

UIAA ROCK CLIMBING FESTIVAL AWARD REPORT 2020



Executive Summary - UIAA Rock climbing Festival Award application now open for 2021

Australasia and SE Asia

In 2020 due to covid 19 the panel decision was taken to postpone the UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award until 2021 in consultation with Stuart Gray, UIAA Management Committee Australasia representative. As of the 30 March in both Australia and New Zealand tight restrictions were in place for all sorts of gatherings and it was hard to see any rock meets happening for many months. No visitors/tourists allowed. Greatly reduced flights both internationally and domestically. Non-essential domestic travel by any means was strongly discouraged.

Instead 2020 will be used to support preparation for 2021 and to increase the value and prominence of the Award.

2021 Applications invited from:

- Australia and **New Zealand**, islands of the South Pacific, New Guinea, the regions of Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia.
- **Southeast Asia:** *Indonesia, Malaysia*, Singapore, Philippines, East Timor, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

The UIAA is underrepresented in these countries, despite there being some climbing/mountaineering federations or clubs present and/or world class climbing areas such as in Thailand, Laos or Vietnam. 2019 Award was won by Suru bouldering Festival in India.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa/suru-boulder-fest-announced-as-2019-uiaa-rock-climbing-festival-award-winner>



ABOUT THE AWARD

Since 2015 the UIAA has organised the annual UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award. The awards is offered to climbing festival organisers in recognition for meeting the criteria of the UIAA Rock Climbing Working Group. Each year the focus of the Award switches to a different continent, to ensure the impact of the UIAA's commitment to rock climbing is truly global.

During the assessment process for the Award, festivals are reviewed, and a shortlist is drawn up of those which meet UIAA criteria and support the development of climbing in a particular region. It is an opportunity for the UIAA to offer support in the development of climbing and offer advice to organisers in terms of safety, sustainability and sport. It is also an opportunity to showcase diverse climbing styles and the points of the UIAA Climbers Manifesto.

As part of the application process, the following criteria applies:

- The festival is organized or approved by a national member federation of the UIAA. Development festival projects may also be recognised where there is no UIAA member federation present in the country.
- The festival is held in accordance with UIAA values.
- Contribution is made to sustainable development of rock climbing in their country and/or continent.
- UIAA Safety label equipment must be used in any workshop held.
- Prominent climbers from that country or region participate.
- The host events are published and promoted on the UIAA website at least two months in advance.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROJECTS

Regional assessment

- Assessment of the country for climbing potential, presence of a federation or large club/climbing community, UIAA membership or not, gathering past festival organisers contacts, past event weblinks completed and cc'd to relevant continental representatives for review.
- Stakeholder assessment
- Contacts with potential organisers to assess the potential for 2021 considering covid.
- Strategic vision
- Capacity building ongoing, implementation, communication structure for 2021
- Involvement of high profile climbers
- Potential series or regional partnerships
- Support event selection, choose/ disseminate themes and federation priorities
- Meshing country and federation priorities, identifying targets beyond the events
- Profiling climbing in these areas on the UIAA website in preparation.
- International organisation partnership or profiling if event has a cause or with sport development NGO's

Adding Value

- Strategy to increase the visibility and support for events in the media and messages
- Increasing the longevity of the award beyond the event and any good causes
- Use of previous winners' expertise to assist future organisers, good practice, experience exchange recommendations, examples of good practice
- Preparation in areas of likely organiser need such as safety, sport development and environmental advice
- Past winner catch up

Resource development

- Trophies, certificates in 2020 for 2021

- Travel safe advice
- Sourcing relevant UIAA Commission expertise to support regional climbing development
- Event application form review
- Event delegate pack
- UIAA event presence and winner guidance on use of UIAA materials. In house operations guidance / scheduling to ensure the best benefit from the UIAA support.



Climbing in Malaysia

CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

Some festivals were postponed in 2020 and a dynamic risk assessment will be needed considering current travel and organisational challenges.

MEETINGS 2020 Online meetings from September to December will be held to prepare for next year and budget finalisation for 2020/2021, deadline schedules.

2021 AND THE YEAR AHEAD

Designate 2022 Award regional beneficiary

WHAT ELSE UIAA chosen charity ClimbAID was shortlisted nominated for 2020 Beyond Sport Global Award for “Climb for peace” – Lebanon. 270 projects from all around the world applied for this year's Beyond Sport Global Award. 16 organisations were shortlisted in the health and Wellbeing category.

ClimbAID is a non-profit organisation that aims to foster the physical and psycho-social development of refugee youth through climbing. ClimbAID focuses on the holistic development of youth into autonomous, social, self- and environmentally aware people. We can see how climbing development and humanitarian work can go hand in hand with country focus projects. Congratulations to them!

Anne Arran, UIAA Rock Climbing Award Panel