM and BX events.
- The delegates decided to accept an invitation from the UAE delegate to hold the 2007 CIA Plenary meeting in Abu Dhabi (UAE) from 7th - 10th March 2007.

2. Major 2006 CIA Events

1st South American Hot Air Balloon Championship

The event was held in Rio Claro (SP, Brazil) from June 3rd to 11th. 39 competitors flew 66 tasks, and the new South American Champion is **Sacha Haim** from Brazil (26,466 points). Second place went to **Fabian Passos** (Brazil, 25,988 points), and third place to **Sandro Haim** (Brazil, 25,071 points).

50th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett

The Centenary Event took place at Wassmünster (Belgium) from September 7th to 16th 2006, successfully organised by the Royal Belgian Aero Club. After a dramatic flight, taking most participating balloons for a very long flight over the North Sea and then the Baltic, the Coupe was won by **Philippe De Cock and Ronny Van Havere (Belgium)** with a flight of 2,449.60 km and 66h53' to the North Cape.

3. Other CAT1 events successfully staged in 2005:

14 th Coupe d'Europe & Ladies World Cup	AX	Mainfonds/France	3 rd - 6 th August 2006
LUXGSM Trophy & World Honda GP 2006	AX	Echternach/Luxembourg	26 th to 30 th July 2006

4. FAI Championships to come:

17 th AX World Championship	AX	Motegi/Japan	18 th to 26 th Nov. 2006
11 th AA World Championship	AA	Dmitrov/Moscow, Russia	8 th to 15 th July 2007
15 th AX European Championship	AX	Magdeburg / Germany	17 th to 25 th August 2007

5. FAI Class A and B World Records

FAI has received 5 Airship and 9 Free Balloon World Record claims during 2005. Details of these records are available on the FAI webpage at http://records.fai.org/balloons/#history_A

6. FAI / CIA Awards

Montgolfier Diploma-best performance Gas Balloon	Bob Berben and Benoît Simeons	Belgium
Montgolfier Diploma-best performance Hot Air Balloon	Andy Cayton	USA
Montgolfier Diploma – Contribution to the Sport	Pat Brake	USA
Montgolfier Diploma-best performance Rozière Balloon	Greg Winker	USA
CIA Hall of Fame Inductees (posthumous)	Ernest Demuyter	Belgium
CIA Hall of Fame Inductees (living)	Jacques Soukup & Kirk Thomas	UK & USA

7. General considerations

Although ballooning is apparently doing well, the activity is struggling with the same problems as other Air Sports Commissions (air space, licensing, airworthiness, equipment, medical, etc.), and in addition with some homemade ones that have not yet been properly addressed by us:

- safety issues at our events,
- modernisation of our existing competition formats,
- development of attractive sporting events for the media and public,
- communication with the grass roots balloonists,
- rapid aging of our pilot population and the difficulties to recruit new pilots,
- small proportion of female pilots and competitors.

These are the major challenges for ballooning in the future, and we are grateful for the assistance provided by the FAI Members to help us tackle these issues. NAC support is vitally important and only through the participation of their delegates in our Commission's work can we achieve positive results. It is my honour and pleasure to acknowledge the support provided by our delegates, the FAI Secretary General and his staff in Lausanne, and to sincerely thank them for their efforts on behalf of the CIA.

J.C. Weber,
President, CIA