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Annual report **2011**

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The UIAA has a special thought for former UIAA President

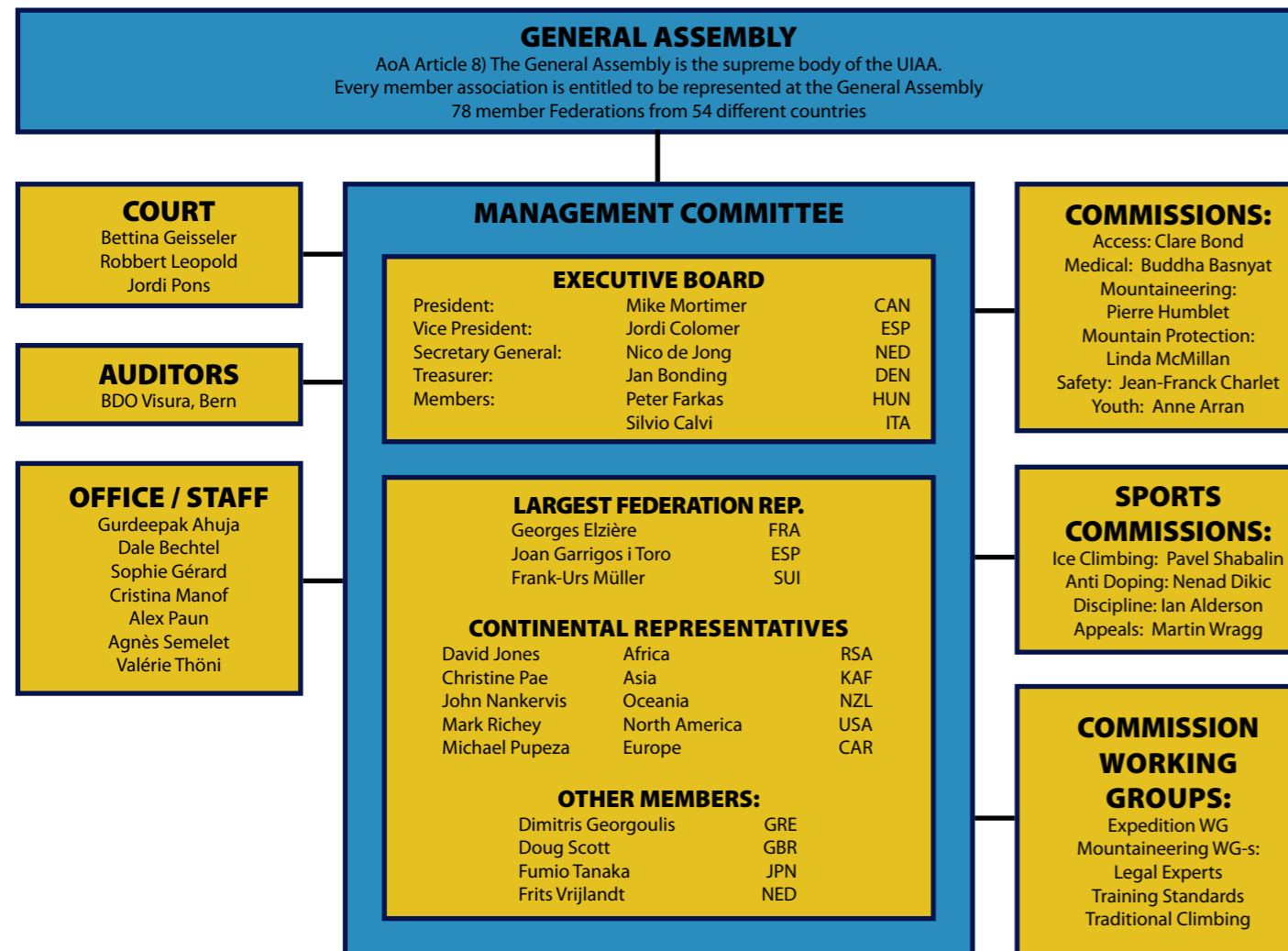
Alan Blackshaw

and Honorary Member

Walter Bonatti

who passed away this year.

May they rest in peace.



Annual report 2011



UIAA

EVERYTHING MOUNTAINEERING

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contributors

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photos

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It's hard to believe that a year has passed since we met in Bormio, Italy last year for our General Assembly. Yet these past twelve months have seen a hive of activity within the UIAA and its commissions. The reform process, which started with the commissions has been extended to both the operational budget and the office in Bern.

Work of the Board

The board has met four times since the last GA. The regular meetings were all held at our Bern office. The board also met in Paris as part of the Management Committee meeting. The work of the president includes chairing the following meeting at the GA: The Board, the Commission presidents, the Management Committee and the General Assembly.

UIAA Executive Board

Mike Mortimer	President	Safety and Mountain Protection
Jan Bonding	Treasurer	Mountaineering
Silvio Calvi	Project Development	Access
Jordi Colomer	Vice President	Ice Climbing
Peter Farkas	Communications	Youth
Nico de Jong	Secretary General	Medical

Jordi Colomer was re-elected by the board as vice president. Each board member is responsible for working, not only on his own tasks, but also provides a link to the commissions. The function of this link is to report to their respective commission the work being undertaken by the board and also to report to the board on the work of the commissions.

Financial

In 2009, at the Porto GA, we agreed that the UIAA would be prepared to go into a two year deficit situation to allow our executive director the resources to undertake a fundraising development initiative. While the resources were allocated to the project, there was no corresponding inflow of funds to offset these expenditures. Thus to avoid an unacceptable loss (over and above the deficit already anticipated) we made the decision to let our Executive Director go in March 2011. The result of this action has not led to any reduction in services, in fact we have seen an increase in productivity, mainly due to lower overall staff costs. While these staff changes have not been without disruptions, we are confident that we have a team of staff who are dedicated to the UIAA and are extremely competent in performing their tasks.

The 2011 budget has been changed to reflect the difficult financial situation we are in. A Budget Reform process was introduced this spring that has allowed for greater transparency and accountability. All expenditures for 2011 have been re-examined in light of this reform process. Travel budgets were slashed and a board meeting, scheduled for November has been eliminated. Our budget for 2012 has

undergone the same rigorous scrutiny that has been applied to the remaining 2011 budget.

Staff

We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff working for us, not only in the office in Switzerland but also contract staff in Romania. Due to our limited resources we must be very careful when considering the human resource budget available to us. A key function of the staff is to assist the commissions in their work. This year many of the commission held their meetings at the UIAA office which gave them an opportunity to meet the staff and indeed for the staff to meet the committee members.

The staff in their individual duties, are assisted by the various members of the board. This has worked out extremely well and an excellent working relationship has been developed between the board and the staff.

Strategic Plan

At the Bormio GA in 2010, it was decided that the UIAA would undertake a strategic study to analyze the current and future status of the UIAA. This has occupied much of our time during the last year. We were fortunate to be able to use the good offices of Hankook Research of South Korea. The owner of the company, Mr Ick San Roh generously donated his company's services to undertake our survey. The results of this survey, filled out by 70% of our federations, have formed the basis for the report that will be submitted for consideration at the Kathmandu GA. I wish to thank all of the federations who assisted us in developing the survey, especially Silvio Calvi, Jordi Colomer and the office staff for all the work they contributed.

Commissions

One of our major objectives is to see greater cooperation and coordination among the commissions. This is extremely important as some of the work done by the commissions tends to overlap. A good example is the cooperative efforts that will be undertaken by the Safety and the Mountaineering Commissions regarding the need to educate climbers on the correct use of climbing equipment. Almost all climbing accidents are a result, not of equipment failure, but rather the failure to use the equipment properly. This joint project will be led by Dave Custer, the Safcom vice president and Claudio Melchiorri from the Mountaineering Commission.

We welcome the new members of the Legal Experts Working Group and look forward to having this working group advise the various commissions, when appropriate, on legal issues and considerations that might surface.

Work of the Commissions

Safety

In 2011 I had the opportunity to attend the Safety Commission meeting held in Yverdon in Switzerland which was hosted by the Swiss Alpine Club. A highlight of the meeting was the award given to Mr Marco Bonaiti, the President of Kong Spa of Italy. This award, to acknowledge Marco's contribution to the Safety Committee, a contribution that started more than 30 years ago. New standards will be developed over the course of the next few years for via ferrata, lanyards and crash pads.

Mountaineering

I had the good fortune to be invited to the Mountaineering Commission meeting where the major emphasis was the Training Standards for mountain and climbing crafts. These standards are available to all of our members and are seen as one of the main benefits of UIAA membership. Thanks are due to Pierre Humblet and Steve Long for all the work they have done to bring the Training Standards Working Group to the foreground of our activities.

Mountain Protection

The Mountain Protection Commission will launch their Mountain Protection label at the GA in Kathmandu. Already we have found partners who will work with Linda McMillan and her commission members.

