

[president's message]

I would like to begin my message by highlighting the fundamental principles of our organization:

- To represent all mountaineering federations
- To develop and regulate international activities
- To assist member federations with international mountaineering and mountain sport issues
- To promote mountaineering and climbing, as activities with specific high human and social values and purpose

The first priority in 2012 was to improve our financial situation. The UIAA now has strong financial controls in place. We managed to end 2011 without losses for the first time in two years. We also have in place a marketing and sponsorship plan that will be developed with the help of UIAA office staff.

The second objective was to move forward with the UIAA Strategic Plan. The plan which covers four years will be up for approval at the 2012 General Assembly. Implementing this plan is our key objective.

The survey we conducted among member federations about the UIAA Strategic Plan showed that our Training Standards program is one of the UIAA services that our members appreciate most. We now have in place the regulations for voluntary Training Standards to be delivered as a professional service.

As part of our marketing and sponsorship plan, we have negotiated new agreements with mountaineering and climbing enterprises that can help us with our projects and become partners.

All commissions are working actively and their work is on the right track. The commissions play a vital role in an international sports federation like ours. We have to put great efforts in helping them to achieve their programs so they can perform do their work professionally.

Building relationships with UIAA members and International sports bodies is also big responsibility. We represent mountaineering and climbing activities all over the world and promote them in organisations such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Association of Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF), SportAccord and Peace and Sport.

We could not do all this all this without the help of UIAA Management Committee members, the presidents and members of the commissions working groups and all UIAA officers. I would particularly like to thank the UIAA office staff, lead by Gurdeepak Ahuja, for their hard and devoted work this year. Nico de Jong (General Secretary) and Peter Farkas (Treasurer) have both been key to the successful functioning of the UIAA this past year. Thanks to Nico and Peter for their efforts. They both went beyond the call of duty and performed much more work than their titles would suggest.

Their help was crucial because the Board was limited to three people. It was an honour to lead this group of people, a great honour. Thanks to all of you for your help and support.



Jordi Colomer

[commissions]

access

The UIAA Access Commission believes everyone should be able to freely walk and climb in the mountains in a responsible way. But sometimes this is restricted through war, landowner apprehension and regulation.

The commission, hosted by UIAA member federation Federación de Andinismo de Chile (FEACH), met in Santiago, Chile in April to highlight access issues including a proposed conservation area in the Rio De Olivares for the 5 million inhabitants of Santiago. Meetings were also held with Sendero de Chile, a not-for-profit foundation that promotes eco-tourism and environmental education.

Other issues of concern discussed included the controversial HydroAysen hydroelectric project, one of many hydroelectric power projects in the planning stage or planning or already established in Chile, a country rich with metal and mineral reserves and a policy and regulatory regime that favours energy and mineral exploitation.

Work also continues on a public wiki project to highlight access issues around the world with the selection of software and initial design work completed for the wiki pages that will be hosted on the UIAA server. A discussion is underway to finalize design and content and the establishment of a process and protocol for contributions from the public and member federations of the UIAA.

medical

In 2011-2012 the UIAA Medical Commission focused on reviewing the vetting system to ensure that the flagship Diploma of Mountain Medicine, now conducted in 12 countries, and run jointly with the International Society of Mountain Medicine (ISMM) and the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR) is taught to a uniform standard.

Other priorities include ongoing work with the World Health Organization to accept UIAA recommendations for the international classification of types of altitude illness. As well, a push is underway to highlight the problems of commercial treks and expeditions that ignore acclimatization guidelines, putting clients and porters at risk of illness or death.

Another milestone took place at a meeting in Whistler, British Columbia in Canada (July 2012) when commission members, after years of avoiding the complex issue of drug use in the mountains, discussed the challenges associated with it through a working group. Members agreed to avoid ethical issues and focus on basic medical facts of the risks and benefits of various drugs at altitudes, focusing only on medical evidence.

mountaineering

A major accomplishment for the Mountaineering Commission was the approval of proposals for voluntary Training Standards to be delivered professionally, a much sought after request from member federations.

