

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



**UIAA**

**International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation**  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME



FOR THE CLIMBERS. FOR THE WORLD.



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## 1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*The UIAA is on its way to meeting - and even exceeding - the key goals set out in the Strategic Plan (2013-2016), reports President Frits Vrijlandt. The goals include the expansion of the Training Standards programme, a focus on sustainability and youth policies, improved communication among members and steps to raise the profile of ice climbing to ensure it becomes a competition sport at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. 2015 also witnessed the integration of the Respect the Mountains campaign, the publication of the Climber's Manifesto and the continued expansion of the UIAA Safety Label in conjunction with the release of two new safety standards.*



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Full report by **Frits Vrijlandt** UIAA President:

Dear members of the UIAA,

It was a pleasure to see you all in October at our General Assembly in Seoul, Korea, hosted by the Korean Alpine Federation (KAF). In particular, it was an honour for me to report to you about the progress we have made since our last Annual Report. In this report, I will follow the chapters of our strategic plan 2013-2016. In 2016, we will set our new goals.

## **CLIMBING AND MOUNTAINEERING**

### Mountain Qualification Label (MQL)

Expanding and implementing the UIAA climbing and mountaineering training standards is one of our main targets. With the support of the Petzl Foundation, the UIAA Training Standards Panel, part of our Mountaineering Commission, has successfully implemented the MQL for many federations around the globe and work on UIAA Mountain Qualification Labels has been undertaken in Jordan and Nepal. Additionally, the English version of the Training Standards Memento is now available and hard copies can be purchased by our member federations.

### Near Miss Survey

Through our collaboration with Camp to Camp, the UIAA will promote and contribute to the Near Miss Survey from 2016.

Within this sphere, an agreement was signed between the Japan Mountaineering Association (JMA), the UIAA Mountaineering Commission, the Japan Workers' Alpine Federation (JWAF), and the Japan Rescue Organization LLC (JRO) to share accident and rescue data as part of an ongoing project to develop a worldwide accidents database run by the UIAA.

### Safety

The UIAA global safety standards keep proving their value to the climbing and mountaineering community. We have acquired a new test laboratory in Spain and are currently reviewing a test laboratory candidate in China. Five new companies including two from Asia, NalHon Taiwan and Kailas, recently became UIAA Safety label holders. Additional standards – snow pickets and crash pads - were developed and published and new manufactures are applying for safety standards. Encouraging the retailers and consumers to demand our safety standards needs more attention to ensure we reach our goal.

### Youth

Despite some organizational challenges our youth program is meeting the strategic plan goals with global youth events for climbing and mountaineering held during both the summer and winter months.

### Mountain Hut Exchange

Most of our federations around the world own and manage mountain huts. But only in Europe,



to be specific in Alpine countries and in Spain, is an agreement about reciprocity for affiliated federation members is in place. This approach works well and is being promoted around the world with the help of the UIAA. The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC), in the same spirit, has agreed to provide access to huts at ACC member rates for all UIAA members without a supplemental annual upgrade hut fee.

#### Access

The Access and Expedition commission has the task of organizing the tremendous amount of information and knowledge about access and expeditions around the world. They have also prepared the Climber's Manifesto.

#### Mountain Medicine

The UIAA Medical Commission has a large scope of work: stretching from advice about altitude sickness to helping prevent injuries in sport climbing and bouldering. A new document "Occupational Aspects of Alpine Helicopter Rescue Operations" was released this year. The diploma in Mountain Medicine continues to be a highly appreciated qualification in the medical world.

#### Sustainability

The Mountain Protection Award 2015 supported by Golden Rock and Western University, was presented at the General Assembly to KTK-BELT Studio of Nepal. It was one of the highlights of the year and promotes our endeavours in protecting the climbing and mountain areas of the world. We received 30 applications from around the globe reflecting the popularity and importance of the programme.

We recently integrated a new campaign UIAA Respect the Mountains and are currently putting in place a dedicated program of clean-up events for 2016.

In December 2015, the UIAA ran a booth at the COP21, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, raising awareness about the devastation caused in mountain areas by the rise in global temperature.

The UIAA working paper 'Bolt or not to Bolt' written by Doug Scott - produced to encourage climbing areas around the world to preserve (part of) areas with unbolted natural rock for the generations to come - has been translated in several languages.

## **COMPETITION SPORT**

The 2015 season witnessed the continued growth of ice climbing. We organized six World Cups on three continents and the World Youth Ice Climbing Championships in France, featuring 175 athletes from over 20 countries.

The development of our ice climbing competitions is in line with our strategic plan and supported by our sponsor, The North Face Korea. Following on from our successful appearance at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, the UIAA will be present at the 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer, where an ice climbing showcase and 'get active' programmes will be organised. The next target is to be present at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang before entering the official Olympic event programme at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing.

The UIAA's commitment to ice climbing is year round. The UIAA is also finalising a dedicated PractICE Climbing guide, sharing its knowledge of the sport with member federations, athletes, potential organisers and those wishing to get involved.

The cooperation with our new unit member the International Skyrunners (ISF) will strengthen our energy in the further development of mountain and climbing sports.

As a fully WADA-compliant organization we continue our successful anti-doping educational program 'Clean Climbing'. We presented the UIAA Clean Climbing program at the 2015 Sport-Accord Convention in Sochi.

This year we successfully introduced the UIAA Rock Climbers' Award to encourage our members to increase the safety and environmental protection of their rock climbing festivals.

## **UIAA POLICY**

The number of new countries showing an interest in becoming a UIAA member is growing, mostly from Asia. This is a very positive development but we must carefully review their applications to ensure the relationship becomes a long-term one. We hope to receive more applications from South America and Africa in the coming years.

To maintain the great work and high standards of our commissions and to meet the tasks of the Strategic Plan, it is important to focus on the continued recruiting and developing of commission talents.



Our regular meetings with the global sports governing organizations like the IOC and Sport Accord are very useful, both for the future of our competition sport and for the development of climbing and mountaineering as a whole. The UIAA enjoys a unique position in the international sport community because we are not only looking after competition sorts but also mountain protection and the promotion of the beauty of mountains around the world.

As we have members in all European countries, the UIAA, with the support of Climbing & Mountaineering Belgium, has presented its responsibilities to the European Union in Brussels with the scope of protecting and supporting the interests of our European members.

The 2015 UIAA prize for the Best Climbing Film was awarded to Valley Uprising at the famous Trento Film Festival in Italy.

The UIAA, and its safety label holders, were present at several global outdoor tradeshows promoting the values of the UIAA safety label. We cooperated in the International Mountaineering Congress in Spain where we looked forward to the future of the Climbing and Mountaineering family together with our friends from sport climbing competitions and ski mountaineering competitions. In Malaysia we cooperated in the seminar on Mountaineering and High Altitude Climbing.

## **FINANCES AND CORE SERVICES**

Our financial position remains good and stable. We kept our expenses and income within the agreed 5% margin of our profit and loss forecast and anticipate any potential financial risks. Financial quarterly reports give us an overview of the financial situation and allow us to take actions if the budget should deviate. Thanks to the good financial management during the last three years, the UIAA reserves are now higher than in 2012. The 2015 profit amounts to more than CHF 23'000.

With the support of the UIAA office staff, the majority of the commissions have been able to accomplish the tasks in our Strategic Plan. Sophie Gerard manages our Bern office with great dedication, supported by her team. For the position of communication manager, Peter Bourne replaced Phinjo Gumbu, and has been undertaking a complete audit of the UIAA's communication and digital practice with a view now to implementing some new tools.