Access

Much work has been done in developing this informative and innovative Access Database which should come on-line next year. Thanks to Clare Bond and her commission members.

Ice Climbing

Under the leadership of Pavel Shabalina, Ice Climbing Competitions continues to grow among our member federations. Next year will see the inclusion of a French Alpine Club (FFCAM) competition to the circuit and there is also the possibility of an American competition this year.



Special thanks must be extended not only to all the commissions presidents but also to all the members of these commissions and their federations. Like our own federations we are extremely dependent on the good work of our volunteers.

Anti-Doping

Many thanks must be given to Dr. Nenad Dikic and his committee for their work in ensuring that we remain WADA (World Anti Doping Agency) compliant.

Medical

As you will see from the tremendous work created by Dr. Buddha Basnyat and his commission has produced that the Medical Commission is in good hands. If you haven't had the opportunity I recommend you check out the medical information on our website.

Youth

Anne Arran continues to perform wonders with her commission. We look forward to seeing how her work connects the work of other commissions.

Possibility of an Expeditions Commission

A working group under the direction of Jordi Colomer will present its finding to the Management Committee as to whether the Expeditions Working Group should be re-established as the Expeditions Commission.

Special Seminars and Presentations at the GA

During the Kathmandu GA, you will have the opportunity take in a number of seminars and presentations. These topics include the effects of climate change in the Himalaya, the Ice Climbing Competition circuit and the UIAA Training Standards. We are extremely fortunate to accept an offer from Mr. Tamotsu Nakamura of Japan who will present a slideshow with the results of his exploratory work in Tibet through a slideshow. In addition Mr Steve Long, the chairman of the Training Standards Working Group will also be in attendance to discuss how federations can take advantage of the UIAA's training standards.

Future for the UIAA

It would seem that our growth will come from memberships, from new and hopefully from former member federations. By following the results of our strategic plan, we should be well positioned to service our federations during the next few years.

Mike Mortimer
President

Staff

With a 2.8 full-time equivalent of staff, the primary role of the UIAA office has been to provide professional support to over 200 hard-working volunteers - in the commissions, Executive Board as well as the Management Committee. Sophie Gerard, a tax advisor by profession, joined the existing team in December 2010 as an intern. In April 2011, the departure of Executive Director Ingo Nicolay meant greater workloads for existing office staff as well as the members of the Executive Board. Ingo will be missed for his adept team handling. An optimal staffing structure for the future of the UIAA will be drafted during the Strategic Planning 2012-14 exercise.

UIAA Office staff

Agnes Semelet (SUI)	Accountant
Alexandru Paun (ROM)	Webmaster
Dale Bechtel (CAN/SUI)	Web Editor
Sophie Gérard (FRA)	Project Manager
Valerie Thöni (FRA/SUI)	Office & Safety Label Administrator
Gurdeepak AHUJA (IND)	Office Manager

Commissions

2011 has been an exceptional year so far as many of the commissions (Access, Ice Climbing, Mountaineering & Safety) have held their annual meetings in close cooperation with the UIAA office in Switzerland. This allowed a fruitful working relationship between the volunteers (commissions as well as the Executive Board) and the professionals. On one hand it gave the commission members ample opportunity to present their ideas, while on the other hand they could benefit from professional support and office structure needed to realise such ideas.

Such a win-win situation was coupled with increased expectations of work from the office staff but also allowed for greater scrutiny of all existing and new projects. In the past, such a close working relationship was only achieved with the Safety Commission. The results can easily be translated into non-financial returns such as greater visibility and interest in the Safety Commission from South America, Asia & New Zealand, as well as financial returns from collections of Safety Label fees about CHF 50,000 in 2008 to about CHF 110,000 in 2011.

In future, the office will continue to lend stronger support to the commissions through priorities defined by the Strategic Plan 2012-14. The UIAA office thanks all the members who supported commission meetings in 2011 and especially the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) who collaborated with the UIAA office to host four commission meetings.

Member Federations

The UIAA Member Federation survey for the Strategic Plan 2012-14 revealed a high percentage of satisfaction for member interactions with the office staff.

Quality of work: 93% satisfied, Responsiveness: 88% satisfied, Communication: 88% satisfied & Attention to Members: 90% satisfied.

This is a good indicator of the work that the professionals in office undertake to support the members across the world. Such efficient and effective support shall continue focussing on the priorities defined by the members in the Strategic Plan with Training Standards, hut reciprocity and insurance being the top three.

External organizations

Due to the fact it is based in Switzerland, the UIAA office is in a position to interact closely and receive financial as well as non-financial support from organizations with common areas of interest.

From 2008-2011 the UIAA received USD 20,000 annually from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) towards Ice Climbing competitions and anti-doping measures. Due to maintaining such close association, the UIAA will be able to showcase Ice Climbing competitions as part of the cultural events at the Sochi 2014 Olympic Games in Russia. The UIAA also receives 6,600 USD for Youth commission activities from ARISF (Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations).

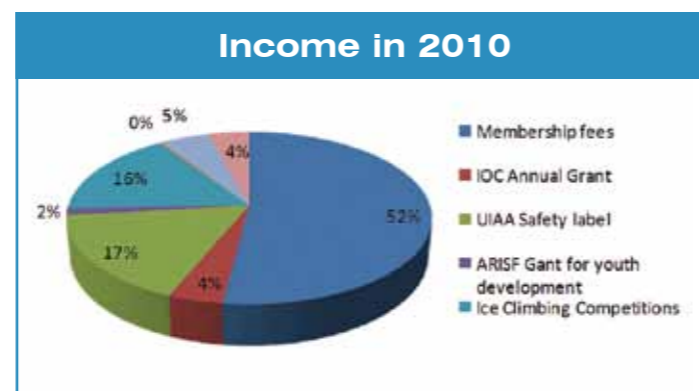
In 2010, the Mountain Protection Commission adopted the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for its future mountain protection label. This will be based on the existing knowledge of best practices defined by the UNEP.

Meeting the high demands and continuing to provide a valuable service to the diverse and manifold stakeholders of the UIAA remains a great challenge but one which the office looks forward to – in 2012 and beyond.

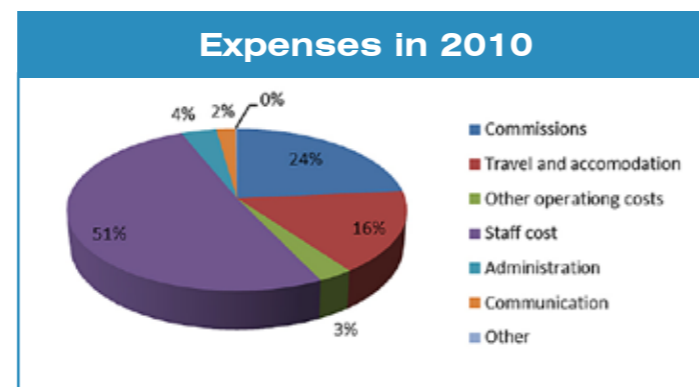
I have the pleasure to present you the UIAA financial report. This part will allow you to gain a complete picture of the financial situation and results of our Federation. The financial information presented in this report respect the principles of full, sincere, clear and adequate information.

Jan Bonding,
UIAA Treasurer

The result for 2010 was a loss of 119.748 CHF compared with a budget of -60.185 CHF. The main reason for this result is an overrun on staff costs based on a book keeping error where the total pension liability BVG was detected in December 2010 when paid an not set a side on a regular basis (45.0000 CHF). The income is a bit below budget mainly due to less income from membership fees.



Travel cost are approximately 20.000 CHF above budget, but this figure include travel cost for commission 18.000 CHF, that should have been allocated to commissions. Commission cost is 133.893 CHF compared to a budget 76.600 CHF. This mainly because ice climbing has changed to a gross budget where UIAA covers cost for route setters and judges, but reimbursed by organisers. Total result close to break even.



We have for 2010 suffered a significant loss on currency as both USD and EUR has declined compared to CHF. In total 16.980 CHF even we have been careful to reduce outstanding in foreign currency. The accounts for 2010 has not yet been approved by the management committee, as the MC wants to perform an internal audit on the board travel cost before the MC will vote on the acceptance of the accounts 2010.

Most of the work of the UIAA is provided by the Commissions, which are composed of delegates from member federations as well as external experts. Today, the UIAA counts six mountaineering commissions (Access, Medical, Mountaineering, Mountain Protection, Safety and Youth), four sports commissions (Ice Climbing, Anti-doping, Discipline and Appeals) and three working groups (Legal Experts, Training Standards and Traditional Climbing).

Together the commissions of the UIAA gather more than 150 members from about 38 federations who work voluntarily on different projects. The project on Commissions reform was started and presented in 2009 in UIAA General Assembly Bormio, Italy. Its objectives are twofold: develop communication between UIAA's internal bodies as well as with member federations; and also improve the management of commissions' projects.

