



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

25 January 2016

Dear Air Sport friends,

My warmest New Year Greetings!

I thank you for your support at the 109th FAI General Conference held on s/s Rotterdam. We now have a bold Strategy Plan for FAI and the time has come to implement the plan.

I take this opportunity to thank our Member, the Royal Aeronautical Club of the Netherlands, for excellent arrangements and a very good time together. Unfortunately the number of Members present was disappointing and did not exceed the numbers at the Conference in Thailand.

Now the FAI World Air Games 2015 are over. What a success it was! The support of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Sports Council, was just overwhelming. For almost two weeks all of our sports were flying or jumping with the most beautiful backdrop of either sand dunes or skylines. I presume that you all followed the Games on social media – finally, we have Games with millions of “hits” on the internet. A professional in-depth study is being undertaken to calculate the impact of the event and I can already tell you that it is impressive.

There were some unfortunate incidents and one serious accident; a Dutch gyrocopter pilot who crashed into the harbour waters has sadly passed away. A full investigation of the cause is carried out by the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority. I thank the Emirates Aerosports Federation for their immediate and excellent arrangements for the pilot's family with whom we share the grief.

In the last day arrangements unfortunately a prize giving ceremony was overlooked so there are 6 medallists who have not received their medals yet... My apologies for that. And of course there are a number of other lessons to be learnt. A process for the post-event evaluation is in place so that the learnings can be implemented for the next World Air Games. It will involve representatives of the Organizer, from the Air Sport Commissions and FAI Members, in order to make sure we have a complete picture.

But considering the large number of flights and jumps in competition, we had a great Event. A fantastic Event! Just imagine having gliders soaring the beach line skyscrapers; it was astonishing; a memory for life is the most common comment.

The generosity of our hosts and the arrangements for the event were outstanding. All teams received full board for the entire Event and all in country WAG related transport was arranged and free. There was an outdoor Gala dinner for a thousand people. And of course all the airspace, safety and security arrangements necessary were in place.

I congratulate the Higher Organizing Committee under H.E. Saeed Harib and the Local Organizing Committee under H.E. Yousif al Hammadi, Director of the FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015 for their immense work to ensure everything was in place. I also thank the Deputy Director Mohamed Yousuf of Sky Dive Dubai, Sports Director Mr. Bani Younis, all the 10 Event Directors, and all Officials and Helpers without whom the co-ordination of the sport activities had not been possible. In particular I would like to mention Mr. Helmut Schlecht who chaired the daily coordination meetings and also the group that handled all entries and bookings – incredibly well organized under sometimes difficult circumstances, and Mr. Mike Howard who made sure the balloon flights were possible, spectacular and competitive.

Our Air Sports are relying heavily on volunteer engagement. I express my gratitude for the tremendous involvement of all who invested their valuable time and resources in the FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015.

With men and women like this – all of them- we are well positioned for future growth!

*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

During the Games we also had the first FAI Air Sport Medicine Conference set up by our Medico-Physiological Commission CIMP and the Dubai medical authorities. It was very well attended and had the foremost speakers from ICAO, EASMA, FAA, USA and GCAA, Dubai. We also had a very successful VIP Programme for some potential future FAI Partners and potential WAG organizers that have already contacted us.

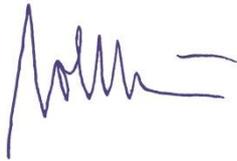
Our FAI Staff on site did a terrific job. They are young, smart and totally devoted to delivering. I congratulate them all and I hope they now find time to catch up with family and friends now that the event is completed.

2016 will be another important FAI year. We are committed to finding new revenue and Partners and to increase and refine our services to you and all air sport persons internationally.

I remind you also that, at the next FAI General Conference in Bali, Indonesia, we will elect a new President and Executive Board.

I wish you a successful and fruitful New Year with friends and family and as well as those wonderful flights or experiences that you always wanted to do. Just do it!

Soft landings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Grubbström', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. John Grubbström
FAI President