



FEDERACION AERONAUTICA INTERNACIONAL

VICEPRESIDENTE

PRESIDENTE DE LA
COMISION INTERNACIONAL DE RECORDS ASTRONAUTICOS (ICARE)

REPORT FROM ICARE PRESIDENT **102st FAI General Conference, Saint Vincent, Italy October 2008**

1.- General Activities of ICARE Committee 2007/2008

The ICARE Committee held its annual meeting on April 4, 2008, at the FAI Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland..

The meeting was a bit concerned with the changes suggested by our Commission and accepted in the FAI General Conference of 2006 (Santiago, Chile), about the awarding of the FAI Gold Space Medal. The matter was already addressed in my report for the last year, but I think I must insist once again.

2.- Gold Space Medal

The FAI General Conference of 2006, held in Santiago, Chile, decided to unify the procedures for the awarding of both, the Gold Space Medal and the Gold Air Medal as the highest awards to be presented by FAI following ICARE recommendation. The new procedure was to be implemented beginning with the awarding of the Gold Space Medal for 2007. Consequently the Gold Space Medal awarding require from that moment, the favourable vote of the majority of the Vice Presidents of FAI, and the ICARE Commission will no longer present as such Commission a candidate for the award as it was done in the past.

Some concern was shown at our meeting of 2008 about the change not being completely understood, both by the countries presenting candidates for the medal, and by the Vice-Presidents not fully realising the significance of the change. Most of the candidates to FAI awards being submitted up to that time to the vote of Vice-Presidents had to have outstanding merits in one or several of the multiple aeronautic sports recognised by FAI. The Gold Space Medal however is reserved to merits related to just one discipline recognised by FAI, namely Astronautics.

Our Commission, with the approval of FAI, awards some medals and diplomas annually to people distinguished in Astronautics. These awards, being of course of lower category to the Space Gold Medal, are somehow thus connected with the latest award, and it is apparent that some kind of proportion is to be kept.

This being the case, it was felt at the ICARE Commission that, without interfering in any way in the process of presentation of candidates and the freedom of vote of Vice Presidents, some kind of advice from ICARE (as the only Commission dealing with Astronautics) about the award of the Gold Space Medal may be appropriate.



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Thus the ICARE Commission approved the following paragraph (included in the Minutes of our 2008 meeting)

Para 2: "Gold Space Medal" : It was pointed out that nominations for the Gold Space Medal might not arrive at FAI Headquarters each year until well after the date of the annual ICARE Meeting. The FAI Secretary General pledged that in such circumstances, all nominations would, in any case, be distributed to ICARE delegates for prior screening so that the collective views of ICARE could be passed on to FAI Vice Presidents before they took a final decision.

We hope this General Assembly understand ICARE views about the award of the Gold Space Medal, when making them available to FAI and FAI Vice Presidents, will not represent in general any kind of endorsement of the concession or not of the award for a determined year, nor the endorsement of any candidate. It will be just the view of ICARE to be freely considered by the remaining FAI officials.

Dr. S. Sanz Fernández de Córdoba
ICARE President