The UIAA commissions are currently working on several projects (but detailed in each commission report) which are approved and regularly reviewed by the Management Committee. Each commission is attached to one management committee member who acts as a link with Executive Board and Management Committee.

Furthermore, commissions are responsible for defining their mission and objectives as well as their core activities. Activities plans follow a common template: what, for which purpose, by whom, when, how and with what resources.

This system helps not only to avoid interferences or overlapping, but, most of all to develop synergies between commissions in favour of a stronger action by the UIAA. In November 2010, commissions' presidents were asked, through a survey, to give feedbacks regarding the system. Based on their comments, improved planning and budgeting measures will be put in place.

Since 2010, increased collaboration between the UIAA office and commission presidents has allowed the development of the new projects which often require more professional support. Several commissions meetings have been organised in Bern Switzerland, thus establishing closer contacts and allowing a better knowledge of the association organization for all members.

The main challenge remains the lack of participation of some commission members and the setup of encouragement measures in order to foster action; and the planning of meetings which is not always easy.

The mission of the Access Commission is 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.

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.
- Liaise with international organisations on access and conservation issues and provide assistance, when requested, to member federations on such issues within their own countries.
- Encourage best practice in harmonising access with these considerations and support member federations in challenging inappropriate restrictions.
- Foster research, education projects and sharing of best practice between member federations and external organisations in support of the commission's aims.

Commission President: Clare Bond

Activities of the Commission

Best Practice Information

Objective

To set up an online resource of Best Practice information for access.

Beneficiaries and Added-value to Member Federations

UIAA member federations and others can use the resource to aid negotiations, improve footpath construction, establish working groups, organise and promote conservation measures etc. to improve climbing access in their countries.

Description

The information provided is mainly sourced from UIAA member federations based on their experience in negotiating and organizing access. The guides and information are available as downloadable PDF's from the webpage: http://www.theuiaa.org/best_practices.html some are "how to" guides, others are examples of best practice leaflets or advice. The information is predominantly in English, but there are also guides and information in Spanish, Welsh and Swedish. With information now collated in Italian too. We are continuing to add to this resource to cover a wider range of subjects and include more languages.

Achievements

Data and information was collected over the summer of 2010 and put together into themes. A simple website was designed to host the PDF's in the early autumn. The webpage was launched at the UIAA General Assembly in Bormio in October. Over the winter 2010-2011 more information in different languages was added. If you have information that you think would be useful to other federations, particularly in languages that are common across nations and continents, please email it to jjastur@terra.es

Climbing Access Worldwide

Objective

To set up an online resource of Worldwide Climbing Access.

Beneficiaries and Added-value to Member Federations

UIAA member federations and their constituent climbers will benefit from the resource. The collection of information has been designed to allow national federations to identify other countries with similar access issues to their own. Liaison between federations will be aided by the collation of a list of climbing contacts, involved in worldwide access issues, who can share ideas and information. This online resource will also allow climbers to obtain information about climbing access and cultural practices in countries that they may wish to visit.

Description

The information provided will be sourced from UIAA member federations, and others, about access in their nations. This will be achieved initially through a questionnaire. Member federations will be asked to check and verify information on an annual basis. A wiki-based system is currently being investigated as the hosting option for information so that it is updated by the broader climbing community to ensure it is current and relevant to the global climbing community.

Achievements

Research into current online climbing access resources took place over 2010-2011, and an initial questionnaire was designed to send to federations. This has been developed into something that member federations should have received by the time you are reading this – we encourage you to answer it and to get involved in the project.

Highlights of the year

The commission met in Bern in 2011, hosted by the CAS-SAC and the UIAA office, this allowed the development of our Climbing Access Worldwide project. We have also been following, with interest, the work of representatives from CAI and others on the freedom of risk in the mountains – as legal restrictions are increasingly made on access to the mountains on the grounds of health and safety. The commission has also supported the work of the Czech and South African Federations on particular access issues in their countries over the last year. We have also been supporting the work of Access PanAm on access issues notably in Chile. Finally, we are really pleased to say that we have further formalized our relationship with Access PanAm <http://www.accesspanam.com/> through the involvement of Access PanAm Executive Officer Kika Bradford as an expert on the Access Commission.



The UIAA is committed to fair play, doping free sport and the principles of the WADA Code. The Anti-doping commission is UIAA body charge to follow the anti-doping policy. Because of this compliance, the UIAA is a Code Compliant International sport federation.



Objectives

The objectives of the UIAA's Anti-Doping Policy and Procedure are to:

- promote drug free competitions in UIAA recognized sports.
- develop fair and consistent anti-doping procedures and regulations.
- assist Member Associations to meet their obligations to their national sports authorities and comply with relevant national legislation (such as in the field of human rights, contracts and data protection).

Commission President: Dr Nenad Dikic.

Activities of the Commission

Anthropometric profiles of elite male and female ice climbers

Objectives

Although, Ice climbing World Cup has been organized in the last ten years and some National Championships even longer; anthropometric profile of ice climbers was not available. The aim of this study was to determine anthropometric profile of elite ice climbers (IC), its influence on competition rank and make a comparison with rock climbers.

Beneficiaries and Added-value to Member Federations

This is an important sport scientific study about ice climbers which will benefit all member federations involved in ice climbing. As a coach at the ice climbing cup in Saas Fee said, "we are opening new approaches to training and vision about ice climbing."

Description

The 32 male participants of the ice climbing World Cup were measured the day before competition. A control group was made of 23 SC (age 27.9 ± 3.9) who reported on site climbing grade over VII+/6c (UIAA/French) (Watts PB., 2004). The variables measured included: age, height, weight, body mass index, % body fat by bio impedance, % segmental body fat (trunk, left and right arms, -legs), fat mass, fat-free mass (FFM), total body water (TBW), basal metabolic rate (BMR), leg length, arm span, ratio of arm span to height (Ape index), right and left handgrip strength, handgrip strength to body mass ratio (SMR), pincer strength (dominant hand, i.e. thumb and forefinger), handgrip endurance (dominant hand), endurance of shoulder's muscles, foot raise, hip flexion, hip abduction and climbing ability through standing position or the most difficult on site lead climbing

Achievements

This study's results showed elite ice climbers have moderate body composition with low fat % and good hip flexibility. This anthropometric profile for elite ice climbers have shown that except endurance, strength and flexibility, success on competition is influenced by experience which comes with age, as well as with improvement of climbing techniques. Comparing to sport climbers ice climbers have lower body fat, probably as a reaction to the cold environment. However, all sport climbing training protocols for development of strength, endurance and flexibility can be used by ice climbers because of their elementary influence on climbing sport performance.

Out of competition testing and outreach educational program in ice climbing

Objectives

- To develop out of competition testing as standard of doping control;
- To introduce whereabouts system to member federations;
- To start with registered testing pool;
- To introduce an athlete's outreach program as a regular form of ice climber's education.

Beneficiaries and Added-value to Member Federations

The main value is the learning for member federations involved in ice climbing about the important parts of doping control and without this anti-doping policy they would not be recognized by WADA and Code Compliant.

Description

On the last two ice climbing championships in Saas Fee, the complete project was well conducted, due mainly to good organization and preparation during the year.

Achievements

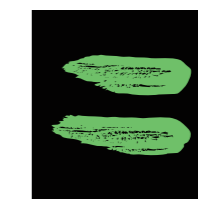
UIAA is recognized as a good International federation who has fulfilled all the requirements of WADA and IOC.

Highlight of the year

The AD Com had its yearly meeting in Saas Fee, Switzerland on 22nd January 2011.

Partnerships

The AD Com works with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) who promotes, coordinates and monitors anti-doping in all forms of sports. To keep current on this topic, the UIAA follows WADA regulations and attends regular WADA meetings.



**WORLD
ANTI-DOPING
AGENCY**

play true

The Mission of the UIAA's International Commission for Ice Climbing Competitions (ICICC) is to promote and organise international ice climbing competitions in accordance with the values and spirit of the UIAA and Olympic Movement with the ultimate goal to compete in the Winter Olympic Games. The ICICC consists of 4 Sub-Commissions: Athletes, Competitions, Technical, Media and Public Relations.



Activities of the Commission

Commission president: Pavel Shabalin.

The training of judges and route setters

The ICICC has set up a core of international judges and route setters who are present at all the competitions to ensure that the UIAA ice climbing regulations are followed. In January 2011, courses were organised by the ICICC for judges and route setters in Korea. As a result, Korea now has qualified route setters and judges' teams.

UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup and World Championship 2011

In the 2011 season, the UIAA expanded the Ice Climbing World Cup circuit to Asia (Korea). Six official UIAA ice climbing events took place: four World Cup stages in Korea, Switzerland, Romania, Russia, and World Championships in Romania and Russia. Unfortunately, one IWC event (in Italy) was cancelled because of a tragic incident with one of the organizers during preparation. The 2011 season saw a raise in terms of participation with 210 athletes from 24 countries competing (92 women and 118 men) in comparison with 2010 where there was 158 competitors. The breakdown of numbers for participating countries was: **Asia - 5, Europe - 17, North America & US - 2.**

During all the season's events, anti-doping tests were carried on and no positive results were detected.

Extra efforts were put on media coverage (press and videos) for the competitions events and for the first time live, stream relay was organized for each event. A high level of organization to help with this effort was provided by Cheongsong (Korea) organizers.

In terms of expenses, despite no official sponsor this year, the ICICC costs stayed within the budget limit approved by the General Assembly in Bormio, Italy in 2010. Local event organisers costs were also covered this year.

In 2011 the focus was on:

- the upgrading of the UIAA regulations and competitions organisation
- the development of cooperation with the local organisers
- raising of sponsorship in realization of Strategic Plan goals
- increase in numbers of athletes from different countries
- an increase for the number of competitions in different countries
- an expansion of media presentation of ice climbing competitions on international level (print media, TV and other broadcasting forms)
- continuing interaction with Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee and Russian National Olympic Committee to promote ice climbing to the Olympic Games.



Partnerships

The interest in ice climbing as a sport continues to grow; as new countries are willing and wanted to participate. In 2011, an ICICC delegate came to the national competitions in France and as a result a World cup event is to be organised there in 2012. Also an application from the United States for the 2013 ice climbing season has been received.

Finally, the SOCHI 2014 Olympic Committee has agreed to include a demonstration of ice climbing during the cultural programme of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

The 2012 season

- 1 **13-15 January** – IWC (lead, speed) & Open Asian Championship, **Cheongsong (Korea)**
- 2 **19-21 January** – IWC (lead, speed) & Open European Championship (lead), **Saas-Fee (Switzerland)**
- 3 **03-05 February** – IWC (lead, speed), **Champagny en Vanoise (France)**
- 4 **09-11 February** – IWC (lead, speed), **Busteni (Romania)**
- 5 **02-04 March** – IWC (lead, speed), **Moscow (Russia)**
- 6 **08-10 March** – IWC (lead, speed) & Open European Championship (speed), **Kirov (Russia)**

The mission of the Medical Commission is to increase the knowledge about mountain medicine among doctors and mountaineers all over the world.

Objectives and beneficiaries

- Continue to maintain a forum of international medical doctors, specialised in the different fields of mountain medicine.
- Continue to collect and evaluate medical data with practical and prophylactic impact for the mountaineers.
- Continue to support the International Society of Mountain Medicine (ISMM).
- Continue to work as a catalyst for the founding of national societies of Mountain Medicine.
- Continue to control the quality of the different doctor's courses of mountain medicine and to set standards for the international diploma of mountain medicine. This task is done in collaboration with ISMM and CISA/ICAR.

Commission President: Buddha Basnyat.

Activities of the Commission

Diploma in Mountain Medicine

Objectives

Many countries offer regular courses in mountain medicine. The medical commissions (Medcom) of UIAA and ICAR, together with the International Society for Mountain Medicine (ISMM) established minimal requirements for these courses in August 1997 (Interlaken, Switzerland). Many course organizers adopted these standards and the Diploma in Mountain Medicine (DiMM) has become a widely respected qualification. The regulations have been updated to reflect developments in mountain medicine, internet communications and to ensure that the high standard of the DiMM is maintained. The member organizations approved the changes to these regulations on the 8th of August 2010 at a joint meeting in Arequipa, Peru.

Beneficiaries and Added-value to Member Federations: Courses can be organised for medical doctors (including medical students near graduation) and/or registered nurses or paramedics. This must have a minimal study time (lectures, workshops and practical work) of 100 hours. Course organisers can determine who can attend the course and the speciality offered. In addition, course organisers may seek University status for the course. All courses should have some form of valid theory assessment and demonstration of practical skill with a fail potential.

Achievements

More than 3500 doctors have been trained in these courses up to now. There are 13 different courses for mountain medicine established in Austria, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. New courses have recently been approved in both Japan and Nepal.

Recommendations for mountaineers

Objectives and beneficiaries

A comprehensive list of papers with regular updates provides advice and is a valuable resource for climbers and medical staff alike. An emphasis is put on health problems that occur at high altitude in different parts of the world. Among the issues included are acute mountain sickness, nutrition and water disinfection. Papers are available in English, German, Japanese, Spanish, Italian, Polish and Portuguese.

Achievements

Newer translations have helped with added value to different Federations. Besides the already existing comprehensive list of papers, recent new additions in our website are as follows:

- Blood borne infections in climbing
- Eye problems on expeditions
- Recommendation for prevention and control of Legionella infections (a lung infection)
- Injury classification for mountaineering and climbing sports

Website health advice for mountaineers

In this section, UIAA medical experts present access, health and route details on well known mountains and trekking areas so that we focus on the climber's or trekker's comprehensive health

needs for that particular mountain or trekking area. Currently on our website we have provided comprehensive description addressing the health needs of sojourners to the following popular mountains:

- Aconcagua – the highest mountain in the Americas
- A climb of Denali's West Buttress
- Kilimanjaro – one of world's most dangerous mountains
- Climbing Mera – the highest trekking peak in Nepal
- Climbing Island Peak – Nepal's popular trekking mountain
- Climbing Morocco's Jbel Toubkal safely

Highlights of the year

The medical Commission had its yearly meeting in Arequipa, Peru Aug 8, 2010 and the next meeting will take place in Are, Sweden from Oct 18 to the 23, 2011. It will be hosted by Dr Johan Holmgren who is the President of the Swedish Climbing Federation. In addition, a joint meeting with IKAR-CISA will take place at the same time and venue which will again help bring our organizations together to improve safety in the mountains.



The mission of the Mountaineering Commission is to promote best practices by identifying and addressing, ethical, technical & training and legal issues of international importance.



Objectives and Goals

- To review issues of international importance in Mountaineering.
- To monitor and advise on current practice and review the UIAA Mountains Ethics Declaration accordingly.
- To help the Federations improve the technical education they provide, in collaboration with UIAA partners.
- To develop and operate UIAA model training standards and approve their use by federations.
- To hold seminars on model training standards.
- To assist in the exchange of technical and teaching material between Federations.
- To promote access to basic teaching materials.
- To develop a scheme for UIAA approval of guidebooks which facilitate international use, using a revised UIAA scale of difficulties and standardised symbols.
- To issue an international accident report form and promote its use to collect international data.
- To collate the information from existing accident statistics.
- To create a standardized database on accident statistics, and exchange relevant information internationally.
- To investigate and make recommendations on legal issues affecting Mountaineering.
- To develop the existing case law database.
- To support the UIAA Office with legal issues.
- To collaborate with other Commissions and organisations.

Commission President: Pierre Humblet

Activities of the Commission

Accident statistics

At present there is no way of analysing mountain accident statistics from around the world, even though the results would be of great importance for understanding mountain safety, and would have numerous applications, such as the development of insurance programmes. Chiaki Aoyama (Japan) has been investigating the feasibility of an international system for acquiring mountain accident data. He is now looking at how such a system can be implemented so that accurate and reliable information can be collated and compared. In last mountaineering meeting in April 2011, he presented the first draft of a standardized form to collect the data. Once in place, this will help to identify areas where safety and training can be improved, and for insurance companies to better understand risk in mountain activities.

Training Standards

The Mountaineering Commission is pleased to announce that the UIAA Training Standards Working Group (TSWG) has now come of age, having demonstrated that it provides a service which is highly valued by the member Federations and whose interest has been growing among developing federations and organisations.

In order to cope with the increasing demand for its services, three working parties were created to streamline its structure, standardise its procedures and allow for sustainable development. A detailed business plan and Training Standards Regulations have been drawn up, while a system for training experts and assessors has been put in place. The TSWG proposes that a UIAA Training Standard label be awarded to Federations which meet the UIAA Training Standards and which organize a series of seminars to train the trainers, mentors and external assessors. The group also investigated expansion of its programme in order to provide UIAA Training Standards to non-Federation organizations.

Traditional Climbing

The Bolting and Traditional Climbing Working Groups have merged. The new entity called Traditional Working group, chaired by Doug Scott, is currently in the process of collating national policies, guidelines and publications regarding traditional climbing, and regarding the placement of fixed protection in the mountain and crag environments. The group is concerned about the loss of traditional climbing areas, skills and ethics. It aims to formulate an UIAA statement that is recognised internationally, and to establish guidelines, based on existing policies, to assist federations in developing their own policy and guidelines for traditional climbing and the placement of fixed protection. This will be done in full respect of the diverse regional sensitivities and traditions.

