



PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS
16 March 2020 : FAI General Conference 2020

This edition of the “musings” is to bring everyone up to date on the planning for the 2020 FAI General Conference.

The 2020 GC is scheduled to be held in the city of Wuhan, China. We have had discussions with our colleagues in ASFC, in Beijing, and we share the opinion that it is unrealistic to expect the city of Wuhan and Hubei province to continue with this GC.

The health and well-being of the people of China must be the first priority; having sporting events and conferences comes a distant second. We therefore believe that the city of Wuhan and Hubei province should be given the courtesy of time to stabilise their situation post COVID-19, whenever that may be, and to allow their people to return to a normal life.

In addition, travel restrictions will continue to be in place for some unknown time and, even when they are removed, people will be nervous about travelling. This travel anxiety, we believe, would also significantly impact attendance if the GC were held in Wuhan this year.

The FAI wishes to honour the agreement for the city of Wuhan to host a FAI General Conference. The reasons given above, however, give us cause to think that it would be inappropriate for us to expect Wuhan to run the 2020 GC.

I am pleased to be able to advise that ASFC has accepted our formal proposal that the city of Wuhan host the 2022 FAI General Conference. This agreement sends a very strong message to everyone and will enable FAI and ASFC to work together to ensure strong support and a high level of attendance in Wuhan in 2022.

For 2020 we are now looking at possible alternative hosts and alternative dates. These dates would be around the current October dates, or early December, or February 2021.

We will be publishing decision points on the locations and dates shortly; the exact timetable depending on the preparation requirements for the potential hosts. To give you an idea, for October 2020 we might be looking to make a final “go/no go” decision by about early June.

Of course, there is also the risk that a General Conference for 2020 is not achievable. We will be also drawing up contingency plans to manage this situation.

As always, I welcome your feedback and your views on other FAI matters of importance to you.

Best regards

Bob Henderson
President, FAI
16 March, 2020

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