



## PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS #2

On the eve of the Chinese New Year may I extend my best wishes to everyone for a happy new year and my best wishes for 2019.

I do hope that you all had time with friends and family over the December break. The weather is now proving to be a challenge for many of us globally – heat waves, heavy rain, fires, landslides and arctic blasts all adding to the discomfort - and I trust that you and your families are safe and our thoughts are with anyone who is impacted by these events.

Late last year we finalised the portfolios for the members of the Executive Board. The overall concept is for the individuals to be available to assist and guide, Each EB member will be reporting on their areas of responsibility at the next General Conference. In brief, our portfolio responsibilities are:

- Myself – IOC; chair of FAME; anti-doping; co-chair for FAI WAG 2022 committee; point of contact for Oceania, CASI and CIMP
- Alvaro – Deputy to the President; women in FAI and point of contact for the South Americas
- Abdullah – FAME director; point of contact for the MENA countries, CIVA, CIACA and GAC
- Agust – IT; new technology; point of contact for Asia, ICARE, CIMA and IPC
- Jean Claude – Finance Director; point of contact for CIA and CIVL
- Marina – EASA; EAS; point of contact for Europe, CIAM, IGC and EnvC
- Mary Anne – ICAO; One FAI; statutes and SWG; point of contact for the North Americas, CIG and CIEA

Last week Agust and I were hosted by RASAT<sup>1</sup> for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Airsports Federation of Asia (AFA) General Conference in Bangkok. It was an immensely rewarding two days of discussion and very pleasing to be able to welcome China and Uzbekistan as new members of AFA and Mr Jia Bing (China) as the new Deputy President of AFA. There is still work to be done to educate the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) that AFA is the recognised FAI representative in Asia and we discussed this challenge at length.

During the time in Bangkok we were also able to have a meeting with Mr Jia Bing, Executive Director of the Aero Sports Federation of China (ASFC), the NAC for China. I am pleased to report that Mr Jia confirmed that the ASFC will host and organise the 2019 and 2020 World Drone Racing Championships (WDRS) in China. The 2019 event will be held in late November/ early December.

In addition, we joined Group Captain Didyasarini (Tang) at a meeting with the Director of the Civil Aviation of Thailand (CAAT). The meeting seemed to go far towards enhancing their understanding of how RASAT can govern air sports in Thailand and relieve the CAAT of work involving pilot training and licences.

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<sup>1</sup> Royal Aeronautic Sports Association of Thailand

The Commission plenary season has commenced with IPC and CIVL having just met. In the first week of March THK will host, in Istanbul, the next EB meeting combined with the 2<sup>nd</sup> FAI WAG 2022 Coordination Committee meeting followed by the plenary meetings for IGC, EnvC and CIA.

Susanne and I have a meeting scheduled with Mr Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director, in late February. This will be an opportunity for us to further develop our relationship with the IOC and discuss topics of interest, such as the recognition of FAI Members by OCA.

Finally, the EB has, for a number of years now, combined the May meeting the Commission Presidents meeting (as required by Statutes) and an informal NAC Presidents meeting. We want to make the investment of time by NACs Presidents and representatives more productive. So, this year an Asian NAC Summit will be hosted by RASAT in Bangkok in June, in conjunction with an AFA meeting. The objective of the summit is to have discussions on matters of particular interest to our Asian members.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Henderson  
FAI President

4<sup>th</sup> February 2019