Legal Experts working group

Xabier Saenz Ezeizabarrena has succeeded Renee Hopster as Chair of the Legal Experts Working Group. The group is currently updating its 2002 report on legal liability, which will be published shortly. They have also assemble a database of the most important cases from Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Britain, France, USA and Japan, and report a reduction in the already limited significance of waivers in EEC law due to new consumer protection regulations. Future work will include reports on waivers, climbing wall accidents, and use of expert evidence, insurance, legal risk assessment and cross boarder employment issues.

UIAA Mountaineering Commission and the Petzl Foundation

The UIAA Mountaineering Commission works in close cooperation with the Petzl Foundation. Its involvement in the TSWG's activities has added enormous value to the development of mountain leader training in India and Nepal. During the year 2010, the Commission and the Foundation held courses and meetings in Leh and Manali to help develop mountain leader training in India. These courses were enthusiastically attended, and follow-up work is being carried out to ensure that a training structure and training courses that meet UIAA standards are organized and held in India. During the last Mountaineering Commission meeting in April 2011 Petzl Foundation representatives (Philippe Deschamps and Stéphane Lozac'hmeur) presented the areas in which they are continuing to assist the TSWG. Currently, this includes providing help for Asian federations to set up their own national training schemes, and assist with the design of training manuals for federations that have none.

In May 2011 in Paris, an agreement was reached with the Nepal Mountaineering Association to finalize the work already initiated by the Petzl Foundation in Nepal. NMA should then be able to apply for the Training Standard award.

Highlights of the year

Twenty delegates from 14 different countries of Mountaineering Commission met in Moscow, Russia, in November 2010. The meeting was hosted by the Russian Mountaineering Federation (RMF). UIAA President Mike Mortimer again highlighted the increasing strength and value of this Commission's work on a global scale. The group was welcomed by Andrei Volkov at the Skolkovo school for management, who arranged for a number of parallel meetings between the mountaineering federations from countries of the former Soviet Union, all of whom are very interested in strengthening their ties with the UIAA and in developing their own national mountain training systems. The RMF has re-instated a national training and guiding school, and has put a lot of work into developing a modern mountaineering infrastructure. In April 2011, at the UIAA Mountaineering Commission meeting in Berne, Switzerland, which was hosted by the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC-CAS); two working group meetings were also held: the Training Standards Working Group and the Legal Experts Working Group (LEWG) which involved 20 delegates representing 14 different countries.

The mission of the Mountain Protection Commission is to improve protection of natural and cultural resources in mountain regions, particularly nature and landscapes, sustainable livelihoods, and mountain-related recreation and tourism.



Objectives

Commission President: Linda McMillan.

Nature and landscapes

- To protect in the mountain regions, the natural, unspoiled and free spaces
- Minimize negative impacts on mountain ecosystems
- Promote the protection of flora and fauna, glaciers and other water resources, and the geological environment
- Develop and take actions to restore and protect nature in the mountains

Sustainable Livelihoods and Mountain-related Recreation and Tourism

- To protect, in the mountain regions, traditional anthropic areas (high altitude villages and productive lands) from the impacts of sport/tourism infrastructures and activities
- Promote protection of cultural and historic resources
- Promote forms of mountain recreation and tourism which respect both natural and cultural environments
- Promote education on environment-sensitive behavior by mountaineers, climbers and other people visiting these regions

Goals

- Develop educational programs to minimize the negative impact of mountaineers and climbers on the cultural and natural environment
- Support projects aimed at sustainable development of mountain regions that preserve natural resources and cultural heritage
- Support projects aimed to reduce negative effects of climate change
- Develop codes of conduct for mountain protection for the UIAA and its member Federations
- Develop and promote the UIAA Mountain Protection Label
- Assist UIAA bodies, members organizations and other partners when requested in issues of mountain protection (global, regional, local)
- Maintain and develop a network of working relationships with governments, land managers, ecotourism groups, and leading conservation NGOs
- Bring science, sport, and tourism together to improve mountain protection
- Research the impact of mountaineering and climbing on the environment and use this to better inform UIAA members, other mountain protection-related organizations

Activities of the Commission

Mountain Protection Information Resource that includes advice on the issues of Waste Management and Mountaineering plus Mountaineering in UNESCO World Heritage Sites

The Mountain Protection Information Resource is a valuable online resource on the UIAA website that allows mountaineers and climbers from around the world to learn about the mountain protection ethics and “best practices” developed by the UIAA and its Federations, such as the UIAA Environmental Objectives and Guidelines. New additions in 2011 include:

1. A 109-page publication (4.3mb) providing a comprehensive analysis of decades of published Declarations on the Protection of Mountains, courtesy of the Basque Federation and our Commission member Diarmaid Ryan, who expertly authored this impressive analysis.
2. The proceedings, presentations, and video coverage of the highly-successful international human waste management conference Exit Strategies: Managing Human Waste in the Wild hosted in 2010 by The American Alpine Club (AAC). This 17.35 gigabytes of current information is offered courtesy of AAC member and Climbing Ranger Roger Robinson of Denali National Park (Alaska) who is a world expert on this subject. Included in this information are best practices for human waste management used by climbers in Yosemite National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
MP Commission has been coordinating with the Access Commission to create easy-to-use integrated information resources on the UIAA website for climbers which will allow them to quickly find updated information about both access and mountain protection issues at popular climbing areas of the world.

Mountain Protection Label

Since 2010, MP Commission has been working closely with the UIAA office and mountain protection experts from around the world to finalize and launch the future Mountain Protection Label. The aim of the project is to enable climbers and mountaineers to easily find and patronize mountain ecotourism operators who have demonstrated their mountain stewardship ethics and results. Plans are being made to present the future Mountain Protection Label at the Kathmandu General Assembly in October 2011 and re-affirm the mountain protection ethics of the UIAA's Kathmandu Declaration of 1982.

Relations to mountaineers and leading mountain-related NGOs, Preserving Biodiversity, and Responding to Climate Change

The MP Commission has shown that mountaineers and climbers of the world can collaborate effectively with mountain-related NGOs on valuable projects and events to preserve biodiversity and respond to climate changes in mountain regions. This year American and Peruvian climber-scientists linked up to study local and global pollution plus climate change impacts in the Cordillera Blanca range of Peru. This scientific expedition is part of the Peruvian government's efforts to monitor global warming on snow melt, a crucial source of drinking water for millions of its people.

Highlights of the year

Commission Member Ang Tshering Sherpa, his son Dawa Steven Sherpa, and their Eco Everest Expedition team continued their leadership and commitment to pioneering methods to remove rubbish and human waste from the Mount Everest massif. Their innovative and effective “Cash for the Trash” program motivated people this year to bring down rubbish from Camp 1 and above on highly-impacted Mount Everest at the rate of approximately 400 to 500 kg every day. This stellar program is kindly sponsored by Asian Trekking each year.

The Eco Everest Expeditions use alternative energy solutions like parabolic solar cookers, solar lightings and ultraviolet light pens for water purification. They inspire local people and climbers to keep the Himalayan Mountains clean and find ways to prevent climate changes from harming the Himalayan environment and its people.

Partnerships

The Mountain Protection Commission works closely with the following organizations:

- IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature
- ICIMOD – International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
- MRI – Mountain Research Institute
- Himalayan Climate Initiative
- US National Park Service

The UIAA Safety Commission's mission is to minimize accidents in mountaineering and climbing by developing and revising technical safety standards for equipment.



Activities of the commission

Commission President: Jean Frank Charlet.

During the past year, the safety commission has continued its work of maintaining and developing standards for climbing equipment. By providing a baseline for equipment performance and limitations, these standards help climbers to better manage the risks inherent in climbing.

The safety commission is a collaboration of national delegates, climbing equipment manufacturers who hold UIAA Safety Labels, and the UIAA certified test laboratories. The safety commission has made progress on several projects in order to improve existing standards and develop new ones. These projects include evaluation of:

Out of plane bending of karabiners

I-beam construction karabiners

How easily do I-beam construction karabiners bend and fail when loaded over an edge? The phenomenon will be investigated in the next year, even though such bending is clearly a misuse and perhaps best addressed through improved bolting practices and climber education.

Karabiners – open gate failure

The German alpine club (DAV) found that karabiner failures in the field almost always occur when the gate is open (gate: moveable part of the karabiner that the climber opens to insert or remove the rope or webbing under loaded and unloaded conditions). It was agreed that the best action at the moment is to try to raise awareness among climbers of this failure mode and to inform them of the many karabiners available that exceed the minimum open gate strength rating.

Edge energy absorption of dynamic ropes

A new method is proposed by CAI for measuring the capacity of a rope to hold on a small radius edge via measuring the energy absorbed by the rope before breaking on the small radius edge.

