

The UIAA *Annual Report* *2009*



Contents

President's report	2
Executive Director's report	6
Access Commission	8
Mountain Protection Commission	10
Mountaineering Commission	12
Safety Commission	14
Medical Commission	16
Youth Commission	18
Ice Climbing Commission	20
Anti Doping Commission	21
The UIAA's Tyrol Declaration	22
New Initiatives	24
Website	26
Venues of the UIAA General Assemblies	27
Member federations	28

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President's report



2009 was another busy year for the UIAA! However after three years as president I am beginning to believe that the UIAA is finally starting to turn the corner and we are taking our destiny back into our own hands. In the future more of our energy will hopefully be spent on proactive rather than reactive issues. This turnaround has only been made possible because of the professional approach taken by all the volunteers and the staff who have worked so hard into making the UIAA what it is today.

UIAA Tyrol Declaration

Although the Tyrol Declaration was produced in 2002 and has been approved by many of our federations, it has never been presented to the General Assembly for its approval. One of the challenges and difficulties that we faced was how to get a unanimous agreement worldwide on a document that contains 12 major principles with 68 sub principles!

Given the anarchistic nature of climbers and mountaineers this task would indeed represent a formidable challenge. As such we will ask the General Assembly to only approve the major maxims which relate to the best practises of our sport. This will allow the individual federations to accept and adopt the sub principles that seem to be appropriate to them. This has been long overdue and the acceptance of the Tyrol declaration will be good for the UIAA.

Commissions

I had the good fortune to participate in the **Safety Commission** meeting in Golden and also to attend a joint ceremony with the DAV in which **Pit Schubert**, the past president of this commission was honoured by his peers at the Friedrichshafen trade show in August 2009. Pit was made an honorary member of the UIAA at the Tehran General Assembly in 2008.

I attended the **Mountaineering Commission** meeting in France and had the opportunity to meet with the **Training Standards** and also the **Legal Experts Working Groups**. These meetings were extremely informative and I was impressed by the amount of working being accomplished by these groups.

The work done by the Mountaineering Commission regarding Training Standards has been of major benefit to many of the federations. However we have overtaken our volunteer capabilities and we must ask the following question: is it time to take the use of these standards to the next step? If so then that will require a level of professionalism that would be extremely difficult to provide by the current volunteer base.

A plan of action should be presented by the Mountaineering Commission to the Management meeting in May 2010.

Expeditions Commission

Renato Moro, the last commission president, had asked the question as to whether it made sense to continue with a separate commission relating to expeditions? Times have changed and with the advent of cheap travel and ready access to information via the internet, he wondered whether if there was a need for a separate commission. But as it has been pointed out, we would still need to ensure that contacts are maintained in the countries where expeditionary climbing is undertaken in order to ensure access. With this in mind the tasks of the Expeditions Commission will be absorbed into the work of the Executive Committee, the **Access and Mountaineering Commissions**, as appropriate.

It goes without saying that we owe a great debt of gratitude to all of those people from all over the world who contributed so much and made it, in its day, the expeditions commission one of the most successful of our commissions.

Project Management

The biggest change we are undertaking has been the implementation of project management for both the board and the commissions. This was first discussed at the Management Committee meeting in May of 2009. We are now asking all persons receiving funds from the UIAA to present a plan that clearly states the value to the UIAA of the proposed project. The questions that we will ask include:

- What are the parameters of the proposed project?
- Will this impact or duplicate the work of the other commissions?
- Will it be of overall benefit to the UIAA?

There is a definite need to clean up the number of outstanding projects that the UIAA is currently involved with.

New Commission work

Many of our federations manage huts and facilities in the mountains and over the years these federations have accumulated a vast collection of written material regarding best practices in the management of their facilities. Unfortunately much of this knowledge is not readily known or shared with the other federations. We believe that the UIAA website is the perfect venue to share this information and thereby provide a valuable service to our members.

In addition Silvio Calvi from the Club Alpino Italiano has undertaken to create a site on our web that is devoted to the cultural aspects of our sport. We are asking all of our federations to list the libraries, museums, cultural foundations and film festivals that they have an affiliation with in their country. I believe that we will be surprised by the wealth of material that is available and used by our federations.

Competition Activities

Ice Climbing

Major efforts have been made by the commission and the office to ensure that we have a successful upcoming season. We have been holding discussions with an event management company about the possibility of making ice climbing into a truly global sport.

IOC

Through the good work of Dr Nenad Dikic of the **Anti-Doping Commission** we are totally compliment with both WADA and IOC regulations. We are currently completing a report for the IOC Sports Department. The UIAA supports the ideals of the Olympic movement and is honoured to be recognized as an international federation by the IOC. We are also members of **SportAccord**.

Office and staff

The UIAA is fortunate to have a dedicated team lead by Judith Safford in the office. As the UIAA becomes more active and better known, more demands are made of the staff. Running the office is not an easy task to manage with such limited resources, but through adroit management Judith is able to bring it all together. For this we are extremely grateful.

The Budget and Revenue Generation

One of the ongoing challenges facing the UIAA is that the resources we have to run the organization are insufficient to complete the basic work that is required of us if we are to be meaningful to our community. This will not come as a surprise to many of our federations who face the same difficulties!

To meet this challenge we have asked our executive director to generate what we call a progressive budget, one that will allow our her, under the direction of the board, to seek opportunities to raise addition funds. This will not be an easy task because we cannot afford to let the current activities of the UIAA suffer or take a place on the backburner, as we focus our energies in seeking ways to raise new funds. In the short term this will mean dipping into our reserves but the expectation would be to find additional sources of revenue that are not dependent on our membership fees in the long term.

The demand by the retail market for the **UIAA label** in the United States has presented us with an opportunity to raise additional funds from the use of the Safety Label. However this is not without increased costs, mainly from the need to create a mechanism for the professional management in the administration of the label. To this end an administrative data base has now been established by the office.

The German and Austrian Alpine Clubs

In the last year I have met on two occasions with the above mentioned clubs. The first meeting was in Innsbruck with Robert Renzler, the Executive Director of the Austrian Alpine Club. The second meeting was held at the Outdoor Retailer show in Friedrichshafen, Germany when I had the opportunity to meet with the presidents of the DAV and OeAV. This meeting, the first since the departure of these federations from the UIAA, was an opportunity to address the concerns expressed by these organizations and for us to explain what the UIAA had done wherever possible, to attend to these concerns. It was agreed that regardless of the outcome of any discussions, there needed to be close cooperation between all parties.

