

25th September, 2010

Dear Colleagues

I want to take this opportunity, before we meet in Dublin, to expand on my vision for the FAI.

We need to work closely together to build our future.

The Annual General Conference is our opportunity to meet and discuss proposals and turn them into policy and, equally as important, to celebrate our sportspersons and our sports.

I see it as the responsibility of the General Conference to set the guiding policies for the organisation. Jointly we have a great capability but we cannot take on all the challenges that we might want to – like all organisations we have limited resources (both people and money) and so another responsibility of the General Conference is to prioritise goals to ensure the best use of our available resources.

We need to commit to work together and to cooperate to strengthen our FAI to improve our international standing, respect and external fundraising capabilities. To achieve this FAI must support the well established NACs, assist the developing NACs and increase the communication between the NACs and the ASCs. Being respected internationally means we gain other benefits – a voice at assemblies such as ICAO and EASA, a voice at the conferences of Star Alliance and One World and a voice at the IOC level.

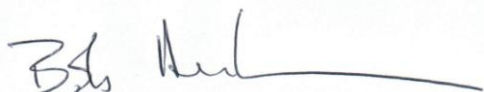
We urgently need to improve our brand image internationally. Does anyone outside of aviation sports know who the “FAI” is? Do our own air sports people even know who “FAI” is? We cannot expect to create any significant impact internationally unless our brand is known, recognised and respected as representing the World Air Sports community.

We need to make our FAI “nimble” so that it can respond to the changing opportunities and threats in the modern world and we need to have the courage to try and make things happen – to accept that some may not work, and to learn from those experiences.

We are a global organisation and like all such organisations we face significant challenges communicating with our members. Telephone, email and skype are making on-line communication simpler and easier and now, with new products like skype video-conferencing, more affordable. We need to maximise the use of these products to avoid the down-time and expense of travel while enabling everyone to participate.

My experience in leading the IGC for the last seven years has convinced me that distance today is no longer a significant barrier and that email and skype are great tools allowing discussion of issues face-to-face when they arise. Living on the Pacific rim also means that it is very easy for me to travel the short distance to the developing air sports regions of Asia and South America and the time zones work in my favour allowing me to leave New Zealand on Friday evening and be at a meeting in Europe on Saturday afternoon.

If elected, I will resign my IGC Presidency immediately. I anticipate devoting 15 to 18 weeks of each year to FAI business in addition to the daily and weekly routine coordination that goes with the job. My airline will also provide a 25% discount to reduce the cost of necessary travel.



Bob Henderson