The first application for the one time support out of our very limited Solidarity Fund was received from Cyprus. Thanks to this Solidarity Fund, Cyprus is still a UIAA member.

Finally, I would like to thank the Swiss Alpine Club for the great support of our office in Bern.

## **COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA**

We have a common goal to increase our presence in the international media as the representative body for all international climbing and mountaineering. We use a number of tools to communicate with the world, the climbing and mountaineering community and with our members.

For our members we provide the website and the "members' area", newsletters and the image brochure. We enjoyed a tremendous increase of viewers of our ice climbing live streams and are developing our dedicated UIAA video channel for climbing and mountaineering videos. To further promote our climbing and mountain sports we are preparing media partnerships on all continents. More and more the global media find their way to the UIAA to enable us to promote the values of the UIAA as the climbing and mountaineering umbrella of the world.

Reflecting on the achievements of the past year I feel confident about the progress we are making. However it remains a challenge to meet all the set goals before end of next year, when we will launch a new Strategic Plan. But as climbers and mountaineers we enjoy challenges and I am convinced we can and will scale them. Together we climb our mountains and together we reach our goals. It feels great to be part of the climbing and mountaineering family and to share our passion for climbing and mountaineering. I am very thankful to my fellow Board and Management Committee members for their continued hard work, support and enthusiasm.

Yours sincerely,

**Frits Vrijlandt**

*UIAA President*









## 2. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

*The UIAA closed 2015 with 88 Member Federations from 63 different countries, making a combined total of 2,995,553 individual members. The UIAA presents its newest member organizations as of 1 January 2015:*

*(As voted by the 2014 General Assembly in Flagstaff, Arizona, USA)*

Active Member:

- Lithuania Mountaineering Association (LMA)

Observer Members:

- Armenian Alpine Club (SNGO)
- National Adventure Association of Malaysia (NAA)
- National Mountaineering & Climbing Association Sri Lanka (NMCA)

At the 2015 General Assembly in Seoul, Korea, the UIAA accepted the Indonesia Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation as full member, and the International Skyrunning Federation (ISF) as a unit member of the UIAA starting January 1, 2016. These numbers will be reflected in the 2016 statistics.

The UIAA is actively looking for new member federations in South America, and Asian continents. We hope to keep the numbers rising with more applicant federations in 2016.



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Report by **Hélène Denis** UIAA General Secretary





### 3. ACCESS AND EXPEDITIONS COMMISSION

*The need for continued access by climbers and mountaineers around the world is a pressing issue and the Access and Expeditions Commission is at the forefront of the effort to ensure it is open, reports Commission President Juan Ibanez. The Commission continues its work on Access knowledge to support climbers, mountaineers and federations around the world. This past year has also seen the Commission spearhead the publication of the Climber's Manifesto.*



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Full report by **Juan Ibañez** Access Commission President:

The Access and Expeditions Commissions worked on access issues over the past year and believes that the addition of more members, especially experts on Expeditions, is necessary to respond to the various challenges facing climbing and mountaineering in protected areas.

#### MISSION

- To assist the UIAA and its member federations to secure the freedom to practice mountaineering and climbing in ways which are sensitive to environmental, social and legal considerations.
- To give a clear and precise response to new needs that arise, ensuring that the UIAA is the reference in the world of mountaineering and the mountain community.

- To lead the reflection that is taking place in the wake of the problems in Everest expeditions, and all expeditions to remote areas.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Promote the freedom to practice mountaineering and climbing in a responsible manner as a fundamental human right.
- Provide advice, with supporting documentation, on the relationship between mountaineering and climbing; and environment, social and legal considerations.
- Liaison with international organizations on access and conservation issues and provide assistance, when requested, to member federations on such issues within their own countries.
- Encourage best practice in harmonizing access with these considerations and support member federations in challenging inappropriate restrictions.
- Foster research, educational projects and sharing of best practice between member federations and external organizations in support of the commission's aims.

## **GOALS**

- Provide up-to-date access information related to mountaineering and climbing via the UIAA website.
- Work with the Mountain Protection Commission, and as relevant other Commissions, to provide online resources, via the UIAA website, for best practice in mountaineering and climbing with specific reference to environment, social and legal considerations.
- Encourage and support external research and information dissemination on climbing and mountaineering access with specific reference to environment, social and legal considerations.
- Provide articles on important access issues to the UIAA website, and when published the UIAA journal, and other publications concerned with mountaineering and climbing access issues.
- Promote the freedom to practice climbing and mountaineering sustainably through research, conferences, and by establishing links with relevant international organizations, with a view to organizing a conference/summit on: freedom of access for climbers and mountaineers.



## 2015 MEETINGS

The 28th Annual meeting was held in Krakow, Poland on 13-14 June hosted by Polski Związek Alpinizmu (Poland Mountaineering Association), PZA, at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management.

Milos Jodlowski, Access Commission member and PZA Vice-President welcomed the commission. The following subjects were addressed:

- Next UIAA Strategic Plan:
- Access Commission members started to discuss the realistic Mission and Goals for the next Strategic Plan period.
- Joint Venture with UIAA Mountain Protection Commission (MPC):
- Develop common projects with the MPC. Start process to define lines of action. To be confirmed and launched after a common meeting in Baku 2016.
- Access information on [www.theuiaa.org](http://www.theuiaa.org).
- Good access information is one of the objectives of our commission. Ask five leading federations and alpine magazines to define information to be provided.
- Support for the Irish European Access survey.
- Mountaineering Ireland prepared an access survey. Access Commission is to support the sharing of it with all European federations. Results will be available.
- Access information reports received from Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia and South Africa mountain federations.

### Next meeting

The Mountain Protection Commission suggested a common meeting in Baku, to be held in May 2016.

## ARGENTINA ACCESS

During the first few of months of 2015 a new legislation with great significance for access to mountains in the area of Aconcagua (Provincial Park Aconcagua-Mendoza) was sent for approval to the Argentinian parliament. After the elections in Argentina at the end of 2015, that legislation was not far away.

Currently there are no special new restrictions on access in that area (normal applications and different fee to be paid depending on whether you are a national or a foreigner).

The situation could be worse in the future in the Catamarca Province (Ojos del Salado, Piscis and other mountains over 6,500m). The province approved a legislation in which mountaineering is regulated but there are no concrete rules in place and access depends on the particular criteria of the gendarmeria (police) in different areas: some groups are allowed – normally commercial groups – others not without a clear criteria.

FASA (Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo) is developing a good national work in access with lines to follow in the future and the UIAA Access Commission will support them when needed.

## **CLIMBER'S MANIFESTO**

The Climber's Manifesto was published in the fall of 2015. The contents of the document will be being communicated via [www.theuiaa.org](http://www.theuiaa.org) and social media throughout 2016.



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Report by

**Juan Ibañez**

*Access Commission President*



## 4. ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION

*Doping controls of athletes during the UIAA International Ice Climbing World Tour and the continued implementation of all rules and regulations of UIAA competitions according to the new WADA antidoping code were the major highlights of the year, reports Commission President Nenad Dikic. In addition, the Commission is happy to report that its services are being sought by the International Skyrunning Federation, a unit member of UIAA. This is an excellent example of a service that could be provided for any member of UIAA, since UIAA is WADA Code Compliant.*



Full report by **Dr. Nenad Dikic** President of Anti-Doping Commission:

### DOPING CONTROLS

As was the case in previous years the Anti-Doping Commission conducted four doping controls per competition and four doping controls out of competition.