We have invited the president of the Austrian Alpine Club to come to the Porto General Assembly as an observer. No doubt further meetings will be arranged.

Petzl Foundation

Pierre Humblet, the president of the Mountaineering Commission, in his report talks about the actual work being carried on between this foundation and the UIAA. In addition to Pierre's contacts I was invited to visit Petzl's headquarters in France and meet with the members of the foundation including Paul Petzl, the president. There was general agreement that a valuable relationship should be established between our organizations.

Vision

When I became president I told Frank Urs Muller from the Swiss Alpine Club that if I could not explain to the Alpine Club of Canada why they should be a member of the UIAA in four years time then the ACC should consider leaving the UIAA! Well it's been three years and I think that we are getting closer to the formulating the questions that might be necessary to answer the ACC.



- Is the UIAA providing the services that our federations would like us to provide?
- Does the work of our commissions reflect this need?
- Are we doing this work as effectively as is possible ?
- Do we speak out for the interests of our federations?
- Can we assist smaller federations with fewer resources?
- Do we act as a conduit for information among our federations concerning activities that might be of mutual interest or benefit?

I believe that the UIAA should strike a working group to formulate a **strategic plan** that will help guide our organization through the next few years.

Thanks to the Board

It would be remiss of me not to thank the members of the board for the outstanding service that they have provided us.

Remember our new slogan.

The UIAA is

Everything Mountaineering

Mike Mortimer

Mike Mortimer
President

Executive Director's report



The Team

The last eight months have seen some changes in the staff team. Administrative Assistant Martina Amrein left after 2 ½ years in October to start University studies. Miriam Wälti worked for an intermediary six months before Valérie Thöni started in March 2009 as the new Administrative Officer in Bern. Gurdeepak Ahuja and Prashant Menon finished their internships in December. The UIAA recruited Gurdeepak on a permanent basis and he started work in June. The continuing expansion of the Safety label proved too much work for Valérie Herzig working part time from home, so activities were transferred to the office. Jenny Gabrielsen left the website team after nearly two years and has been replaced by two freelance journalists from Ireland and the US.

The UIAA now has four part-time employees and four free-lancers in a team of seven different nationalities from three continents. Working in a multi-cultural team is demanding, but potentially very efficient and creative. It is also important that the staff reflect the international character of mountaineering and the UIAA as much as possible. Thus it is my intention to keep and expand this broad international representation in the future.

The main activities

Safety Label reform

The largest single project in recent months has been the reform of the Safety Label and supporting the Safety Commission work. We started with a written questionnaire and telephone interviews of the Safety Commission members. From these we were able to identify core objectives for Safety Label development. The task of the office staff is to support the pursuit of the goals by proposing and implementing projects with measurable results.

The first project was the launching of an online administration system and data-base for the Safety Labels. Our objectives were to make Label administration for both the UIAA and the Safety Label holders more efficient, to create an easier way for people to check their equipment, to obtain higher visibility for the Safety Label and to start measures to prevent abuse and fakes. The programming for this application was done by an Indian company and the application was launched at the end of December. The administration of the label has now been enormously simplified. Manufacturers can apply for new labels online and administration procedures have been automated. Climbers, retailers and other interested parties can also check if equipment is certified using a simply search tool. Reporting or otherwise identifying abuse and fakes will now be much easier.

This innovation enabled us to double the Safety Label fees in 2009, without losing any labels. Revenues have increased from just under CHF 20'000 in 2006 to CHF 53'000 in 2008 and are predicted to increase to CHF 85'000 in 2009. The net surplus (income over Safety Label and Commission costs) increased from CHF 6'000 in 2006 to predicted

CHF 35'000 in 2009. It should be noted that this surplus include increases in the Safety Commission budget available for projects and research, but not all the staff costs required this year to implement these changes. We are examining how continued investment in the Safety label can sustain revenue growth in the coming years.

Website and Media

The website has continued to increase in popularity, reflected by increased visits, media re-orting and enquiries to the UIAA office from press, mountaineering interests and the general public. Enquiries were received from sources as varied as BBC and National Geographic to individual climbers in non member countries looking for basic information. The Newsletter is also well-received and subscriptions increase continuously. Since launching the new site in December 2007 visits have increased about 50 fold. A server upgrade was necessary to accommodate the increased traffic. This summer we will make some structural improvements to the website in recognition of changing needs for development

UIAA YouTube and Facebook channels have also been launched. Both FIBA (International Basketball Federation) and WWF International use these so-called Web 2.0 technologies very effectively and have been helpful partners in advising us how to proceed. Until more resources are available, these developments will be kept at a low key; however we believe that Web 2.0 could be an important tool to attract youth to the UIAA and ultimately to member federations.

Branding and marketing

Probably every UIAA volunteer would agree that the International Federation is not well known amongst climbers. One action to make the UIAA more recognised is to make sure that a more consistent graphic image is associated with the UIAA. Currently there are several different symbols and logos used by the different branches of UIAA, and the existing logo is often in different formats or colours. User guidelines and unified UIAA logos have been developed and are available from the office. The guidelines can also be downloaded from the website.

Ice Climbing

Last year the introduction of the competition management system for licences, ranking and results absorbed considerable staff time during the Ice climbing season. The system worked well this year and required little work, which left more time to concentrate on media work and a small survey of the athletes. Webmaster Alex Paun travelled to all four Ice climbing events to run the competition management system, he also photographed extensively. The whole web team worked into the night after every event, producing online results, website articles, press releases and extensive photo galleries immediately after each event. There is still much to be done; however we feel that this years' work built a good media basis to work from.

The future

Last year I expressed the belief that the work at the UIAA would become more difficult and complex to manage in the next two years. This has indeed been the experience at the office. The expansion of UIAA activities and demands on the organisation is in itself very positive. However it has coincided with falling revenues from membership fees, which restrict the re-sources available to handle an enormous increase in work. The next big task is to define a sustainable path of development and find alternative revenue sources.

After three years at the UIAA I am nevertheless optimistic, the recent increase in interest in the UIAA, particularly the changes in the Commissions and the number of new members for election this year, is an indicator that the Board's work of the last years is paying off. Ultimately the UIAA will only thrive and develop through the ideas and activities of the volunteers who dedicate so much time to the sport that they are so passionate about.