Conditioning of ropes

The commission also discussed a proposal by CEN (European Committee for Standardization) for changes to the rope conditioning (from 20°C, 65% relative humidity to 20°C, 50% relative humidity) to improve repeatability of tests.

Temperature dependent behavior of plastic chocks

With the advent of commercially available chocks (wedges also known as nuts that are threaded on a wire/cord, used for protection by placing them into cracks in the rock) made of polymer materials, tests will be made in the coming year to determine whether the performance of plastic chocks is detrimentally affected by temperature extremes that may be encountered while climbing. This could lead to a proposal to limit the scope of the chock standard to metal chocks.

Via ferrata energy absorbing devices for lightweight climbers

Changes in via ferrata (VF) use (children now climb VFs on their own instead of being tethered to adults) and accident reports all point to the need for VF Energy Absorbing Systems for lightweight climbers. The intent is to introduce a "one-size-fits-all" energy absorber that will make it possible for all VF participants from roughly 30-100 kg to arrest safely. This can, in theory, be done by increasing the slip length permitted by the standard. In the coming year, it will be determined whether the theory can be accomplished in practice.

Non-technical work

This includes progress on a new mission statement, review of existing standards and education documents, and an educational initiative to better communicate the commission's work, findings, and the implications thereof.

Continued Research on new equipment

There are currently 20 UIAA Safety Standards, ranging from helmets, ice tools and slings to pulleys, anchors and karabiners. The standards are used by many of the biggest manufacturers of mountaineering equipment. Since last year, research has been furthermore conducted about crash pads, snow pickets and canyoning equipment. New standards might be developed for these types of equipment in the future.

Collaboration with manufacturers and laboratories Today, the UIAA works world-wide with nearly 60 manufacturers and has 1861 products certified. The number of labels is constantly increasing and it is expected that more manufacturers will show interest during the year. Beyond the certification, the communication and collaboration with partner manufacturers has raised: they are more active in the working groups and become more familiar with the UIAA regulations. The UIAA also met with many manufacturers at the winter tradeshow-ISPO, Munich in February 2011. The

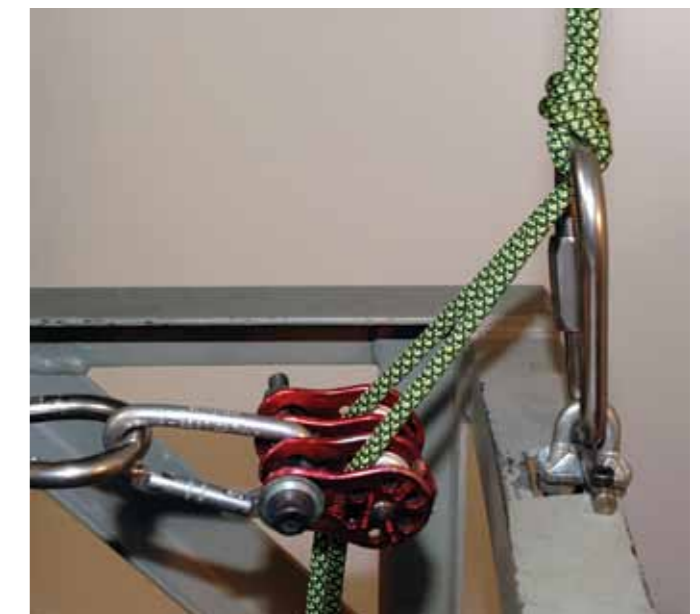
main objectives of these meetings were to take updates about the working group reports, commission meeting invitation and iron out administrative issues with certain manufacturers.

Partnerships

Cooperation with laboratories is also improving. Currently, 12 laboratories from Europe work with the UIAA. It is expected that a new one will become accredited in 2011.

Highlights of the year

The Safety Commission meeting in 2011 took place in Yverdon, Switzerland from 24th to 27th May, gathering the members of the Commission, as well as manufacturers and laboratories' representatives. This year, an award was given to the president of the company Kong (Italy), Mr. Marco Bonaiti, who has participated for many years at the Safety Commission meetings and has worked on the UIAA standards.



The mission of the Youth Commission is to encourage, support and represent development of mountaineering and climbing with children and young people, at all levels, beginner to elite, worldwide through training programmes, events and projects; promoting it as an activity of high social and educational value, encouraging healthy lifestyle and respect for the environment.



Activities of the Commission

Commission president: Anne Arran.

Co-ordination of the Global Youth Summit (GYS) 2010

Every year young UIAA members from different countries meet at camps, expeditions and other events. The GYS promotes co-operation, peace and protection of the environment. In every mountain range there is an ongoing need to develop projects that strengthen regional cooperation for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, promoting peace; and gives participants a platform to propose and support such projects. It brings attention to positive health, performance and educational benefits of sport. In 2010, eight events took place with over 28 countries participating. The trend is more involvement from countries surrounding the host.

For GYS detailed events, please see calendar located at http://www.theuiaa.org/lact_youth.html.

Route setting in Kazakhstan

Main Objective: To support the coach education system, climbing festival organization and youth development program in Kazakhstan, and in turn in its neighboring countries, and support regional climbing development and improve standard of youth athletes as well as of route setting and equipment.

Outcomes: In this 15-days festival, six route setters and 150 young participants plus leaders from Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan participated.. Successful contacts were made with the governor of the city 'Akim' locally called Akimat; as well as with the Nature reserve director in Kazakhstan. This event showed locals stakeholders that climbers can successfully manage waste, support environmental preservation and organize rescue in mountain areas.

Youth Leaders Seminar Ukraine

Supported by ARISF (Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations), the event took place in September 2011 over a week long youth climbing meet with presentations. All leaders participated in a practical belaying technique workshop. Some evening lectures were given and included: Elite British youth climber & national team; coaching; climbing & mountaineering in Spain; video on advanced level youth mountaineering expedition; ecology and youth environmental education. were organized at this occasion.

Ukrainian guides were informed about how other international leaders work with their youth. They were particularly

interested in the financing of youth programs, the examination process, insurance issues, and an emphasis on environmental and safety factors within the different federations.

Support for training to federations

Through the ARISF funding, a coaching ('Coaching the Stars') was organized in January 2010 with Ines Papert and Urs Odermatt for national team members competing in the European Youth Ice Climbing Championships and local young ice climbers in Saas Grund. Professional video clips and interviews were produced and focused on harnessing new talent, developing excellence showing the culture of the sport and gave a voice for the young athletes. Switzerland and Russia took part.

Media project Video on Global Youth activities in 2010

Several You Tubes videos were produced (among them: Rory South Africa – Ice climbing technique video clips with Ines Papert and Urs Odermatt 2010 – Inspiration and how ice climbing relates to the rest of mountaineering 2010 – Georgian Department of Tourism and MCAG video of Ski Mountaineering training 2010 – TV footage from Kazakhstan from TV Astana and Shusink companies).

Youth Training in Environment

At the occasion of the Japan Mountaineering Association's 50th Anniversary in Tokyo in January 2011, Anne Arran gave a presentation to Himalayan Adventure Trust of Japan and to UAAA members on some European systems of youth environmental education in mountaineering.

More trainings presentations were organized during the year which included: Slovenia's Age adjusted program to mountain climbing; reading the landscape with Games; FFCAM Club school of adventure and climbing development and booklets; World Youth Report Environment 2005.

Anti-Doping education for youth leaders and in schools

In April 2011 UIAA vice-president Jordi Colomer attended the ARISF General Assembly, WADA and Sport Accord meetings in London. He could discuss with WADA representative about anti-doping education, the growing interest in a World Youth Championships for Ice Climbing and the formation of an athletes' Commission.

Highlights of the year

In April 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Peace and Sport organization was signed with the UIAA and could bring future possible collaboration with the UIAA Global Youth Summit. A project to engage Georgia, Russia and Azerbaijan with a joint ascent of Mount Kazbek in Georgia from different sides of the mountain is currently in preparation.

Youth Commission President Anne Arran attended a meeting in Ministry for Sports in Islamabad Pakistan, in February 2011 with Minister Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani. The Pakistani mountaineer woman Samina Baig, the Sports official representatives, the Secretary of Alpine Club of Pakistan as well as representatives of the Danish embassy were present. Mr. Jakhrani congratulated Ms.Baig on her achievements and assured the participants that the Pakistani government "will extend every possible support for the promotion of mountaineering in Pakistan". The deputy head of the Danish mission, Jens Jacob Simonsen supported UIAA's important role to promote transnational cultural values. Full report can be found here: http://www.theuiaa.org/news_291_Female-Pakistani-climber-inspires-women-and-youth.

Partnerships

The UIAA Youth activities are mainly supported by the ARISF. ARISF is the Association of the IOC recognized International Sports federations whose main goal is to universalize and promote the Olympic spirit through the sport it represents. In 2010, the ARISF contribution amounted to approximately \$13,200. The successful 2010 youth activities and report enabled the UIAA to benefit in future funding for 2011. ARISF supports program on specific youth training and education objectives.

