



FEDERACION AERONAUTICA INTERNACIONAL

VICEPRESIDENTE

PRESIDENTE DE LA
COMISION INTERNACIONAL DE RECORDS ASTRONAUTICOS (ICARE)

REPORT FROM ICARE PRESIDENT

103rd FAI General Conference, Songdo Convensia, Incheon, Korea, October 2009

1.- General Activities of ICARE Committee 2008/2009

The ICARE Committee held its annual meeting on April 17, 2009, at the FAI Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Most of our work was dedicated to review FAI Sporting Code, Section 8, Astronautic Records. This action was prompted by the request addressed to us from several sources (even FAI members), suggesting that our Section was too much technical, which prevented most people to understand properly our records.

2.- Recognition of the problem and solution undertaken

The Commission understood the criticism. Space activity is quite expensive nowadays. The international laws prohibit private enterprise obtaining private benefit from it. Consequently, it can only progress with the help of governments. But since governments need taxpayer votes to stay in power, they need to translate taxpayers the idea in words so simple that they can understand them. Records in Astronautical activity, as written, were difficult to convince taxpayers.

The above said, the delegates were unanimous when considering:

- a) Lowering the scientific or technical standards on the records will only lead to confusion and possible contradictory claims from different parties.
- b) No matter how much the technical wording is degraded, most people will not understand the complexities of outer space travelling and exploration.
- c) But some solution is needed.

The Commission agreed that the solution should come by remaking the rules. Chapters 3, 4 and 5 of FAI Sporting Code, Section 8, contain the actual Astronautical records recognised by FAI. They certainly contained a lot of technical matter. But Chapter 2 contains the definitions and conditions of all those records, and Chapter 6 the means for measurements. Would it be possible to make the wording of records simple enough in chapters 3,4 and 5, so they can be understood (if not precisely, at least in general) by many people, without endangering the reality of records through a serious technical definition?

The Vice President of our Commission, Mr. John Miles (UK), with the help of Mr. Marshall (France), the technical expert of our Commission, undertook the work of



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simplifying charters 3, 4 and 5, transferring the technically precise points to chapters 2 and 6. Our Commission is very grateful for the great work performed.

As a result of that work, our Commission approved a new and greatly amended version of Chapter 8, following the recommendations of our Vice President Mr. Miles.

I am well aware that many Aeronautic activities in which FAI is actually involved, have enough private support to be able to at least survive without much official funds being given to them. That is not the case in Astronautics. Astronautics, at present, can not survive in a meaningful way without government programs. We are doing as much as we can to keep that support. And we would be grateful to the remaining statements in FAI for showing some support, in whatever forums they are present, for Astronautic activities.

Dr. S. Sanz Fernández de Córdoba
ICARE President