Access commission



Problems of access can be observed all over the World in all mountain and climbing and regions. These issues are caused by poor communication, bad practice and a lack of understanding between the parties involved. The **Access Commission** represents the interest of climbers and mountaineers worldwide by assisting 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. The commission:

- Promotes the freedom to practice mountaineering and climbing in a responsible manner.
- Provides advice, with supporting documentation, on the relationship between mountaineering and climbing and environmental, social and legal considerations.
- Encourages best practice in harmonising access with these considerations, and support member federations in challenging inappropriate restrictions.
- Liaises with international organisations on access and conservation issues and provide assistance, when requested, to member federations on such issues within their own countries.
- Fosters research in support of the commissions aims.

In 2008, the commission visited the **Jammu** and **Kashmir** region of India, under the invitation of the Indian Mountaineering Federation (IMF) and the new Governor of the region **N.N. Vohra**. The trip highlighted the problems of continuing conflict in the region on mountain access, with impacts for mountaineering infrastructure and the local economy. The Commission was able to promote the UIAA publication '**Argeos Charter**' on sustainable tourism in developing mountain regions through discussions on the infrastructure required for renewed access. Argeos Charter is available as a download on the UIAA website.

2008 also saw **Bob Pettigrew** step down as commission president after 8 years in the position, at the end of his second term. In early 2009 a new President and Secretary were elected, as well as new commission members from Italy and Bulgaria. The change in personnel and a stronger focus on Access, with the renaming of the commission at the UIAA Management Committee meeting in May, provides an opportunity to reinvigorate the commission's activities and refine its work.



In 2009 the Commission plans to:

- Maximise the use of the UIAA website to create a portal for information on access and conservation and good practice information.
- Establish relationships with conservation and environmental conservation organisations, with a view to developing protocols for responsible access to climbing and mountaineering areas.
- Keep and develop an accessible database of access issues worldwide and to support national federations in associated access negotiations.

The UIAA Access Commission will also be taking on the access related work, after a review, of the work and project of what was previously the UIAA Expeditions Commission.

In the summer of 2009 the Secretary of the UIAA Access Commission and Mike Mortimer (UIAA President) will be representing the UIAA at the first ever **Pan-America climbing access event** taking place in Squamish, British Columbia. The event organised by volunteers will bring together activists from all the Americas with the idea of creating an organization dedicated exclusively to protecting climber access in the Western Hemisphere. Access Pan America hopes to be a network of resources, organizers, and communications to foster the process of local climbers organizations.

Looking to the future, 2010 and beyond, the Access Commission is keen to develop joint projects with the Youth Commission and Mountain Protection Commission, to promote responsible access through environmental expeditions and initiatives. Young people are the Sports future and responsible access to minimise environmental impacts on our mountains will inevitably be critical for the future of mountaineering and climbing and free access.

Mountain protection commission



Bringing science, sport, and tourism together

Building on a firm platform of declarations and publications created over the years which define the goals and ethics of our Commission, we are now focused on **turning ideas into actions**. In 2009 we began working on our long-term vision to bring the three key mountain stakeholder groups—science, sport, and tourism—together with land managers to dramatically improve mountain protection around the world through effective collaborations and communications.

We are moving our vision into reality by **creating projects and connections** that enable climbers and mountaineers around the world to distinguish themselves as long-term “citizen scientists” and highly-valuable mountain stewards, with proven skills to access and monitor the world’s vertical landscapes.

Helping scientists and land managers protect mountains with climbers and mountaineers allows us to highlight our deep knowledge of mountains and our long history as conservation leaders around the world. It effectively reverses old perceptions of climbers and mountaineers as “part of the problem” of mountain protection, into realization that they are in fact a crucially-important **“part of the solution”** of mountain protection especially in the face of climate change. By continually creating, testing, and promoting new ways to pursue our sports while “leaving no trace” on the mountains we cherish, we clearly demonstrate and encourage a better, more ethical and sustainable “path” for the world’s mountain tourists and tour operators to follow.

The Commission offers:

- A compelling long-term vision and unified voice for climbers and mountaineers to again “claim the high ground” as historical leaders and key stakeholders in mountain protection issues around the world
- Strong working partnerships with governmental agencies and the world’s leading conservation organizations to achieve effective protection of mountain ecosystems
- Updates, alerts, and action programs on mountain protection issues facing mountain regions of the world
- Innovative events that educate and inspire meaningful action in response to the impacts of climate change, loss of biodiversity, population growth, etc. on mountains and their cultures
- A collaborative platform for Federations to share mountain protection information, actions, results, “best practices”, and opportunities from their regions

- Valuable international mountain stewardship projects linking climbers and mountaineers with scientists and land managers to assess, understand, and protect the natural and cultural resources of mountain regions such as the Himalaya and Yosemite.

Achievements

- Demonstrating Mountain Protection **“Best Practices”**: In 2009, MPC Commission member Ang Tshering Sherpa and Dawa Steven Sherpa followed up on the huge success of their 2008 Eco-Everest Expedition, which focused on creating climate change awareness and testing effective low-impact mountaineering practices. Their 2009 Eco-Everest Expedition continued to refine the eco-friendly “leave no trace” mountaineering style using solar-powered cookers, a highly-effective “Cash for Trash” program for removal and recycling of all trash on the Everest massif, and advanced human waste management and removal systems. The Expedition also partnered with WWF-Nepal to promote their global climate change awareness program.
- Preserving the Natural and Cultural Resources of Mountain Regions: In the Khumbu-Everest region of Nepal, Dawa Steven Sherpa and iDEAS worked closely with local, national and international groups to organize two new events which attracted worldwide media attention to the perils of **spontaneous glacial lake outburst floods** (GLOFs) that could destroy the precious natural and cultural resources of that region, and others around the world with rapidly-growing glacial lakes, at any moment. The Imja Tsho Action Run featured more than 130 local men and women trying to “Beat the GLOF” by racing along the footpaths of the expected flood zones. The next day, the Khumjung Festival featured a series of leaders speaking out about the need for all mountains stakeholder groups to work together to understand and address the impacts of climate change on the Himalaya and other mountains of the world. Large exhibits of maps, books, and other informational literature were available to attendees, along with a surprise special appearance by the Himalaya’s water hero, Pani Prasad (“Water Blessing”) encouraging everyone to do all they can each day to conserve the world’s precious **water resources**.
- Working as “Citizen Scientists” to Respond Effectively to **Climate Change Impacts** in Mountain Regions: As a result of the success of the Lichen Inventory Projects in Yosemite National Park in 2007 and 2008 led by MPC Commission member Linda McMillan as part of the All-Taxa Biodiversity Index for Yosemite, the UIAA has been asked to participate in a new long-term trans-Himalayan ecosystem monitoring project by ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) to help establish several new scientific transects within the Hindu Kush-Himalayas to understand and combat the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in that important mountain region. UIAA members have the **exploratory skills and diverse expertise** to support these innovative and collaborative types of transects and large landscape projects to help scientists and land managers understanding biodiversity loss caused by climate change in mountain regions. Among other tasks, climbers and mountaineers will help scientists with mapping remote areas, placing and retrieving remote sensing devices, cataloguing changes to ice and rock formations over time, submitting continual data about their observations of plants and animals in the region, gathering images and data about indigenous peoples and cultures, etc...
- Bringing Together Stakeholder Groups To Find Solutions to Major Mountain Protection Issues: In 2009 the Mountain Protection Commission also focused on organizing a major international conference in 2010 to find practical solutions to an increasingly serious mountain protection issue: **human waste management**. The conference “Exit Strategies: Managing Human Waste in the Wild” will take place July 30-31 in Golden, Colorado hosted by The American Alpine Club with participation from the UIAA. Presentations will be given by international experts on this issue, technologies will be explained and discussed, and participants will include major land management agencies such as the US National Park Service, US Bureau of Land Management, and USDA Forest Service.