Work continues on training programs in Chile, Nepal and India. The Nepal program follows agreements by the UIAA with the Petzl Foundation and the Nepal Mountaineering Association. Links have also been reactivated with Indian Mountaineering Foundation to pursue training programs there.

A well received and updated paper on bolting policies and the preservation of natural rock for adventure climbing was authored by commission member Doug Scott. There was also a debate about international climbing competitions in the high mountains which the commission concluded it could not support.

The Legal Experts Working Group also published an updated paper on climbing wall accidents authored by Martin Wragg. Progress continues on papers on other contentious issues such as the use of waivers and disclaimers and recommendations for insurance requirements for organizers of youth events.

safety

The Safety Commission's certified equipment and recalls database today contains information on 1,865 labels from 55 manufacturers. The commission also continues to work actively on researching new standards for mountaineering and climbing equipment including updates on existing UIAA standards for products and the administration of the safety labels. In 2011-2012, working groups have focused on upgrading standards for harnesses, ropes, via ferrata sets, non-metallic chocks and bolts. The groups are also working on the creation of new standards for crash pads, snow pickets and dynamic self-belaying lanyards.

The commission continued to publicize safety recalls and issue alerts about several products and issues. They included the problem of the corrosion of anchors in a marine environment and the need to check the safety of via ferrata sets following a fatal fall of a climber in August in Austria. Other ongoing work includes the evaluation of the first UIAA-accredited laboratory in the United States of America. The commission currently works with 14 laboratories across Europe which test equipment to UIAA standards.

youth

The Youth Commission's mandate is to encourage and support the development of mountaineering among young people through training programs and events such as the UIAA Global Youth Summit (GYS). GYS events this year took place on Mt. Kazbek in Georgia, a Youth Leader Training Seminar in Sloveina, the ascent of Mt. Elbrus in the Caucasus, an International Youth Climbing camp in Ariège, South of France and an International Youth Rock Climbing And Mountaineering Festival in Russia. The events were well attended and included young climbers from all over Europe and as far away as South Korea.

All these events promote peace and cooperation between countries and protection of the environment. The commission, as part of its work, helps member federations organize various events under the GYS umbrella. A key component of the camps and expeditions is the exchange of ideas and techniques and the promotion of mountain ethics and culture. The commission is helped in its activities with funding from the Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF).



mountain protection

The Mountain Protection Commission's work revolves around projects and campaigns that ensure the protection of the natural environment, the promotion of sustainable lifestyles and livelihood, and the responsible use of mountains for recreational and professional purposes.

The commission's primary focus this year has been on the development of a UIAA Mountain Protection Award which will recognize outstanding mountain protection stewardship projects from around the world.

The projects will be reviewed by a panel of environmental experts and praiseworthy examples of stewardship will be highlighted on the UIAA website. The award will allow the UIAA to develop relationships with non-governmental organizations, scientists, governments and ecotourism operators from around the world. The winner will be announced each year during the UIAA General Assembly.

Also under consideration is a Mountain Protection Label modeled along the lines of the UIAA's successful and respected Safety Label, for mountaineering products that meet or exceed standards established by the commission.

Another highlight was the world's first Climate Smart Trek along The Great Himalaya Trail in Nepal which included commission member Ang Tshering Sherpa (Nepal). The expedition organized by Apa Sherpa (world record holder for most successful ascents of Everest) and mountain protection activist Dawa Steven Sherpa shone a spotlight on the need for sustainable mountain tourism and the need to fight climate change.



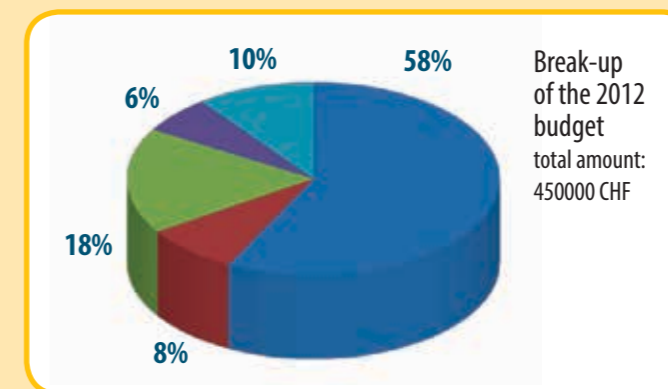
[finances]

The treasurer's task is always easier when he can report about positive results. In the last few years the UIAA suffered heavy financial losses so much so that the day-to-day operations of the commissions and the board had to be reduced in order to save on expenses. The task for us has been to stop losing money and begin re-building our reserves but we always knew the implementation of those goals was going to be difficult and painful.