All results were doping negative.

COMPETITION	IN COMP.	OUT OF COMP.
UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup, Bozeman	4	
UIAA World Cup & Open Asian Championship - Korea	4	

COMPETITION	IN COMP.	OUT OF COMP.
UIAA World Cup – Saas Fee, Switzerland	4	
UIAA World Cup – Champagny en Vanoise,	4	4
UIAA World Cup – Rabenstein,	4	
UIAA World Cup – Kirov	4	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>

#### Registered testing pool (RTP)

The registered testing pool (RTP) of ten athletes was maintained, but with a poor response from the athletes.

#### Members of UIAA RTP:

1. Tolokonina Maria (RUS)
2. Rainer Angelika (ITA)
3. Shin WoonSeon (KOR)
4. Filippova Maryam (RUS)
5. Feoktistova Ekaterina (RUS)
6. Tomilov Maxim (RUS)
7. Park HeeYong (KOR)
8. Tomilov Alexey (RUS)
9. Kuzovlev Nikolay (RUS)
10. Gulyaev Pavel (RUS)

#### Therapeutic use exemption (TUE)

None Therapeutic use exemption (TUE) was issued. The International Standard for Granting Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) developed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) provides the framework for athletes to use medicines on the 'Prohibitive List' to treat legitimate medical conditions. Like everyone else, athletes may suffer from illnesses (for example, asthma) that require them to take particular medications. Provided that the need for medications is genuine, and subject to specific criteria, the use of medications should not impact on the ability of athletes to play sport.



### New anti-doping regulations

From 1 January 2015, the UIAA implemented new anti-doping rules, fully in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code. These were adopted at the 2014 UIAA General Assembly.

### Skyskiing

No doping controls are performed in Skyskiing.

### Clean Climbing

The Antidoping Commission presented its Clean Climbing animation at the 2015 General Assembly.



Report by

**Dr. Nenad Dikic**

*President of Anti-Doping Commission*





## 5. ICE CLIMBING COMMISSION

*The Ice Climbing Commission works with different objectives: establishing a UIAA World Cup calendar, adapting the rules and regulations and development of the sport. After showcasing ice climbing at the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, the UIAA has built momentum to develop the sport further, reports Urs Stoecker, Ice Climbing Commission President. The organisation of the first UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup in North America, one of a record six series events, represents a new chapter in the history of the competition. Furthermore the high quality live streaming from all of the events is designed to attract more people to our sport. Unfortunately the number of countries participating dropped. The Commission is working on solutions to encourage more national federations to send their athletes to events. The next steps are the presence of ice climbing at the Winter Youth Olympic Games 2016 in Lillehammer and the Winter Olympic Games 2018 in Pyeongchang.*



Full report by **Urs Stoecker** Ice Climbing Commission President:

## STRENGTHS

## WEAKNESSES

Larger audience than in 2014

Not enough ice on the structures except in Rabenstein & Champagny-en-Vanoise

Very positive feedback on social media

Isolation zone' guidelines are not respected

The basis of criteria for a UIAA World Cup event was respected

Low quality of the Wi-Fi for UIAA officials

The vast majority of the UIAA Guidelines were respected

No Wi-Fi access for spectators

Livestreaming at all events

Inconsistency in quality of judges

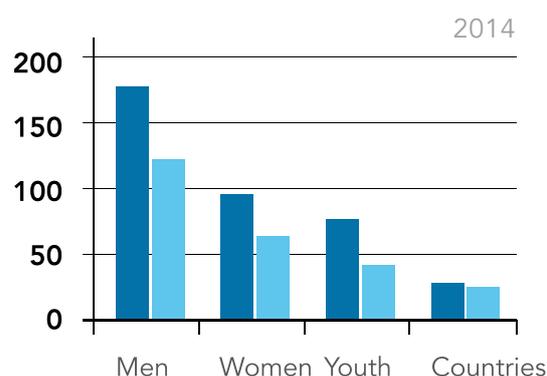
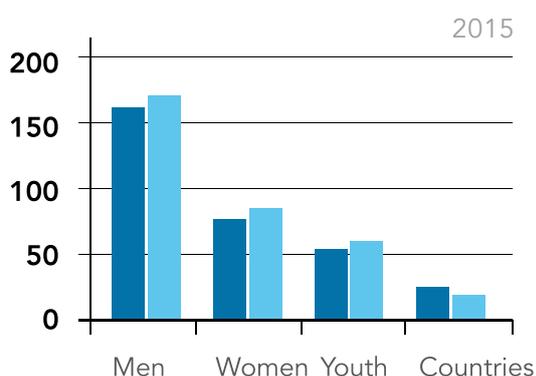
## EVENTS

The Ice Climbing Commission is a coordinated and efficient working group with multiple goals including establishing a World Cup calendar, ensuring rules and regulations governing competition ice climbing are updated, and the development and promotion of the sport globally.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

The Commission has a clear strategic plan in terms of its objectives for the IOC and main sponsor The North Face Korea. The main structural focus in the upcoming years is improving the marketing and broadcasting of the sport as well as creating functioning working groups within the Commission. All of these targets form part of the criteria required in the UIAA's application to the IOC for ice climbing to become a competition event at the 2022 Winter Olympics Games in Beijing.

The number of participants competing in the 2015 UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup was consistent with the strategic plan. The number of participating countries dropped slightly.



■ planned ■ actual



2015 OBJECTIVES	STATUS		COMMENTS
6 World Cups	<b>Achieved</b>		6 well organized World Cups
1 World Championships	<b>Achieved</b>		Lead: Rabenstein / Speed: Kirov
1 World Youth Championships	<b>Achieved</b>		Lead & Speed: Saas Fee
1 Challenger: America	<b>Achieved</b>		Bozeman: USA is included in the World Cup Tour
170 men	175	<b>Achieved</b>	Increase of 37.8% in comparison to 2014
80 women	88	<b>Achieved</b>	Increase of 10% in com- parison to 2014
60 youth	63	<b>Achieved</b>	Increase of 40% in com- parison to 2014
30 countries	24	<b>Not Achieved</b>	Decrease of 11.2% in comparison to 2014

## SEASON REPORT – DETAILED FIGURES

### 2015 UIAA World Cups

EVENTS	DATE	DISCIPLINE
Bozeman, USA	12-13 December 2014	Lead & Speed
Cheongsong, South Korea	10-11 January 2015	Lead & Speed
Saas Fee, Switzerland	23-24 January 2015	Lead & Speed
Rabenstein, Italy	31 January – 1 February 2015	Lead & Speed

EVENTS	DATE	DISCIPLINE
Champagny-en-Vanoise, France	6-7 February – 2015	Lead & Speed
Kirov, Russia	6-8 March 2015	Lead & Speed

#### 2015 UIAA World Championships

EVENTS	DATE	DISCIPLINE
Rabenstein, Italy	31 January – 1 February 2015	Lead
Kirov, Russia	6-8 March 2015	Speed

#### 2015 UIAA World Youth Championships

EVENTS	DATE	DISCIPLINE
Saas Fee, Switzerland	17-18 January 2015	Lead & Speed

#### Number of Athletes

EVENTS	WOMEN	MEN	OVERALL
Bozeman	18	44	62
Cheongsong	34	52	86
Saas Fee	33	63	96
Rabenstein	29	57	86
Champagny-en-Vanoise	28	63	91



EVENTS	WOMEN	MEN	OVERALL
Kirov	45	62	107
Total unique climbers:	88	175	263
% in comparison with 2014	+10%	+37.5%	+11%
World Youth Championships	18	45	63
% in comparison with 2014	+20%	+50%	+40%

The decrease in participating countries is significant. The reasons are not so clear. An explanation could be that developing ice climbing countries are not sending athletes to competitions due to the increased level of quality at the World Cups and the increasing professionalism in training of the top athletes. For this we are developing a training book, PractICE climbing, and training courses for developing ice climbing countries so developing nations can establish performance oriented structures and training. Furthermore we need to encourage member federations to send athletes and to invest in the development of the sport.