Mountaineering commission

Ethics

Our rules of best practices are not written in marble and we try to adapt our principles to the evolution of mountaineering. In 2008-2009 we have been working mainly on "Good Style" vs "fixed ropes, supplementary oxygen and performance enhancing drugs". We submitted a new wording to the UIAA Management Committee to improve the corresponding paragraph of the **Tyrol Declaration**. We made our comments about the draft of a new version of the former 2002 "Mountain Code" too.

Technique

A topic for our **Training Standards Working Group** which draws its members from the UIAA Mountaineering Commission. It holds two meetings per year, alongside the Mountaineering Commission, and held its biennial Training Standards Seminar in May of 2008.

We have published the revised **Training Standards booklet** and this was distributed to delegates at the bi-annual seminar. Let's remind ourselves that the goals of the TSWG are to develop model training standards for voluntary leaders and instructors and assess their implementation so that the UIAA Federations can base their own training courses on widely accepted principles and standards.

During the last year we have granted approval for new standards in USA (AMGA) and Canada (ENEC). Our approval scheme has reached maturity and we are embarking on a programme of renewals at the end of the second five year period.

We are actively involved in supporting a number of applicants including those from Russia, Finland, Slovakia, Portugal, Chile, Netherlands, Belgium and Israel.

Twenty representatives from twelve federations attended the fourth UIAA Training Standards Seminar held at Plas y Brenin (Wales, UK) in May 2008. During two intensive days the Seminar completed the following work:

Visits to slate quarries and a sea cliff allowed delegates to discuss site-specific issues in relation to national and international standards. No single training scheme can prepare every leader to deal with all possible environments, but the adoption of international standards means that an employer/organiser can gauge what judgments and skills have already been assessed and focus on verifying site-specific or special environmental competencies. Exploring the quarries underlined the importance of understanding national laws and local bylaws. Most delegates made a short presentation about their federation's training schemes.

Group discussions highlighted the fact that some countries or regions stipulate specific qualifications, or membership of specific professional bodies, so there are also legal restrictions to cross-border recognition of qualifications.

We believe that the Training Standard guidance successfully accommodates the wide differences in law and common practice that exist around the world.



In 2006 the UIAA Mountaineering Commission initiated collaboration with the **Petzl Foundation** in view of spreading the basis of technical knowledge. In this frame the Petzl Foundation has organized with the help of our Commission a set of lessons in Kakani, Nepal. In November we'll have a meeting in New Delhi with the Indian Mountaineering Foundation to examine the opportunities and the possibilities of a common work between IMF, the Petzl Foundation and the UIAA Mountaineering Commission.

Still in the same vein, the Petzl Foundation has drafted a technical teaching handbook based mainly on drawings so that it could be widely used. The UIAA Mountaineering Commission has reviewed this interesting manual and given several advices for its improvement. The common use of this handbook after its redrafting will be decided in the months to come.

Federations and specialized editors are issuing **technical books** about several aspects of mountaineering and climbing but their distribution is often limited to the national or local level. We have drafted a form to be completed and in the coming months we will distribute this form to the federations and their editors so that they will be able to inform us in a standardized manner about their publications in view of implementing a devoted column in the UIAA website. One of the Mountaineering Commission's goals is to be a **platform for exchanges** between the member federations.

Ads

Ads are illustrating our ordinary lives, trying to influence consumers' behaviour as much as possible. We discovered that in the recent years mountains and climbs have been used a lot in advertising, from bankers to car manufacturers! So we started a collection. As soon as having a significant set, we will start analyzing what values do advertisers find in mountaineering (results so far as "security", "cleanness", "team work", etc.). This will be very useful while lobbying for our federations!

Accidents

We initiated a new work on the **accident statistics** with three main goals. Firstly we would bring together the data provided by member federations and other organizations. Secondly since technique is one of our focuses, the statistics could help to determine what could be improved in the technical training. Finally it could be a tremendous tool to discuss with the insurance carriers.

Legal matters

The **Regulations** we are considering are the national and international laws dealing with liability problems, access, etc., but also the international treaties and rules issued to educate sportsmen performing in natural areas and fight against doping in sport activities. The work is done by our **Legal Experts Working Group**.

Several countries are experiencing difficulties regarding restrictions, and sometimes the banning of climbing in areas in which there are conservation issues or a conflict of interest with other groups. Such cases are often brought to our attention, and we are at your disposal to provide advice and support to try to resolve such conflicts fairly and amicably.

The winter creates its own special problems: the new ski law in Italy imposes more liability for the resorts exploiter, but there does not seem to be a clear definition as to where the ski run ends and outside piste commences. French law, however, has made clear distinctions between "monitored ski area", "hors piste" and "haute montagne". Our Working Group will work on a report concerning liability in winter sports, starting in Italy.

Our Legal Group has reviewed contracts and commented on a standard of the UIAA Medical commission. They have provided advice and assistance to the UIAA Executive Board on several issues.



Safety commission

Growth of UIAA Safety Label

The number of labels is increasing worldwide. Many new manufacturers are asking for the label from countries like USA, China, Brazil, Russia, Ukraine, Iran, etc.

The UIAA Label is today **the worldwide reference** for the safety equipment of mountaineering and climbing with 56 manufacturers representing over 1600 active labels.

In order to support the further development of the Label, an on-line management system was developed by the team and introduced on January 1st 2009. It enables:

- more efficient management and automated administration processes,
- real-time link to the public online data-base of labels on the UIAA website,
- stronger enforcement policy and prevention of misuse.