Fortunately that is behind us and we can now report that UIAA ended 2011 with a profit and we expect similar results in 2012.

The reformed budgeting process started in 2011 and gathered full momentum in the beginning of 2012. Strict expense regulations have been put in place and measures have been taken to ensure that travel and accommodation costs will be kept as low as possible.

Quarterly reports are a key feature of our new budgeting system that will help us remain fiscally responsible and proactive as we plan forward to 2013 and beyond. The positive closure of the UIAA accounts at year end 2011 was made possible by a concerted effort to optimise existing resources. We were able to do this without reducing office service to our stakeholders – members, commissions, sponsors and external organizations.



Sponsors are now showing real interest in the UIAA and they have begun to support various commission activities. We have also achieved a breakthrough in this area with a historic sponsorship deal signed with North Face, Korea in late September just a few days before the 2012 General Assembly. We have every hope that such positive trends will continue but we also know that we can't rest on these achievements.

We are always looking for other ways to raise more funds in order to build a solid financial foundation that will enable the UIAA to fulfill its aims, objectives and accomplish its mission.

A huge thank you to everybody who have kept their trust in our organisation, devoted precious time and energy to make it better and have worked hard to ensure it continues to grow.

Peter Farkas

[office report]

The past year has been an exciting one for the UIAA – International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation – which rose and responded to the call to action for a new direction at the 2012 General Assembly in Kathmandu, Nepal. It has been a period of renewal and positive change as we put in place the framework to move forward with the implementation of the UIAA Strategic Plan 2013-2016.

Member Services

As part of our continuing effort to improve processes and services to our members, the UIAA will, starting in 2013, offer a streamlined online system to validate professionally driven Volunteer Training Standards service for seven activities. We also now have a training manual created in collaboration with the Petzl Foundation that can be subscribed to by our member federations.

We are also putting out a call to all our member federations to submit projects for the new Mountain Protection Stewardship award which will be given each year to an initiative that promotes sustainable development. Mountain regions are our responsibility and this will form the focus of our activities in the coming years.

Through the Youth Commission we continue to develop programs to encourage young people to head out into the mountains and embrace all that it offers. One particular area we are focusing on is the participation of young women in mountaineering through a three-day meet that will be held in Switzerland in 2013.

Ice Climbing and Sponsorship

The popularity of ice climbing continues to grow along with interest in the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup and the support of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Development of new areas for practicing the sport is also leading to increase the base that practise it.

Support for the development of the competitions received a boost this year through multi-million sponsorship deal with the brand The North Face, Korea to last until 2018, when the Olympic Games take place in Pyeongchang, Korea. We continue our valued relationship with RedFox.

Grivel has signed a multi-year funding deal as our General Sponsor. With common aims of promoting mountaineering world wide, Grivel is a credible partner to have on board. We also thank all our other sponsors and supporters who have shown great trust in the UIAA.

Communications and staff

Communicating internally and externally within an organization such as the UIAA which has members, commissions and staff spread out around the world can be a challenge. It's a wired world today and the UIAA is part of the social conversation that is taking place through our website, newsletters, news releases and multiple social platforms such as Twitter and Facebook.

To participate in this conversation we need our member federations to get involved in all of the different platforms that we use through commentary, stories, photos and videos that will help promote the sport of mountaineering to a wider audience. We've taken steps this past year with new tools such as Group-Office, a common documents sharing platform and other social media platforms to more efficiently communicate our messages.

The team at the UIAA office that is helping the organization thrive and grow now includes Sophie Gérard (project manager), Phinjo Gombu (consultant digital media editor), Valérie Thöni (coordinator and Safety Label administrator), Alex Paun (webmaster) and Agnes Semelet (accountant). All of us continue to work with renewed vigour and with various Commissions, Executive Board and Management Committee.