Report by

**Urs Stoecker**

*Ice Climbing Commission President*





## 6. MEDICAL COMMISSION

*The need for sound medical advice in the mountains has never been greater as more and more people around the world participate in climbing and mountaineering adventures both on the amateur and professional level, reports Commission President David Hillebrandt. The role of the Medical Commission through its papers, advice pages and the Mountain Medicine Diploma is to give the best possible advice through its network of mountain medicine experts who are all medical doctors and the publication of papers such as the 2015 release related to the outbreak of the Zika Virus.*



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Full report by **David Hillebrandt** *Medical Commission President:*

### MEDCOM ACTIVITIES

Ongoing projects include our UIAA website based multilingual advice sheets, shared responsibility for the increasingly popular UIAA/IKAR/ISMM diploma of mountain medicine, educational work and dissemination of medical information both to the lay mountaineer and the mountain medicine health professional, whether a doctor, nurse or paramedic. In addition we offer personal advice to people who approach the UIAA with medical problems. Our educational work serves to make many people aware of the existence of the UIAA whilst educating the mountaineering public.

## Membership

We have 60 members on our e-mail distribution list and the majority contribute either by attending our annual meeting, by email or by translating our advice sheets in to their native languages. We have country representatives who disseminate our educational messages within their own country. In addition we have expert members to help with specific topics and a few corresponding members who have often taken leading roles in the past and wish to keep in touch with our work and frequently contribute sage advice. We now have a member from France filling a previously noticeable gap in our membership.

## Individual Countries

Each year I am amazed to hear how much work goes on in each country with our Medcom members running and teaching on courses, often on mountain first aid or altitude medicine for their parent organisation or national guide or instructor organisations.

## Annual Medcom Meeting

This year the annual UIAA Medcom meeting was hosted by our Greek Member Alexandra Koukoutsis on the beautiful island of Kalymnos. We were pleased to see that Peter Farkas was able to join us from the Management Committee and even found time to sample the local rock under medical supervision. We were based in an excellent simple hotel with conference facilities and were able to spend one day discussing future plans, one day lecturing to local climbers and then added an unplanned morning teaching the new local Mountain Rescue team in basic scene management and first aid. Everybody attending managed some personal rock climbing either before or after the main event and also attended the most fantastic evening party with local folk dancing, music and an excess of good food.

Plans agreed at this meeting were to continue the ongoing work updating and translating advice papers with an effort to get all technical published in peer reviewed medical journals prior to publication on our website. This involves some delay but raises the scientific standard of our work.

We also agreed carry out more detailed work on pre-existing medical conditions and work is well underway on diabetes in the mountains but this will not be ready until 2016.



The local Kalymnos rescue team was put in touch with the Greek ICAR representative to aid further training and development.

We also decided to ask the UIAA for a publicity budget for our work.

### Courses

There is no doubt that our flagship course is the Diploma of Mountain Medicine which we run with the IKAR Medcom and International society of Mountain Medicine (ISMM). All three organisations have now agreed on the newly implemented regulations for the countries participating in this international qualification. This update was necessary in view of the increasing number of organisations wishing to run the diploma. We needed a degree of uniformity and a sharing of information.

Now all holders of the diploma will be listed on a national database open to the public. All courses will have an independent observer from another country to verify the standard (and for mutual exchange of ideas). All courses are expected to encourage ongoing personal professional development. There will be an international bank of assessment exam questions to bring some comparable uniformity to assessment.

After a successful meeting of international course organisers in Bolzano in 2014 we are planning a similar meeting as part of the Telluride (USA) ISMM meeting in 2016 where we will also hold our annual UIAA Medcom Meeting.

In some of our member countries there is not sufficient demand for a full diploma course but local courses to meet local needs are organized and these can apply for UIAA approval as can specialised courses on topics such as sports climbing injuries. These courses tend to be run on a not for profit basis by our commission members. In time we hope these courses may lead on the spread of the more formal diploma. Each year we find we are approving more and more courses which is a healthy sign for our educational value and also serves to publicise the UIAA's work.

I attended a seminar on mountaineering in Malaysia in August 2015 together with Steve Long of the UIAA training standards group and Sophie Gérard. We introduced the National Adventure Association of Malaysia to the concept of the UIAA membership, mountain training and mountain medicine.

## Advice Papers

Thomas Kupper from Germany continues to lead the work on our advice papers. He works tirelessly and gently pesters us to achieve our deadlines for new papers or reviews of existing papers. All are published on the UIAA website and are available free in many languages. Many are now available in Chinese and another group have just been translated

into Russian by our Medcom members. Joint work with Medex ([www.medex.org.uk](http://www.medex.org.uk)) has resulted in more translations of the free booklet on basic mountain medicine and this is welcomed in countries such as Taiwan with its increasing awareness of the mountains for recreation.

We are currently working on a technical (as opposed to lay) version of our work on drug use and misuse in the mountains. This has grown in importance and in size so we hope it may be published as a supplement to an online medical journal. It is too detailed to be a simple journal article. In the current atmosphere (summer of 2015) with allegations of possible hidden large scale drug use in athletics (IWFA and WADA) our open scientific work is even more important and we hope to have the full support of the UIAA executive after some controversy when we presented the initial work in Flagstaff. I think we have now defined a better working relationship based on mutual understanding.

## Commercial, "Charity" and Gap Year treks

We continue to be aware of the increasing number of commercial, "charity" and "gap year" treks, expeditions, challenges and adventure holidays often to altitude. Many are very well run but there are still too many who offer unsafe ascent profiles guaranteeing illness and some who have little or no mountain medicine training for their leaders. Many people who undertake these trips are mountain naïve and do not know how to access medically based advice. Every year we are aware of unnecessary deaths often as a result of poor leadership and planning.

What can we do about this?

We have realised that active mountaineers know how to use the UIAA for advice but mountain naïve holiday makers are unaware of our existence. The answer has to be to increase the profile of our advice sheets on social media under the search words relevant to the specific mountain rather than by medical heading. We would like to employ a part time research student to spend two hours each day for a year increasing our profile.



### Intercommission liaison

I am pleased to say we continue working with the Ice Climbing Commission on both medical aspects of safety for athletes and spectators and also on the introduction of para ice climbing competitions.

Following contacts made in Flagstaff we are working with the technical standards group.

During the last year we formalised our co-operation with our sister organisation ICAR Medcom. The president of each Medcom is now an official observer member of the other organisation. They can appoint a deputy to attend our respective meetings and Harris the ICAR Medcom Greek representative attended our Kalymnos UIAA meeting. We are always happy to advise any other commissions if we can help.

### Future Plans

As a committee we have never before asked for any financial support from the UIAA management committee for the work we do but we now find we need some funds to increase our web presence and social media profile. We are aware of the high risk groups such as gap year students outlined above and need to reach this audience with our advice. We also need funds to aid publication of our advice in medical journals thus reaching both our technical and our lay audience. I hope this limited funding will be agreed.