“The UIAA supports peace and sport in the world’s poorest regions.”

MONTAGNA TV (Italy)

“Anne informed the Minister that the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA) endeavours to promote mountaineering in South Asia.”

THE NATION (Pakistan)

“Wild winter adventures around the world.”

JUSTLUXE (USA) about Ice Climbing World Cup

The UIAA in the news!

The Ice Climbing World Cup received the most coverage in the international media involving the UIAA in the second half of 2010/first six months of 2011. Most of the coverage was in magazines – both online and in print – which are devoted to climbing. But the 2011 UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup also struck a chord with non-specialised media, including JustLuxe, a lifestyle web magazine devoted to affluent consumers, a website of the ABC television network in the United States and National Geographic Adventure.

However, a lack of major announcements or UIAA position statements on global mountain issues in the time period covered by this annual report meant that the global media had very little to say about the UIAA. In contrast there was wide coverage in late 2009 of the GA’s approval of the Mountain Ethics Declaration, and in June 2010 of the UIAA statement on China’s decision to introduce an age limit for climbers on Everest.

Communication channels

The UIAA Web Editor and his small team pursued a three-pronged approach to communication: updating the website, using a monthly e-newsletter or press release to send updates to Member Federations, partners and the media, and tapping into the wider global climbing community by posting UIAA news and information through Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube).

A Few Figures

Website: theuiaa.org

Since the hiring of the Web Editor, Dale Bechtel, in April 2008, the website has seen slow but steady growth. Example, month of February 2009-11:

- February 2009: 12,645 Unique Visitors* (83,000 page views PV**)
- February 2010: 13,240 Unique Visitors (97,000 PV)
- February 2011: 17,945 Unique Visitors (155,000 PV)

Due to the Ice Climbing World Cup, the website sees most traffic in January/ February/ March.

For the entire year 2010, the website counted about 152,000 Unique Visitors. Based on the first five months of 2011, the number of Unique Visitors to the website was on target to surpass the 2010 figure by around 20,000 – 30,000 Unique Visitors.



Facebook

By mid-2011, the UIAA’s main Facebook page had more than 3,000 members. It was moderated by the Web Editor, Dale Bechtel, a Swiss-based volunteer, Giuseppe Milanesi, and Webmaster Cristina Gaborov. The UIAA maintains two other Facebook pages; one for Ice Climbing and another for the Global Youth Summit.

Twitter

The UIAAmountains account was opened in late 2009. One and a half years later, it had more than 1,200 followers, and was part of about 80 lists on Twitter.

YouTube

The UIAA office (Gurdeepak Ahuja) manages the UIAA-bern YouTube page, which includes mostly Ice Climbing and Safety videos. The equipment testing videos from 2007 are the most popular with about 160,000 views.

Strategy

The web team uses the UIAA’s channels of communication to inform and update stakeholders and the wider climbing community of the “daily business” of the UIAA. This information includes details of important decisions taken at the General Assembly and by the Management Committee as well as meetings of commissions. Updates to the Safety Label including recall notifications are highlighted as often as possible.

Another key part of the web team’s work is to support and promote all new projects approved at the executive level. Currently, this includes the Training Standards label development, introduction of the Mountain Protection label, and support in the process to set up an Access database in collaboration with the Expedition Working Group.

The web editor also assists the office with the writing of official documents/correspondence.

Website update

Due to budgetary constraints, it will remain a great challenge in the medium-term to update the website with the kind of new functionality and features which have come to be expected of websites of international organizations. The current UIAA website was introduced in December 2007.

2012 and beyond

A communications strategy for 2012 and beyond was being drafted as this report went to print. The document will include a new approach to Social Media to explore the most effective way of communicating the UIAA’s core values, news about its activities, services and labels. The findings of the Strategic Plan survey will also influence the updated communications strategy.

Other challenges

A lack of financial and human resources continue to pose the greatest challenge to effective communication. The web team consists of a Web Editor (20% or 8h per week) at the UIAA office in Bern, a programmer in Bucharest, Romania (on contract) and Webmaster (also in Romania and on contract). The short working hours, cultural differences and challenges of collaborating in a virtual environment (i.e. email, Skype) put severe limits on efficiency, accuracy and speed.

By mid-2011, there were also no backups to replace any of the three in case of illness, maternity leave or resignation/dismissal.

Regular and reliable communication with volunteers in leading positions (e.g. Commission presidents, Executive Board or Management Committee members) is vital to effective communication. Raising awareness of developments at the UIAA can only serve the needs and interests of stakeholders and the larger global climbing community when there is a timely, regular and dependable exchange of information between the UIAA office (web team) and UIAA volunteers. The decision in 2011 to hold more meetings of commissions at the UIAA office in Bern, Switzerland was a first step to improve this situation.

* A Unique Visitor is a statistic describing a unit of traffic to a website, counting each visitor only once in the time frame of the report. This statistic is relevant to site publishers and advertisers as a measure of a site’s true audience size, equivalent to the term “Reach” used in other media

** A page view (PV) or page impression (PI) is a request to load a single page of a website.

In Bormio, the General Assembly approved the development of a strategic plan for the future goals of the UIAA. For this reason, a core team composed of Mike Mortimer, Jordi Colomer, Silvio Calvi and Sophie Gérard was formed and has committed itself to the presentation of the final draft of the project to the General Assembly in Kathmandu, October 8.

The first report has been presented to the Management Committee in the Paris meeting in May 2011 and afterwards also Michael Pupeza and Gurdeepak Ahuja have joined the team.

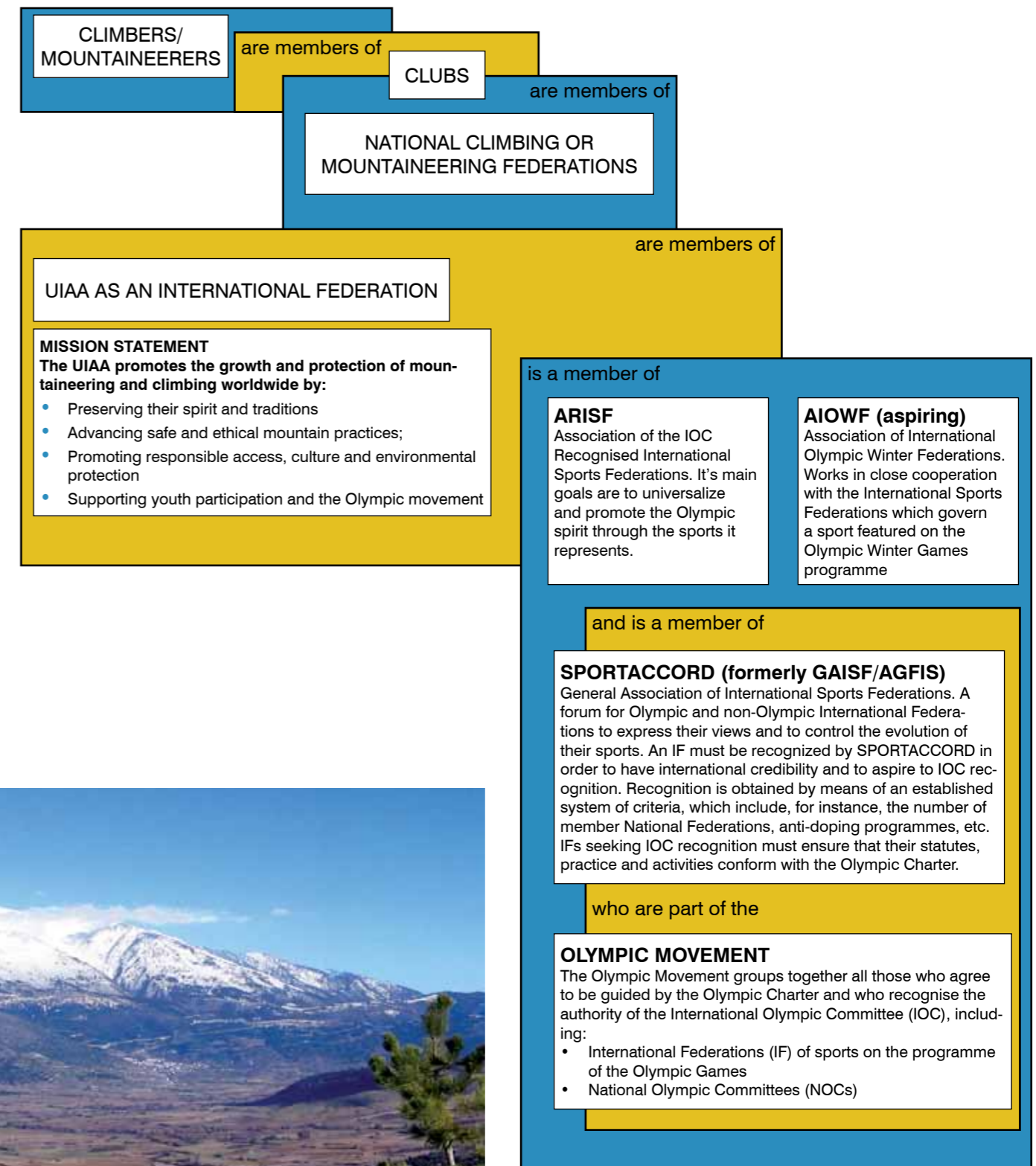
The goals of the Strategic Plan are:

- Define priorities for the future of the UIAA
- Improve services provided to Federations
- Manage our finances with a better planning

At the beginning of the year, the core group prepared a survey for the member federations to gather their views on the UIAA and suggestions for future action. The draft outline of the survey was submitted for comments to the Beta Group (composed of Commission Presidents, Management Committee members and Continental representatives).

The survey was conducted by our Korean partner, Ick Sang Roh with its company Hancock Research: they did a fantastic job in preparing the Internet version of the survey and in distributing it to Federations. Thanks to the efforts of all the team, the survey response rate was exceptional at 75%. The results of the survey were distributed to the Beta Group for analysis and presented to the Management Committee meeting in May.

Based on the survey results, since May the Core Group has been working on the definition of strategic objectives, (long term objectives) and a definition of the operational objectives (short term objectives that allow to achieve the strategic objectives). The final draft will be presented at the General Assembly in October 8th 2011 for approval.



Venues of the UIAA General Assemblies

1933	Cortina d'Ampezzo	Italy	1976	Barcelona	Spain
1934	Pontresina	Switzerland	1977	Mexico City	Mexico
1935	Barcelona	Spain	1978	Lagonissi	Greece
1936	Geneva	Switzerland	1979	Pinkham Notch	USA
1937	Paris	France	1980	Geneva	Switzerland
1938	Prague	Czechoslovakia	1981	Lugano	Switzerland
1939	Zermatt	Switzerland	1982	Kathmandu	Nepal
1947	Geneva	Switzerland	1983	Brussels	Belgium
1948	Geneva	Switzerland	1984	Seoul	Korea
1949	Chamonix	France	1985	Venice	Italy
1950	Milano	Italy	1986	Munich	Germany
1951	Bled	Yugoslavia	1987	Marrakech	Morocco
1952	Zell am See	Austria	1988	Banff	Canada
1953	Delphes	Greece	1989	New Delhi	India
1954	Grenoble	France	1990	Kerkrade	Netherlands
1955	Munich	Germany	1991	Budapest	Hungary
1956	Madrid	Spain	1992	Matsumoto	Japan
1957	Trento	Italy	1993	Santiago	Chile
1958	Lugano	Switzerland	1994	Istanbul	Turkey
1959	Amsterdam	Netherlands	1995	Cape Town	South Africa
1960	Jahorina	Yugoslavia	1996	Thun	Switzerland
1961	Vienna	Austria	1997	Kranjska Gora	Slovenia
1962	Corfu	Greece	1998	Malacca	Malaysia
1963	Interlaken	Switzerland	1999	Olympia	Greece
1964	Munich	Germany	2000	Paris	France
1965	Utrecht	Netherlands	2001	St. Johann	Austria
1966	Courmayeur	Italy	2002	Flagstaff	USA
1967	Madrid	Spain	2003	Berchtesgaden	Germany
1968	London	Great Britain	2004	New Delhi	India
1969	Prague	Czechoslovakia	2005	Singapore	Singapore
1970	Crete	Greece	2006	Banff	Canada
1971	Zakopane	Poland	2007	Matsumoto	Japan
1972	Montreux	Switzerland	2008	Teheran	Iran
1973	Tbilisi	USSR	2009	Porto	Portugal
1974	Delnice	Yugoslavia	2010	Bormio	Italy
1975	Obertauern	Austria	2011	Kathmandu	Nepal

1. Andorra: Federacio Andorrana de Muntanyisme
2. Argentina: Federaci3n Argentina de Ski y Andinismo
3. Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan Air and Extreme Sports Federation
4. Azerbaijan: Mountaineering Federation of Azerbaijan Republic
5. Belgium: Climbing & Mountaineering Belgium
6. Bosnia - Herzegovina: Mountaineering Union of Bosnia - Herzegovina
7. Brasil: Confedera33o Brasileira de Montanhismo e Escalada
8. Bulgaria: Bulgarian Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
9. Canada: Ecole Nationale d'Escalade du Qu3bec
10. Canada: F3d3ration Qu3b3coise de la Montagne et de l'Escalade
11. Canada: The Alpine Club of Canada
12. Chile: Federaci3n de Andinismo de Chile
13. China: Chinese Mountaineering Association
14. Croatia: Mountaineering Association of Croatia - Hrvatski Planinarski Savez
15. Cyprus: Mountaineering and Climbing Federation of Cyprus
16. Czech Republic: Czech Mountaineering Federation - Cesky Horolezecky Svaz
17. Denmark: Dansk Bjergklub - Danish Alpine Club
18. Denmark: Dansk Klatreforbund - Danish Climbing Federation
19. Dominican Republic: Asociaci3n Dominicana De Escalada y Montañismo
20. Observer, Ecuador: Union Panamericana de Asociaciones Montañismo y Escalada
21. Finland: Finnish Climbing Association
22. France: F3d3ration fran3aise des clubs alpins et de montagne
23. Georgia: Mountaineering and Climbing Association of Georgia
24. Greece: Hellenic Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing
25. Hong Kong, China: Hong Kong Mountaineering Union
26. Hungary: Magyar Hegy- 3s Sportm3sz3 Sz3vets3g - Hungarian Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation
27. Hungary: Magyar Sportturisztikai Sz3vets3g
28. India: Indian Mountaineering Foundation
29. India: Himalayan Mountaineering Institute
30. Iran: I.R. Iran Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation
31. Ireland: Mountaineering Ireland
32. Israel: The Israel Climbing Club former ILAC
33. Italy: Alpenverein S3dttirol
34. Italy: Club Alpino Italiano
35. Observer, Italy: International Skyrunning Federation
36. Japan: Japan Mountaineering Association
37. Liechtenstein: Liechtensteiner Alpenverein
38. Luxemburg: F3d3ration Luxembourgeoise d'Escalade, de Randonn3e Sportive et d'Alpinisme
39. Mexico: Federaci3n Mexicana de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada AC
40. Monaco: Club Alpin Mon3gasque
41. Mongolia: National Mountaineering Federation of Mongolia
42. Nepal: Nepal Mountaineering Association
43. Netherlands: Royal Dutch Mountaineering and Climbing Club
44. New Zealand: New Zealand Alpine Club
45. Norway: Norges Klatreforbund - The Norwegian Climbing Federation
46. Norway: Norwegian Alpine Club - Norsk Tindeklub
47. Pakistan: Alpine Club of Pakistan
48. Poland: Polish Moutnaineering Association
49. Portugal: Clube Nacional de Montanhismo
50. Portugal: Federa33o de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal
51. Portugal: Federa33o Portuguesa de Montanhismo e Escalada
52. Korea: Corean Alpine Club
53. Korea: Korean Alpine Federation
54. Romania: Clubul Alpin Roman
55. Russia: Climbing Federation of Russia
56. Russia: Russian Mountaineering Federation
57. Serbia: Mountaineering Association of Serbia - Planinarski savez Srbije
58. Slovakia: Slovak Mountaineering Union JAMES - Slovensky Horolezecky Spolok JAMES
59. Slovenia: Alpine Association of Slovenia
60. South Africa: The Mountain Club of South Africa
61. Spain: Centre Excursionista de Catalunya
62. Spain: Euskal Mendizale Federazioa - Basque Mountaineering Federation
63. Spain: Federaci3 d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya
64. Spain: Federaci3n Española de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada
65. Sweden: Swedish Climbing Association - Svenska Klätterförbundet
66. Observer, Switzerland: International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations
67. Switzerland: Schweizer Alpen-Club
68. Switzerland: Vereinigung Akademischer Alpenclubs der Schweiz
69. Chinese Taipei: Chinese Taipei Alpine Association
70. Chinese Taipei: Chinese Taipei Mountaineering Association
71. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Macedonian Mountain Sport Federation
72. Turkey: Turkiye Dagcilik Federasyonu - Turkish Mountaineering Federation
73. Turkey: Zirve Mountaineering Clup
74. Ukraine: Ukrainian Mountaineering Federation
75. United Kingdom: British Mountaineering Council
76. United Kingdom: The Alpine Club
77. U.S.A: Alaskan Alpine Club
78. U.S.A: The American Alpine Club