

IPC Presidential address to FAI General Conference – October 2008

ATTRACTIVE AND DYNAMIC

IPC wishes to express its support for the initiatives taken by the FAI Exec Board in developing and implementing the FAI Strategic Plan., and in particular, for pursuing sponsorship opportunities and creating the new concept World Air Games.

Following this lead, the IPC has, over two days prior to this GC and other meetings, developed its own policy paper entitled Attractive and Dynamic. Attractive and Dynamic outlines the way IPC will implement the mission of the FAI International Parachute Commission, which is the pursuit of excellence in sport parachuting.

Attractive, because we will be following the lead of the FAI Exec Board in proactively seeking bids for competitions from a new set of event organizers, geared to greater public participation and event hosting ; and

Dynamic, because we wish to share with an audience, the excitement and emotion our participants experience. We can do this by taking steps to adjust our competition rules and scoring systems to show results instantly.

By 2010 we are aiming to combine 5 of our 6 disciplines comprising a total of 11 events into one competition, we call Mondial, the first of which was conducted in France in 2001. Our 6th discipline is a wintersports event.

In moving forward in this direction, the IPC has observed that it must have instant scoring with a grandstand full of spectators present. We cannot expect to satisfy public demand by having a significant time gap between the last skydiving performance and the announcement of winners, while judges make time consuming calculations to determine rankings.

IPC recognizes that it is probably not the only air sport facing this challenge, and IPC's intention was to call on a partnership between FAI and its airsport commissions to securing scoring systems that might be used universally by all air sports. The IPC congratulates the Exec Board on appointing Brian Streckley to undertake this task, and offers its full support to advance this project at the fullest possible speed.

Safety in air sports is of paramount concern. IPC is requesting cooperation with FAI and the airsport commissions to include an accident reporting system on the FAI website. The considerable developmental work already conducted by IPC in this regard will form an ideal base for the completion of this initiative. While there may other alternatives available to achieve this objective outside FAI, IPC is of the view that this initiative should carry the brand of the world's airsport authority, the FAI.

Finally, I wish to report that the IPC Bureau has met just prior to this Conference in St Vincent with the FAI Executive Board, primarily to discuss its proposed strategic directions, and other related issues. The frank and open exchange that was generated in these discussions was of immense benefit to the IPC, resulting in providing a sense of direction on moving forward hand in hand with the FAI.

I call on all those involved with the FAI to strengthen dialogue and partnership in moving air sports forward in line with the FAI long-term vision whereby air sports become increasingly available and attractive to future generations throughout the world.

Graeme Windsor
IPC President

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