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Report by

**David Hillebrandt**

*Medical Commission President*





## 7. MOUNTAINEERING COMMISSION

*The expansion and development of the Training Panel programme including work on a new administration system for UIAA members has become a key priority and activity of the Mountaineering Commission, reports Commission President Pierre Humblet and Steve Long, Chair of UIAA Training Panel. In addition, the Commission was involved in a number of topics including liability insurance, the development of the Memento Handbook and advancements in the Near Miss project and accidents survey database.*



Full report by **Pierre Humblet** and **Steve Long**:

Since the 2014 UIAA General Assembly, the Mountaineering Commission met twice - in Takatsuki, invited by the Japan Mountaineering Association (JMA) in April 2015, and in Spain in November 2015, hosted by the Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya (FEEC) in Poblet. The Training Standards Panel meets at the same time because it is part of the core activities of the Commission.

In Takatsuki, it was collectively decided to shorten the Mountaineering Commission reports to make them more reader-friendly and avoid putting people off by the length of the documents. Readers willing to find more details can refer to the minutes available on the UIAA website.

### **THIRD PARTY LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The question of insurance coverage was discussed at length between H el ene Denis, UIAA General Secretary, Sophie Gerard and Pierre Humblet.

Pierre Humblet explained the necessary steps not only to cover the liability of the Training Standards Panel members (and other organizers) but also to cover them individually in case of accident. First of all we need a clarification regarding their status, especially under the Swiss law: whether they are volunteers or independent contractors or workers, or whether it is dependent on the circumstances.

With regard to the insurance coverage of the events organized by the UIAA, a recent case demonstrated that we need not only an insurance policy but a coverage corresponding to the present-day evaluations of possible damages by the case law.

### **TRAINING STANDARDS HANDBOOK, THE UIAA – PETZL FOUNDATION MEMENTO**

A new English version has been printed and is now available. Orders can be placed with the UIAA Office in Bern.

Draft contracts for distribution have been created with the help of Stephane Lozac’hmeur, the Petzl Foundation, and, on behalf of the UIAA, Sophie Gerard, Valerie Thoni, Agnes Semelet and Pierre Humblet.

#### Statistics

The questionnaire and the tools have been written under the guidance of Professor Chiaki Aoyama (JMA).

A first partnership agreement has been signed in Japan, on the occasion of the spring Mountaineering Commission meeting in Takatsuki between the Japan Mountaineering Association, Japan Worker’s Alpine Federation, Japan Rescue Organization, and the UIAA for exchange of the existing accident data.

The next step will be to organize a possible collaboration in UK with Mountain Rescue England and Wales.



### Near Miss Survey

The project is on track under the leadership of our partner, the Petzl Foundation, and with the collaboration of "Camp to Camp". The role to be played by the UIAA Mountaineering Commission and the Training Standards Panel was defined during the Mountaineering Commission meeting in Spain where the General Secretary of the Petzl Foundation attended. In brief the following was determined:

- The "Near Miss" survey should be effective in May 2016;
- The UIAA will promote the Near Miss Survey and ask UIAA Member Federations to support this survey;
- The UIAA will produce dedicated safety articles; and
- A communication partnership between Camp to Camp and UIAA websites will be put in place

### Training Panel

It has proved another busy year despite an apparent impasse on development work on the database administrative system. The Training Standards have been rebranded as Mountain Qualifications Labels and all the website information updated accordingly.

### Jordan

A team of volunteer instructors (all holding IFMGA and/or UIAA accredited qualifications) from UK, France, Catalonia, Russia and Turkey has assessed last year's trainees in trekking, canyoning and climbing initial leadership training in December 2015 under the management of the Jordan Tourist Board and with the financial support of the Petzl Foundation. A second wave of trekking and rock climbing leaders have been trained in December 2015 and a refresher course arranged for March-April 2016.

### Nepal

A group of trained leaders completed an induction into assessment skills on a trek in Langtang shortly before the devastating earthquake. This was delivered by two IFMGA Guides, one from Nepal and one from the UK and included the use of high altitude emergency equipment (Gamow bag and supplementary oxygen). These assessors delivered a high standard assessment course in late 2015, meaning that NMA is now ready for an accreditation inspection for the Mountaineering Qualification Label for Hillwalking.

## India

One of our regular trainers (holding the UIMLA International Mountain Leader qualification) helped teach on the IMF's annual Climbathon and provided an in-depth report and recommendations for IMF.

Looking ahead we have requests for further assistance in Nepal (Khumbu Climbing Centre) and Jordan.

## Registrations

The TP has also been requested to deliver presentations at annual events, including the newly joined Malaysian federation, Kembara, and in Sweden.

## Alpine Handbook

The English version of the Alpine Handbook has now been published by the UIAA and is available for purchase by federations at only CHF8 per copy (+ postage). This is a unique resource that is provided exclusively for students on training courses delivered by UIAA member organizations.

Several agreements have been signed inter alia for the publishing of Korean, Chinese and Spanish versions. The memento will be soon available in about ten languages.

## Sponsorship and Labels

The UIAA Training Services are funded entirely by the UIAA. In order to cover the delivery costs a supplementary fee has been imposed for observer members in order to access the services.

Individual charitable training projects can be sponsored. The Petzl Foundation has supported various projects in countries requiring development support from countries with established training programs; criteria for eligibility are available from Petzl Foundation (in short this is a cultural assistance program for mountain communities that are financially disadvantaged and have members with a passion for mountaineering activities, focusing on basic leadership skills). Input from additional sponsors is invited, to allow a more diverse and ambitious range of aims. As always we only use highly experienced trainers to deliver these projects; using teams of individuals



for introductory work and ideally working through National Centers for follow-up teaching such as tutor and assessor training.

It should be emphasized that the UIAA Mountaineering Qualification Labels are standards for National Qualifications. Primarily these are aimed at volunteer leaders in order to deliver reliable training to federation members, but we recognize that national or local laws may well allow qualifications to be used for financial remuneration. However, international recognition of the quality of a national training programme does not give these leaders and instructors the right to work outside their federation unless other federations choose explicitly to offer cross-accreditation through mutual cooperation. This does already happen within several neighboring federations but is by no means automatic. The only international professional qualifications are administered by IFMGA and UIMLA.

## LEGAL EXPERTS WORKING GROUP

Within the collect of information made by the LEWG, there are specific reports concerning the legal situation and liability of voluntary leaders abroad in different countries and jurisdictions. We received contributions from Belgium, the Czech Republic, New Zealand and the Basque Country, Spain.



Report by

**Pierre Humblet**

*Mountaineering Commission President*

and

**Steve Long**

*Training Standards Panel President*





## 8. MOUNTAIN PROTECTION COMMISSION

*It has been another active year for the Mountain Protection Commission. The UIAA Mountain Protection Award continues to grow in strength, raising the profile of the UIAA around the world and awareness about the need for practices that sustain and conserve fragile mountain ecosystems, reports Commission president Linda McMillan. Furthermore, the UIAA increased its activities in mountain protection and sustainability, adding the Respect the Mountain series to its range of activities and through its presence at the COP21 conference on climate change.*



Full report by **Linda McMillan** MPC President:

### COMMISSION MEETING

Our annual Mountain Protection Commission was held in Bern, Switzerland on 23 May.