Gurdeepak Ahuja

ice climbing

The signature event for the commission, the 2012 UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup, was a huge success with competitions held in in Cheongsong (South Korea), Saas Fee (Switzerland), Champagny en Vanoise (France), Busteni (Romania) and Kirov (Russia).

In total 209 athletes from 27 countries competed in the Lead and Speed disciplines during the tour. Live streaming video of the competition on the Internet from four of the five venues generated positive reviews.

The tour ended with Italy's Angelika Rainer and Russia's Maxim Tomilov winning their first overall World Cup titles in the Lead discipline. Russian climbers Kirill Kolchegoshev and Maryam Fillippova were the winners of the Men and Women's Speed disciplines.

The commission met in Slovenia in June and approved a request from Rabenstein (Italy), which has experience holding ice climbing competitions, to be part of the 2013 competitions calendar. It will also evaluate a submission from Bozeman, Montana (U.S.A.) under the auspices of local competitions inspection in December, 2012. Other requests to host the cup in 2014 have been received from organizers in Alaska (U.S.A.), Val Daone (Italy) and Moscow (Russia).

Commission members continue to be involved with the organizers of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia in 2014.

UIAA Ice Climbing president Pavel Shabalin returned from a reconnaissance trip to Sochi. The Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee and UIAA, along with the Russian Mountaineering Federation (RMF) initiated the inclusion of Ice Climbing in the games as a cultural event. This is part of the continuing efforts by the UIAA to have ice climbing become a competitive event in the Winter Olympic Games program.

anti doping

The UIAA Anti-Doping Commission maintains the doping control program including in and out of competition testing, result based testing, random testing and targeted testing. It also monitors the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) and develops anti-doping education and information for all stakeholders.

[sponsors]



The North Face, Inc. is an outdoor product company specializing in outerwear, fleece, coats, shirts, footwear, and equipment such as backpacks, tents, and sleeping bags. The clothing and equipment lines are catered towards wilderness chic, climbers, mountaineers, skiers, snowboarders, hikers, and endurance athletes.

The company sponsors professional athletes from the worlds of running, climbing, skiing and snowboarding.

www.thenorthface.com



Grivel is one of the world's leading mountaineering equipment manufacturers and was established in 1818 in Courmayeur at the foot of Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in the Alps.

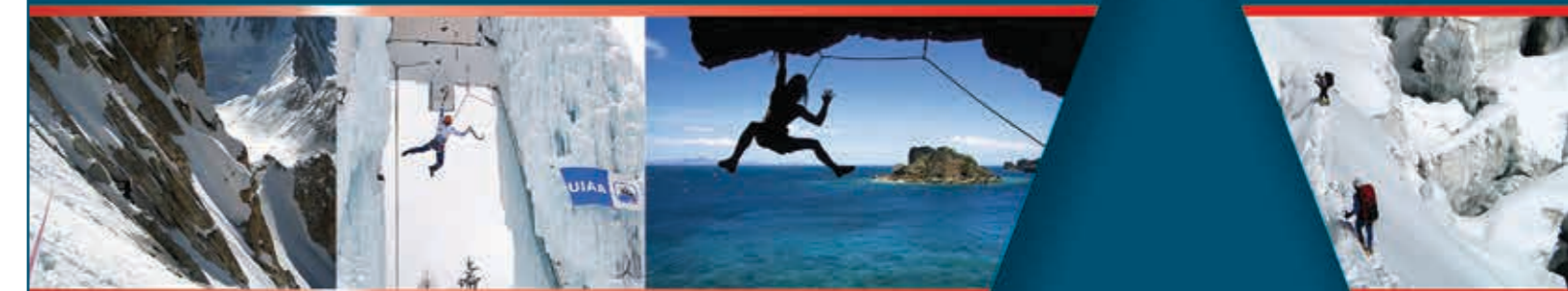
www.grivel.com



RedFox is a Russian outdoor company that produces garments and equipment for outdoor activities. RedFox is behind a number of adventure races such as the Adventure Race, the Elbrus Race and the RedFox Challenge.

www.redfox.ru

[supporters]



UIAA

ANNUAL REPORT

2012