In addition New Regulations have been approved, and the concept of partnership with manufacturers has been introduced, which will improve potential co-operation. The Safety Label administrator is Valerie Thoeni, who works from the UIAA Bern office, which enables better co-ordination with the central administration and the Commission President in nearby Chamonix. The office has also provided increased support to the Commission in organising the annual meeting.

Increase of the fees

At the last plenary session in Prague it was decided to increase the Safety Label fees. The increase in safety label holders and the fees has taken revenue from the label from under CHF 20'000 in 2006 to a projected CHF 85'000 in 2009. At the meeting it was also decided to increase the voting rights of the manufacturers to increase co-operation, but in a way that the votes of the national delegates of the Safety Commission are still decisive.



It has been also decided that a part of the new incomes will be used for the promotion of the Label and for technical research.

Technical matters

Braking Devices (abseiling and belaying devices)

The new UIAA standard No. 129 on braking devices was released in September 2009. Most of the decisions for the different tests have been taken in Prague and the Standard was finally approved in Golden in May 2009, where more than 15 manufacturers of these equipment were present; we expect many new labels when this standard will be published (potential of more than 100 labels).

Energetic approach for rope testing (Edge Energy Absorbing Test)

The work mainly develop by CAI (Carlo Zanantoni) will continue. It is hoped that the development of these tests will allow further researches on ropes aging, and may be will be in future as an additional test in the standard.

Other work includes **recommendations for equipping Via Ferrata** and recommendations for inspection and retirement of mountaineering equipment. These recommendations based on French work will be published on the website.

Updates of all the UIAA Standards

All the standards have now been updated and published on the website

Harnesses:

Few accidents show clearly that the test method must be improved. A working group has to propose the expected changes for next year, taking mainly in account the consequences of head-first falls.

Rock anchors:

A few accidents have been report because of failure of stainless steel anchors, all the cases happened in tropical area and see water environment (Dominican Republic, Madagascar, and certainly Thailand) Certainly due to the phenomenon of stress corrosion. The Safcom is working closely with manufacturers on that subject and more information is expected later this year.

Medical commission

The **mission** of the Medical Commission of the UIAA is to increase knowledge about mountain medicine among doctors, other health care professionals, mountaineers and in general, sojourners from all over the world to promote safety in the mountains. We continue to maintain a forum of international medical doctors, specialised in different fields of mountain medicine. Over time we have broadened our remit beyond mountaineers, to include all who ascend to high altitude for a variety of reasons. We also continue to work with the International Society of Mountain Medicine (ISMM) which was founded in 1986 by MedCom UIAA in order to do scientific research in the different fields of mountain medicine. In Aviemore Scotland in 2007, we held a joint meeting with the Wilderness Medical Society and the ISMM using the same venue site.

Training

Together with our partners MedCom ICAR and ISMM, the Medical Commission has established and developed a joint **Diploma in Mountain Medicine**. The courses are divided up into three sections: basic course, course for trekking/expeditions and a specialty course for Mountain Emergency Medicine. The specialty course is designed for the training of emergency physicians and paramedics working in mountain rescue organisations. If institutions organise a mountain medicine course and follow our minimum curricula, they can apply to our Approval Board the right to use the ISMM/UIAA/ICAR logos and award our Diploma.

More than 3500 doctors have been trained in these courses up to now. There are **13 different courses** for mountain medicine held in Austria, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

In 2008 one of our main aim, as discussed in our annual meeting in Zdonov near Teplice in the Czech Republic, was to update our **recommendations** that range from prevention and treatment of altitude sickness to water purification in the field to **advice** for especial groups (children and women, for example) ascending to high altitude. We have now been successful in putting these recommendations in our medcom UIAA website so that all who wish to can benefit from these recommendations. We are also in the process of translating these recommendations into different languages to help as many people as possible.

Importantly as many people are ascending to high altitude who are not all fit mountain climbers, it is important to note that many with pre existing common medical problems (hypertension, diabetes, history of heart attacks and strokes, seizures) form an important group of travellers these days. We have therefore taken especial care in updating this section and also putting simple references in our link in the website which refer to the problem of pre existing medical problems (see Travel at High Altitude in the download section of the medcom website).



Mountains worldwide

We have examined the problem of medical screening of climbers after payment of their peak fee at Base Camp on Aconcagua using blood pressure screening to turn away climbers with even borderline high blood pressure. This has caused problems for climbers who have been turned back by young inexperienced doctors with police authority and support. We felt that this decision of turning away climbers with this degree of hypertension was based on false medical evidence and letters have been published in medical journals and we also wrote to the Argentinean authorities.

We have also tried to bring attention to the problem of increase in park fees for Kilimanjaro (5800 m altitude) which has increased financial pressure encouraging inexperienced trekkers to **venture too high too quickly** on certain routes thus making Kilimanjaro more dangerous to climb than peaks of similar altitude in the Mount Everest region (Kalapattar for example). Because the altitude sickness problems sometimes result in deaths in this region, we have put an elaborate discussion on alternative **safer routes up Kilimanjaro** in our medcom website.



Mountain rescue

In May 2009, we helped arrange a specialty course in mountain rescue medicine in Kathmandu, Nepal with the help of the International Commission for Mountain Emergency Medicine (ICCAR Medcom) under the leadership Dr Hermann Brugger working together with the Himalayan Rescue Association. **Hands on mountain rescue medicine** for local doctors, health professionals and Sherpas had never been carried to this degree in such an organized manner.

Topics covered by the Europeans mountain physicians were rescue techniques, immobilization, intubation, ventilation and volume resuscitation in the field. Other topics were rescue and trauma treatment in the mountains after proper assessment. Hand gliding and paragliding injuries together with lightning injuries were also well covered in a simple understandable manner. Hypothermia and frostbite was especially emphasized as many porters are not well aware of these illnesses.

Education

In June 2009 after at least ten pilgrims died over the past three weeks while visiting the pilgrimage site of Kailash Mansarover area at an altitude of 4560 meters in Tibet, the medical commission of the UIAA called for urgent action through the UIAA website to prevent deaths among these vulnerable Himalayan pilgrims. The pilgrims are said to have died of altitude related illnesses and worsening of co-morbid conditions. Unlike younger tourists or climbers, pilgrims are generally older. Most of these pilgrims had ascended very rapidly by cars or helicopters and hence were unable to acclimatize to the altitude, leading to life threatening conditions such as high altitude cerebral oedema (HACE) and high altitude pulmonary oedema (HAPE).

The UIAA Medical Commission suggests better education and awareness about the prevention and treatment of altitude related illnesses to prevent these untoward deaths in this neglected population.

We plan to have our annual meeting in Kathmandu from November 15 to 17, 2009 and once again try to provide a greater exposure on mountain medicine to the young doctors and health professionals in this region by having them interact with the visiting medcom doctors. In addition we will continue to refine our recommendation papers, discuss about our Diploma in Mountain medicine programme, and search ways in collaborating with ICCAR medcom and other mountain medicine groups in our endeavour to keep the mountains safe for all.

Youth commission



Global Youth Summit (GYS)

Through youth mountain activities the **Global Youth Summit (GYS)** promotes **co-operation, peace and protection of the environment**. The GYS series also presented an opportunity to bring attention to the positive health, performance and educational benefits of sport. The Youth Commission also provides a forum where specific country exchanges can be established, for example, expedition training programmes, environmental work, performance climbing or simply enjoying the mountains together.

The UIAA Youth Commission offers:

- Good practice advice and support for Federation event organisers, through generating resources, holding training seminars and in country training
- Funding for agreed development projects to support federations or countries starting or extending a youth climbing or mountaineering programme
- Co-ordinating and promoting a series of Global Youth Summit events for young climbers and mountaineers with organisers criteria and recommendations for youth events
- An international platform for Federations to exchange experience and speak with one voice
- An opportunity to work and educate at a global or continental level with external international organisations

In 2008 we saw more than 1000 young participants from over 30 countries and their leaders take part in GYS programmes, largely due to the initiative of CAI to celebrate Ekecheiria. As the flame in Beijing was extinguished on August 24, hundreds of young climbers from around the world lit torches on mountain tops **to keep Olympic values alive**. "The emotions and feeling that we were gathering with our friends on different peaks in the world on the same day, same hour, it was really special," says Zdenka Mihelic from the UIAA Youth Commission. The main IOC/ARISF supported training focus for 2008 was a route setting training, 'Discovering New Routes' in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. These seminars often allow informal discussion and advice on engaging young people in Federation activities and sharing technical best practice.

Achievements:

In 2009 UIAA Youth Commission members have so far:

- Made positive comment on the World Declaration for Sport,
- Supported the Rory Lowther Memorial Challenge in South Africa co-ordinated by MCSA as the first step in the 2009 'Developing Africa' initiative,
- Co-ordinated international events calendar through the 2009 events co-ordinator, the event organisers and Commission President,
- Produced an EU and grant funding update,
- Produced a template poster for 2009 events which can be used by event organisers and event banners,
- Produced several news reports for the UIAA website.

We have been asked for assistance in training of Georgian leaders (MCAG) for Ski Mountaineering in 2009 and are welcoming 2010 proposals. We have also received a youth training request from MCSA which should be implemented in 2009. So far in 2009, 7 countries took part in the Slovenia Ski touring event in March in some challenging conditions. At the time of writing UIAA youth events feature 5th and 7th in the Google search for 'youth mountaineering' and 4th for 'Global Youth Summit' just after UN Global Youth Summit and before the Special Olympics Global Youth Summit, showing more people are becoming aware of it.

We are compiling a downloadable '**Youth Events Handbook**' for 2009, a collection of various useful documents to access FAQ's, criteria and recommendations, applying for events & support in event visits and training seminars and what is expected in terms of **media coverage and publicity**. We are expecting event CD's or DVD's and hope to produce a video of activity in 2008/9, to assist with communication to external organisations. **We offer support** and joint funding possibilities to some Federations in training programmes as well as **partnerships with manufacturers**. 2010 will continue on similar principles with a more **project based approach**, particularly for joint work with other Commissions such as ice climbing, anti doping and environment.



Ice climbing commission

The UIAA Commission for Ice Climbing Competitions will endeavour the promotion and organization of international ice climbing competitions in accordance to the **values and spirit** of the UIAA and the Olympic Movement.

Looking back to 2008-2009

The season of 2008-2009 has been yet another season of committed Ice Climbing competitions in four Countries in Europe (Italy, Switzerland, Romania and Slovenia) showing the **tradition and motivation** of their climbers.

The financial achievements of the Commission have been successful but will not allow future investment in the Sport in order to develop it to the standards required for becoming an Olympic Sport. The status is a break-even situation allowing competitions to be held with dignity and in accordance to established goals.

A plan is then established to meet ambitious goals for 2014 so that Ice Climbing can be demonstrated as a Sport in Sochi, Russia in the **Winter Olympic Games**. The Commission is reinforced with the addition of new members from more Countries and it is restructured so that specialized teams can focus their attention in specific matters.

Preparing for the future

The Ice Climbing team (the Commission and all involved stakeholders) have concluded about the urgent need for **increasing the number of competitions** all over the World and not just in Europe. This conclusion has become number one priority for the whole commission and a task force has been designated for achieving that goal. So far the response has been very positive and expectations are high in order to achieve 12 solid and well established competitions by the year of 2014.

The work done by volunteer members of the commission is fundamental for the progress of the Sport but it will come to a point where professional support will be required. That aspect is already being taken care of and hopefully the Commission will be able to build a competition circuit with a common flavour and **professional sense** where the image of UIAA will be promoted and enhanced.

The **training** of new qualified people for judging the competitions and setting the routes that challenge the athletes worldwide has also ranked very high in the priorities of the Commission. There are already courses scheduled to meet these requirements. The support given by other commissions within UIAA is the proof of the true spirit that characterizes Mountaineering. It exists and is a fact. The **interaction with Anti-doping Commission** allows the commission to rely on the fact that all support on this matter is granted by highly qualified people and that the required tests for meeting WADA requirements are being held.

The true universality of a Sport can only be fully expressed when it reaches the young



climbers. This need has been also set as a goal in the extent that it will allow the creation of new competitions specifically for teenagers ranking in the initial levels of the Sport. The interaction with the Youth Commission will also be highly valued. The UIAA commitment to support Ice Climbing as a Sport and promote it to the Olympics is unquestionable and a matter of primordial importance.

Anti-doping commission

Out of competition controls. Decision to use a 12 hour slot before the competition in Saas Fee was important since UIAA AD Com has started the out-of-competition controls. This was essential for the WADA evaluation of the anti-doping program of UIAA.

Doping tests have been performed at all UIAA Ice climbing competitions; the results of each have been negative.

We have introduced for the first time the **Registered Testing Pool** with ten athletes, four of them have responded and their data have been entered into ADAMS. We have prepared **TUE** and **DoU** (Declaration of Use) forms according to the Revised Code 2009 and uploaded them onto our website. Communication with athletes is continuous.

UIAA is **Code compliant** from May 2009.

Goals for 2010

- All anti-doping programs (in-competition doping controls, out-of-competition doping controls, Registered Testing Pool, ADAMS and TUE) will continue in 2010.
- A medical research project in Ice climbing is under preparation.
- Athlete outreach program in Ice climbing is under preparation.

The UIAA

Tyrol Declaration

Individual Responsibility

Maxim: Mountaineers and climbers practice their sport in situations where there is risk of accidents and outside help may not be available. With this in mind, they pursue this activity at their own responsibility and are accountable for their own safety. The individual's actions should not endanger those around them nor the environment.

Team Spirit

Maxim: Members of the team should be prepared to make compromises in order to balance the interests and abilities of all the group.

Climbing and Mountaineering Community

Maxim: We owe every person we meet in the mountains or on the rocks an equal measure of respect. Even in isolated conditions and stressful situations, we should not forget to treat others as we want to be treated ourselves.

Visiting Foreign Countries

Maxim: As guests in foreign cultures, we should always conduct ourselves politely and with restraint towards the people there – our hosts. We will respect holy mountains and other sacred places while seeking to benefit and assist local economy and people. Understanding of foreign cultures is part of a complete climbing experience.

Responsibilities of Mountain Guides and other Leaders

Maxim: Professional mountain guides, other leaders and group members should each understand their respective roles and respect the freedoms and rights of other groups and individuals. In order to be prepared guides, leaders and group members should understand the demands, hazards and risks of the objective, have the necessary skills, experience and correct equipment, and check the weather and conditions.

Emergencies, Dying and Death

Maxim: To be prepared for emergencies and situations involving serious accidents and death all participants in mountain sports should clearly understand the risks and hazards and the need to have appropriate skills, knowledge and equipment. All participants need to be ready to help others in the event of an emergency or accident and also be ready to face the consequences of a tragedy.

Access and Conservation

Maxim: We believe that freedom of access to mountains and cliffs in a responsible manner is a fundamental right. We should always practice our activities in an environmentally sensitive way and be proactive in preserving nature. We respect access restrictions and regulations agreed by climbers with nature conservation organizations and authorities.

Style

Maxim: The quality of the experience and how we solve a problem is more important than whether we solve it. We strive to leave no trace.

First Ascents

Maxim: The first ascent of a route or a mountain is a creative act. It should be done in at least as good a style as the traditions of the region and show responsibility toward the local climbing community and the needs of future climbers.

Sponsorship, Advertising and Public Relations

Maxim: The cooperation between sponsors and athletes must be a professional relationship that serves the best interests of mountain sports. It is the responsibility of the mountain sports community in all its aspects to educate and inform both media and public in a proactive manner.

Use of Supplementary Oxygen in Mountaineering

Maxim: The use of supplementary oxygen in high altitude Mountaineering has been under debate for several years. In this debate, different aspects related to the topic can be distinguished, such as medical aspects and ethical aspects. These medical aspects should be of paramount concern to all mountaineers.

High altitude Guided Commercial Expeditions

Maxim: Commercial operators attempting 8000m or other comparable peaks which offer more limited facilities must recognize the limitations of the clients whom they guide. All efforts must be made to ensure the safety of their clients.



New initiatives

In the recent meetings the idea of introducing new sectors in the activity of the UIAA has been developed. Looking through the history of the association quite a few topics were developed in older times, and today they are forgotten or set aside for different reasons. At the same time if we consider the activity of our members' federations, there is a lot of interest in two fields, which are related to mountaineering.

Mountain culture

The interest of the largest federations in mountain culture issues and activities is quite evident. All federations interviewed last year by the Italian Alpine Club CAI reported that all of them are working in the promotion of mountain culture. Some are active directly, through special commissions, others have set up separate entities which pursue specific goals. It can be of interest for the UIAA to give to these institutions a special window in our activity. A tentative list can be the following:

Museums

- Museo della Montagna Torino
- Mountain Museum in Bern
- DAV Museum in Munich
- White Museum in Banff

Libraries

- Alpine Club in London
- American Alpine Club in London
- Biblioteca Nazionale in Turin

Cultural events

- Alliance for Mountain Film festival
- Trento Film Festival
- Banff Mountain Festival

For the museums the possibility has been discussed with the directors of the Museo Montagna in Turin, Aldo Audisio and Knobloch, director of the Swiss Museum. Both appreciated the idea and are willing to work on it. In the conversation with Audisio we developed the idea of a meeting of the major institutions, organized by the Italians in Turin, in conjunction with the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Alliance for Film festival. Knobloch was keen to extend the project to the Museums in Innsbruck and Munich. As for libraries, meetings were held with both the Italian and the American librarians at their locations.

In 2002 a survey was already taken by the BMC among the different libraries. This can be used as a starting point. The role of the UIAA can be that of leading to the creation of a link between the institutions, based on our website. The acting leaders should be the directors of the main institutions. In fact they all appear to look for such a



development, that is the linking of all the cultural mountain institutions. As for the organization, an open WG has to be established, open for instance to one institution for each member federation.

Mountain huts

UIAA was a key factor in developing programs for huts. Our history is full of proposals and debates.

UIAA was the project leader for establishing the reciprocity project for mountain huts which is slowly turning into a German lead organization, dedicated only to a financial agreement and funds to be collected and distributed.

No action is taken toward the development of a "hut project" based on the common interests that mountaineers and federations have toward a correct establishment of buildings.

There are concurrent interests in a hut program. Big federations can share knowledge: in the last two years French government developed a project for the analysis of hut in the Alps. DAV and OeAV has prepared a project on 100 huts in the eastern part of the Alps. In Valle d'Aosta (in Italy) a project was done to amylase huts technology. These are only a few examples and show the interest in the issue.

Three are the major points for a possible program:

- cold climate technology;
- environmental issues;
- climate change and energy.

All lead to a possible joint action moving through these steps:

- share knowledge on the best available products;
- information on the key problems;
- develop an environmental label;
- involve manufacturers into an advertising scheme.

Small federations are interested in understanding the problems associated with huts, without wasting time and money in errors.

The involvement for UIAA means establishing a special working group and using the website for sharing the information.

Our website

UIAA launched its new website at the end of 2007. Thanks to the improved navigation structure, more pleasing layout and most of all its greatly expanded and regularly updated contents, the number of visitors has grown considerably. Visitors come from six continents – an acknowledgement of the global nature and significance of UIAA. The website provides various services, ranging from medical advice to travellers at high altitude to providing space to member federations to promote their mountaineering activities.

One of the most important tasks of UIAA is to ensure the reliability of equipment climbers and mountaineers use. The website lists all products that have passed the rigorous UIAA tests and thus can be used safely in the mountains.

The website covers practically all aspects of climbing and mountaineering and it is gradually turning into one of the main sources of information for mountaineers worldwide.



Venues of the UIAA General Assemblies

1934	Pontresina	Switzerland	1976	Barcelona	Spain
1935	Barcelona	Spain	1977	Mexico City	Mexico
1936	Geneva	Switzerland	1978	Lagonissi	Greece
1937	Paris	France	1979	Pinkham Notch	USA
1938	Prague	Czechoslovakia	1980	Geneva	Switzerland
1939	Zermatt	Switzerland	1981	Lugano	Switzerland
1947	Geneva	Switzerland	1982	Kathmandu	Nepal
1948	Geneva	Switzerland	1983	Brussels	Belgium
1949	Chamonix	France	1984	Seoul	Korea
1950	Milano	Italy	1985	Venice	Italy
1951	Bled	Yugoslavia	1986	Munich	Germany
1952	Zell am See	Austria	1987	Marrakech	Morocco
1953	Delphes	Greece	1988	Banff	Canada
1954	Grenoble	France	1989	New Delhi	India
1955	Munich	Germany	1990	Kerkade	Netherlands
1956	Madrid	Spain	1991	Budapest	Hungary
1957	Trento	Italy	1992	Matsumoto	Japan
1958	Lugano	Switzerland	1993	Santiago	Chile
1959	Amsterdam	Netherlands	1994	Istanbul	Turkey
1960	Jahorina	Yugoslavia	1995	Cape Town	South Africa
1961	Vienna	Austria	1996	Thun	Switzerland
1962	Corfu	Greece	1997	Kranjska Gora	Slovenia
1963	Interlaken	Switzerland	1998	Malacca	Malaysia
1964	Munich	Germany	1999	Olympia	Greece
1965	Utrecht	Netherlands	2000	Paris	France
1966	Courmayeur	Italy	2001	St. Johann	Austria
1967	Madrid	Spain	2002	Flagstaff	USA
1968	London	Great Britain	2003	Berchtesgaden	Germany
1969	Prague	Czechoslovakia	2004	New Delhi	India
1970	Crete	Greece	2005	Singapore	Singapore
1971	Zakopane	Poland	2006	Banff	Canada
1972	Montreux	Switzerland	2007	Matsumoto	Japan
1973	Tbilisi	USSR	2008	Teheran	Iran
1974	Delnice	Yugoslavia	2009	Porto	Portugal
1975	Obertauern	Austria			



Member federations

Andorra:	Federacio Andorrana de Muntanyisme	Latvia:	Latvian Alpinist Association
Argentina:	Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo	Liechtenstein:	Lichtensteiner Alpenverein
Austria:	Austrian Skimountaineering Organisation for Competitions	Lithuania:	Lithuanian Mountaineering Association
Belgium:	Climbing & Mountaineering Belgium	Luxembourg:	Fédération Luxembourgeoise d'Escalade, de Randonnée Sportive et d'Alpinisme
Bosnia and Herzegovina:	Mountaineering Union of Bosnia - Herzegovina	Mexico:	Federación Mexicana de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada AC
Brazil:	Confederação Brasileira de Montanhismo e Escalada	Monaco:	Club Alpin Monégasque
Bulgaria:	Bulgarian Climbing and Mountaineering Federation	Nepal:	Nepal Mountaineering Association
Canada:	The Alpine Club of Canada	Netherlands:	Royal Dutch Mountaineering and Climbing Club
	Ecole Nationale d'Escalade du Québec	New Zealand:	New Zealand Alpine Club
	Fédération Québécoise de la Montagne et de l'Escalade	Norway:	Norwegian Alpine Club
Chile:	Federación de Andinismo de Chile		The Norwegian Climbing Federation
China:	Chinese Mountaineering Association	Pakistan:	Alpine Club of Pakistan
	Chinese Taipei Alpine Association	Poland:	Polish Mountaineering Association
	Chinese Taipei Mountaineering Association	Portugal:	Clube Nacional de Montanhismo
Croatia:	Mountaineering Association of Croatia		Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal
Cyprus:	Mountaineering and Climbing Federation of Cyprus		Federação Portuguesa de Montanhismo e Escalada
Czech Republic:	Czech Mountaineering Federation	Republic of Korea:	Corean Alpine Club
Denmark:	Danish Alpine Club		Korean Alpine Federation
	Danish Climbing Federation	Romania:	Clubul Alpin Roman
Ecuador:	Ecuadorian Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing Sports	Russia:	Climbing Federation of Russia
	Union Panamericana de Asociaciones Montañismo y Escalada		Russian Mountaineering Federation
Finland:	Finnish Climbing Association	Serbia:	Mountaineering Association of Serbia
France:	Fédération française des clubs alpins et de montagne	Singapore:	Singapore Mountaineering Federation
	Fédération Française de la Montagne et de l'Escalade	Slovakia:	Slovak Mountaineering Union
Georgia:	Mountaineering and Climbing Association of Georgia	Slovenia:	Alpine Association of Slovenia
Greece:	Hellenic Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing	South Africa:	The Mountain Club of South Africa
Hong Kong:	Hong Kong Mountaineering Union	Spain:	Federación Española de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada
	Hong Kong Sport Climbing Union		Centre Excursionista de Catalunya
Hungary:	Hungarian Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Association		Basque Mountaineering Federation
	Magyar Sportturisztikai Szövetség		Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya
India:	Indian Mountaineering Foundation	Sweden:	Swedish Climbing Association
Indonesia:	Federasi Panjat Tebing Indonesia	Switzerland:	Schweizer Alpen-Club
I.R. Iran:	I.R. Iran Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation		International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations
Ireland:	Mountaineering Ireland		Vereinigung Akademischer Alpenclubs der Schweiz
Israel:	The Israeli Alpine Club	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:	Macedonian Mountain Sport Federation
Italy:	Club Alpino Italiano		Turkish Mountaineering Federation
	Alpenverein Südtirol	Turkey:	Ukrainian Mountaineering Federation
	Federazione Arrampicata Sportiva Italiana	Ukraine:	British Mountaineering Council
	Federazione Italiana Sport Invernali	Great Britain:	The Alpine Club
Japan:	Japan Mountaineering Association		The American Alpine Club
Kazakhstan:	Mountaineering and Climbing Federation of Republic of Kazakhstan	USA:	Alaskan Alpine Club