The meeting was extremely productive and included the presence of many of our members, including our hard-working executive board link H el ene Denis and the diligent UIAA staff. We were delighted to welcome our new Commission member from Iran, Mr. Amin Moein. We were also grateful that Mr. Emin Garabaghli of Baku, Azerbaijan attended, representing our very generous MPA sponsors, Western University and Golden Rock Travel.

During the meeting, several important items were reviewed including:

- The mission and strategy of the commission for 2016
- Future cooperation with the Access Commission. The Commission issued and agreed on a statement which was communicated to the Board following the meeting:

## **STATEMENT ON PROPOSED IDEA TO CONSIDER MERGING THE ACCESS AND THE MOUNTAIN PROTECTION COMMISSIONS:**

*Until the explicit details and terms of the discussion to merge the Access and the Mountain Protection Commissions are communicated and made available, the position of the MPC is that we believe that we have our own specificities but are open and willing to engage in a dialogue with the AC (and other Commissions) to learn about each other's activities, added value and synergies to support teach other's activities through collaboration.*

*A proposal to initiate this engagement is to send two MPC delegates to the AC meeting Krakow and start this dialogue.*

### Step 1

Mountain Protection Platform and Award (MPA) process: the team reviewed and agreed on the selection criteria to be accepted on our platform:

- Clarity and concreteness of the project goals and objectives.
- Relevance of project for mountain protection and for domain of implementation
- Clarity, concreteness, and validity of examples presented to support claims
- Solidity of project management
- Impact of expected outcomes
- Completeness of application



## Step 2

Criteria to be eligible to the Award:

- Have submitted a complete application by the Award deadline: 31 July 2015
- Be accepted and showcased on our MPA platform
- Have a fully-fledged and implemented project
- Visibility of the project among the relevant constituencies (clients and community)
- Solid project management and support by local community

MPA communication has been enhanced during 2015: several articles and messages were posted in the UIAA network (including social media), the Mountain Partnership newsletter, ICI-MOD (International Center for Integrated Mountain Development). A marketing flyer presenting the Award was also produced.

### **KEY NUMBERS FOR 2015**

- 80'000 [www.theuiaa.org](http://www.theuiaa.org) unique visitors
- 50'000 Vimeo views per year
- 25'000 Social Media followers
- 25'000 Newsletter readers
- 100'000 people reached with MPA articles

### The Mountain Protection Platform and Award – Strong Growth

The UIAA Mountain Protection Commission aims to encourage and support the conservation of natural resources, landscapes and diverse cultures in mountain regions. To this end, the Commission specifically focuses on the promotion of positive behaviour and education in mountain tourism and recreation.

The vision of the MPA is to encourage key mountain stakeholder groups — science, sport, and tourism — together with governments, public and private land managers, and conservation organizations, to improve mountain protection around the world by creating and sustaining mountain protection projects that use effective stakeholder collaborations and communication.

Our goal is to help develop and support community-based tourism that simultaneously contributes to the conservation of ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods for local people. Our mountain protection platform is an instrument to encourage knowledge exchange and support key mountain stakeholders whose activities have the same objectives by promoting and docu-

menting mountain protection projects around the world that demonstrate their annual progress and engagement.

In 2015 the MPA proved to be a very effective way for the UIAA to recognize, celebrate, and promote a rapidly-growing number of outstanding initiatives from around the world. I am very happy to report that this year the MPA attracted 28 very interesting new mountain protection projects, more than a 200% increase from last year. Two were not accepted on the platform and 22 were eligible for competition.

Our Commission collaborated with the talented, hard-working, and always helpful UIAA staff to attract, assess, and promote these very impressive initiatives from around the world. The initiatives were carefully assessed by our select panel of Commission members and other mountain protection experts, who are listed on the [UIAA Mountain Protection website](#).

The list of our new Mountain Protection Award Initiatives for 2015 shows how diverse and impressive these projects are. We welcomed more projects from the Americas (one from USA, five from South America), seven from Europe, one from Australia, the majority still coming from Asia (12 projects). The projects covered the following areas: 12 in culture and education, six in waste management, seven in biodiversity conservation, two in alternative energy resources, while none were submitted in the category mitigation of Climate Change effects.

This year we had no projects from Africa nor from the Middle East. We hope to be able to have candidates from these regions in the future. The candidates' spectrum ranges from environment associations, community organizations, mountaineering federations, trekking and tourism agencies and engineering associations.

The winner of the 2015 MPA Award was confirmed as KTK-BELT Studio 'Building a "Vertical University" from Koshi Tappu to Mt. Kanchenjunga' during the 2015 UIAA General Assembly in Seoul, Korea.

We are extremely grateful for the continued very generous support from the Sponsors of the Mountain Protection Award – Western University and Golden Rock Travel of Baku, Azerbaijan.



## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

### UIAA's involvement in the environment and mountain community

2015 was marked by the growing visibility of the UIAA with regard to mountain protection and engagement for a balanced approach between sport and environment issues.

### Collaborations

The UIAA continues to collaborate and establish connections with Mountain Partnership, <http://www.mountainpartnership.org>. Throughout 2015, the UIAA contributed articles, future ideas and intervened in advocacy policy. The UIAA also consulted on several projects including the future mountain label for agricultural products.

Additionally, the UIAA interacted more closely with other international institutions like ICI-MOD (exchange of information and one assessors in the Assessment Team), as well as the Sustainable Mountain Tourism Alliance.

### International Mountain Conference

At the International Mountain Conference in Perth, Scotland (4-8 October), Valérie Thöni and Commission member Dr Carolina Adler presented the UIAA and its mountain protection activities. This conference is a contribution to the global Future Earth programme, a 10-year international research initiative that will develop the knowledge for responding effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change and supporting transformation towards global sustainability in the coming decades.

### Climate Change

Hélène Denis and the UIAA staff worked together with some of our Commission members to create a declaration for the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11), otherwise known as "Paris 2015" held from 30 November to 11 December. Mountain Partnership helped us promoting this document.

The UIAA, with its partners ran, a booth during the event in Paris, raising awareness about the devastating effects of climate change in the mountain regions.

Several organizations like Mountain Wilderness, UIAGM, WWF Alps, CIPRA France, IUCN France Mountain Group and Mountain Coordination supported the UIAA.

The UIAA office has applied to the UNFCCC to become an observer organization at future conferences. We believe that this can be an excellent opportunity for the UIAA to showcase its engagement in mountain preservation issues.

#### International Mountain Day

On the occasion of the International Mountain Day, 11 December, the Commission worked with federations and other stakeholders to promote information about its efforts in mountain protection. At the COP21, a dedicated 'rope up' initiative took place.

#### Respect the Mountains

The UIAA incorporated the long running and successful Respect the Mountains project into its sphere of activities during the autumn of 2015. The project, part of the UIAA's longstanding commitment to sustainability and mountain preservation, is supported by KEEN. Its goals are to:

- Raise awareness for sustainable environmental practices and spread the word within the outdoor community
- Preserve mountain ecosystems and cultures in their natural state for future generations
- Promote sustainable mountain tourism and activities
- Educate the next generation of mountain explorers and encourage them to be sustainable followers.

In 2016, the UIAA will organize its first series of 'clean-up' events and put in place a dedicated strategy for future years.

#### Other activities foreseen

Project idea of a special standard/training module for guides and instructors about Mountain Protection: Based on the original idea of one of our commission members, Dr Carolina Adler to start a survey/review on communities' values on mountain conservation, and another idea to organise a training workshop on mountain preservation, there is a proposition with a more practical and applied objectives, which would target the audience that deal more closely with the activities of the UIAA - mountaineers and mountaineering.



From the feedback received so far the idea of structured and up-to-date training for guides and instructors on environmental conservation and management of resources in mountain regions is much needed. This would tackle the lack of awareness of environmental considerations in courses which seem to touch on environmental topics quite superficially. The idea would be to collaborate with the IFMGA/UIAGM, the UIAA Training Panel, the IUCN or other organisations.

The commission welcomes any ideas or involvement of member federations.



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Report by

**Linda McMillan**

*Mountain Protection Commission President*





## 9. SAFETY COMMISSION

*The UIAA Safety Commission continues to carry out its mission to help climbers manage the inherent risks of climbing and mountaineering, reports Safety Commission President Dave Custer. Accomplishing this mission is done primarily through the continued development of climbing equipment standards and the testing necessary for standards development. In 2015, the UIAA Safety Commission published two new Standards. These were dedicated to snow pickets and crash pads.*



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Full report by **Dave Custer** *Safety Commission President:*

At the UIAA Safety Commission June meeting in Chamonix, new standards were approved for snow pickets and crash pads. These were published and released in the second half of 2015. Work continues on standards for belay lanyards, avalanche shovels, avalanche probes and bolt corrosion. Based on recent research into the efficacy of climbing helmets during impacts due to climber falls (G.Yamaguchi et.al.), a new working group has been formed to determine whether the helmet standard should be modified to include rim impact tests.

UIAA Safety Commission delegates who also serve on the CEN committees are keeping the Safety Commission informed on a number of CEN standards of interest to the climbing community, including standards for avalanche airbags and via ferrata construction. Further CEN/UIAA

collaboration continues to fast track a solution to the problems that have come to light regarding via ferrata energy absorbing systems.

In addition to standards work, the Safety Commission has provided information to serve the climbing community by answering questions regarding standards and equipment failure posed by individual climbers, manufacturers, other climbing and standards organizations, and journalists.

Looking forward to 2016 the Safety Commission will continue with both its standards and education work. The Safety Commission looks forward to working closely with the Management Committee, other UIAA Commissions and the General Assembly to better support the UIAA and its member federations.



Report by  
**Dave Custer**  
*Safety Commission President*



## 10. YOUTH COMMISSION

*2015 was another successful year for the Global Youth Summit (GYS) climbing and mountaineering with events held in Turkey, France, Spain, Italy, Iran, Georgia and FYR Macedonia, reports Commission President Israfil Ashurli. This past year eight events were held under the GYS umbrella with over 100 participants from over 25 countries taking part. The work of the Youth Commission is supported by ARISF whose funds are used for training and education programmes, including anti-doping education, for athletes, coaches, and officials in mountaineering disciplines.*



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Full report by **Israfil Ashurly** *President of UIAA Youth Commission:*

ARISF supported projects in 2015 were:

- Winter Programme – one-week international ice climbing and mountaineering meeting held in Guillestre, the Alps (16-22 years of age).
- Summer Programme – one-week international rock climbing and mountaineering coaching in Ariège, French Pyrenees
- UIAA Youth Leader Training Seminar in FYR Macedonia from 19 -23 August

## **GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT EVENTS 2015**

### International Youth Ice Climbing Festival, Erzurum - Turkey

Organized by the Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality, this festival was organized for those who enjoy ice climbing and mountaineering, adventure and nature. Whatever the participants' level there was something for everyone including a chance to meet other young climbers from around the world. More than 70 participants from 16 countries took part in the event.

### International Youth Ice Climbing Camp Guillestre - France (FFCAM)

The main goal of this youth ice climbing camp was to teach many forms of ice climbing, one pitch, or routes with many pitches.

22 participants from different countries took part in this event. Almost all participants reached the level of good qualification in ice climbing and some of them will reach the level of instructor after additional experience.

### Youth Climbing Camp in Catalonia Montserrat and Pedraforca – Spain (FEEC)

The event involved a total of seven youngsters (from 18 to 23 years old), five from Catalonia, one from South Africa (but based in Sweden) and one from Serbia, together with two instructors, Pau Gómez and Faust Punsola, both UIAGM guides.

The main goal of this youth climbing camp was to practice many forms of climbing, cliffs with one pitch, or routes with many pitches, on different types of rock: the Montserratian conglomerate and the limestone of Pedraforca.

### Youth Climbing and Trekking camp, Ariège - France (FFCAM)

A popular Global Youth Summit camp in the south of France where young climbers from around the world practiced many forms of canoeing, caving and rock climbing including single and multi-pitch routes on different types of rock, granite or limestone. This year the participants comprised two Englishmen, three Spaniards with an instructor and ten Frenchmen.



### Discovering the magic of the Dolomites Longarone, Dolomites - Italy (CAI)

20 people from Italy, Spain, South Africa and Serbia took part in the event. The organizers received 32 applications, but because of potential troubles with the lodging, the organizers set a limit of 24 participants. Unfortunately, the Bangladesh team didn't manage to receive visas. The programme was varied – in addition to trekking and excursions, the participants completed ascends to Averau, Tofana di Rozes and Paterno. The event provided the opportunity for participants from different countries and cultures to communicate and exchange their experiences.

### International Youth Expedition on Mt Damavand - Iran

The event was really successful. Iran Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation organized an international youth expedition to ascend Mt. Damavand (5,671m), the highest volcano in Asia and the highest peak in the Middle East. There were participants from Iran, UK, Netherlands, Azerbaijan, Poland, Austria, Germany, Japan, India, Latvia, Russia, Armenia and a small delegation from Somalia. The aims of the event were achieved. It was a unique and unforgettable experience.

### International Mountaineering School Kazbek Gorges - Georgia

17 participants from Germany, Spain, South Africa, Slovenia, Korea and Georgia took part in the event. In general, it was successful – everyone reached Kazbek peak.

### UIAA Youth Leader Training Seminar Skopje - FYR Macedonia

The UIAA YOUTH LEADER TRAINING SEMINAR was conducted by the Center for Vocational Training of the Macedonian Mountain Sport Federation for the youth leaders from different Balkan countries. The main objectives of the event were:

- to create a Balkan team from different mountaineering federations who will work with youth in the region and beyond;
- to enable youth leaders to master their skills in leading youth groups;
- to create a cohesive policy towards youth mountain training and;
- to educate youth mountaineering leaders in the Balkan region.

The first part of the event was conducted in Matka-Canyon of River Treska located 15kms southwest of Skopje. The participants were accommodated in the Canyon Mountain Lodge.

The second part of the event took place in National Park Mavrovo (NPM). It is located in the northwest of Macedonia (the triangle between Albania, Kosovo and the Republic of Macedonia). Accommodation of the participants was provided in the hotel ELEM Mavrovo.



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Report by

**Israfil Ashurly**

*President of UIAA Youth Commission*



## 11. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

*UIAA communication and marketing efforts are united by the twin goals of finding and exploring new sponsorship opportunities that align with UIAA activities so that the organization's finances are stable and the enhancement of the website, newsletter and social media efforts to enable the office to communicate more efficiently with member federations, for member federations to communicate with each and other for the UIAA to establish a greater presence in online and traditional media outlets.*



Full report by **Thomas Kähr** UIAA Board Member:

The past year has been an exciting year of progress for the UIAA as we move forward to fulfil the goals set out by the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan which calls for a more effective and cost-efficient way to market and communicate the organization. Throughout the second half of 2015, the UIAA set in motion plans to refresh its look and communication and marketing tools and assets.

### MARKETING SPONSORSHIP

Revenues from sponsorship which accounts for 25 per cent of all UIAA income continues to be stable compared to 2014. The Bern office continues to explore new sponsorship opportunities with expressions of interest from major labels that are currently in the discussion and review stage. Good relations also continue with The North Face Korea, Western University (Azerbaijan) and Golden Rock Travel (Azerbaijan). In 2015, the UIAA began a partnership with Korea-based

Mountain TV. In October 2015, the UIAA signed a new sponsorship contract for UIAA Respect the Mountains with KEEN.

## **UIAA WEBSITE**

The UIAA office is currently conducting a full audit of all communication tools including [www.theuiaa.org](http://www.theuiaa.org). The current website needs upgrading or updating during the course of 2016 to provide an improved digital solution which enhances the experience for all types of visitor (member federations, athletes, sponsors, general public, etc.), and integrates more seamlessly with distribution tools and social media channels. A proposal is currently being put in place. During the second half of 2015, the UIAA website welcomed more than 90,000 unique visitors (an increase of 30% in comparison with last year), and attracted in excess of 250,000 page views.

## **NEWSLETTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

The monthly UIAA newsletter continues to be an important tool through which member federations are informed of important updates and developments and complements are social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, and coming soon Instagram and the re-launch of the YouTube channel. Part of the website developments, will include a dedicated news feed on the Member Federation page. The UIAA office has seen a 40 per cent increase in social media followers over the past year and there are plans, time and resources permitting, to further develop the UIAA's presence on social media through the creation of dedicated social media content and channel-specific campaigns.

## **VIDEO**

Throughout 2015, the UIAA bolstered its presence in online videos. A series of videos were produced for the most recent UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour on both the existing Vimeo account and the recently re-launched YouTube channel. Throughout 2016, the UIAA will seek to bolster its video coverage of other aspects of activities.

## **CORPORATE IDENTITY AND BROCHURES**

The UIAA is currently refreshing its charte graphique with the scope of creating a more modern look and to create a set of guidelines which are easier for partners and member federations



to adopt. In addition, the UIAA office is producing a series of booklets promoting its activities in different spheres. These documents will allow the UIAA to present itself in a more strategic and professional light at conferences and trade shows.



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Report by

**Thomas Kähr**

*UIAA Board Member*



**International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation**  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

**KATHARINA GETTMANN**

*Sustainability Coordinator*

Respect the Mountains, sustainability  
projets

**ETIENNE GRILLOT**

*Events Coordinator*

Ice Climbing, Anti-doping

**STEPHANIE STETTBACHER**

*Office Coordinator*

Member Federations, EB-MC-  
GA organisation, Safety label  
administration

**VALÉRIE THOENI**

*Consultant*

Mountain Protection, Train-  
ing Standards, Youth



## 12. OFFICE REPORT

### Executive Board

*Responsible for strategy*

*UIAA representations*

### Sophie Gerard

*Office Manager*

*Team Management, Office Board link, Sponsoring, Finances, Ice Climbing, Medical, Access*

### AGNÈS SEMELET

*Accountant*

*Payments, Invoicing, Quarterly reports, Assistance for the budget*

### PETER BOURNE

*Communication Consultant*

*Communication and digital projects, news, press releases, social media, newsletter*

### JOHN CAPREZ

*Webmaster*





## 13. FINANCIAL REPORT

### ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS/ CHF	12/31/2015	12/31/2014
Liquid Assets: Cash and Bank	631.534,80	598.261,15
Liquid Assets: Accounts receivable	1.129,84	8.900,04
Liquid Assets: Prepaid expenses	11.650,93	12148,47
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>644.315,57</b>	<b>619.309,66</b>
FIXED ASSETS	12/31/2015	12/31/2014
Intangible Assets: Safety labels	587,00	1.157,00
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>587,00</b>	<b>1.157,00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>644.902,57</b>	<b>620.466,66</b>

## LIABILITIES & FUNDS

LIABILITIES/ CHF	12/31/2015	12/31/2014
Current Liabilities: Creditors	21.748	6.712
Accrued Liabilities	219.041	229.057
General Provision	82.077	85.300
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>322.866</b>	<b>321.069</b>

FUNDS	12/31/2015	12/31/2014
Solidarity Fund	10.135	11.435
Access and conservation fund	2.763	2.763
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>12.899</b>	<b>14.199</b>

Capital of the association as per Jan. 1	285.199	272.048
Profit for the year	23.939	13.151
Capital of the association as per Dec. 31	309.138	285.199
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUNDS</b>	<b>644.903</b>	<b>620.467</b>

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## PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

INCOME STATEMENT/ CHF	12/31/2015	12/31/2014
Membership fees	286.077	296.391
UIAA Safety label	104.271	105.132
IOC Annual grant	25.000	22.250
ARISF grant for youth developpment	5.937	5.927
Petzl grant Training Standard	10.600	11.000
Training Standard Panel	3.001	8.235
Ice climbing competitions	25.085	26.213
Mountain Protection	1.325	0
Sponsorship	162.383	186.600
SAC Contribution for office cost	20.000	20.000
Sundry income	137	1
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>643.820</b>	<b>681.752</b>



## OPERATING EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES/ CHF 12/31/2015 12/31/2014

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### COMMISSIONS

Access	1.056	1.523
Anti-doping	4.048	5.671
Ice Climbing competition	149.717	180.429
Medical	1.146	307
Mountain Protection	16.622	16.087
Mountaineering	4.167	1.510
Safety	3.310	20.862
Youth	10.519	13.084
Working Group Training Standard	2.608	8.246
Working Group Training Standard Petzl	10.799	18.297
Working Group Rock Climbing	3.314	5.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>207.307</b>	<b>271.016</b>

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### OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

Travel and accomodation	58.497	55.212
Safety label administration	5.782	7.175
Other operative expenses	4.538	4.482
<b>GROSS MARGIN</b>	<b>276.124</b>	<b>337.884</b>

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OPERATING EXPENSES/ CHF 12/31/2015 12/31/2014

#### STAFF COST

Salary	232.307	193.946
Social charges	31.337	24.638
Sundry expenses/Training	5.319	4.153

#### ADMINISTRATION

Office rental costs Bern	11.000	11.000
Training	4.000	12.000
Stationary and Software	1.244	1.650
Audit	2.484	2.484
Sundry administrative expenses	8.433	8.050

#### COMMUNICATION

Annual Report	-129	500
Website	27.193	41.039
Sundry communication expenses	7.265	3.456

#### DEPRECIATION

Depreciation on mat/immaterial assets	570	2.101
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#### **OPERATING COST**

**331.023**

**305.018**

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<b>OPERATING LOSS/PROFIT</b>	<b>36.673</b>	<b>38.849</b>
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OPERATING EXPENSES/ CHF	12/31/2015	12/31/2014
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**FINANCIAL RESULT**

Interest and profit on deposit	79	214
Bank charges	-1.495	-1.315
Currency discrepancy	-3.367	-19.064

**OTHER EXPENSES**

Membership fees SportAccord	4.000	4.000
Gifts	3.951	1.534

<b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>23.939</b>	<b>13.151</b>
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## 14. SPONSORS



Ice Climbing

**The North Face Korea**



Mountain Protection

**Golden Rock**



Mountain Protection

**Western University**



Training Standards

**Petzl Fondation**



Ice Climbing

**Mountain TV**



Annual Report

**FOR THE CLIMBERS. FOR THE WORLD.**

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**UIAA**

**International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation**  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME