

# THE UIAA

# Annual Report

# 2010



## CONTENTS

President's report	2
Executive Director's report	4
Access Commission	6
Mountain Protection Commission	8
Mountaineering Commission	10
Safety Commission	12
Medical Commission	14
Youth Commission	16
Ice Climbing Commission	18
Commission reform	20
Venues of the UIAA General Assemblies	23
Member federations	24

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# President's Report

Somehow it's hard to believe that four years have passed since the Banff GA in 2006 and my election as president. On one hand it all seems like it was just yesterday but when I think of all the things that have happened during that period it seems like a lifetime!

To say the last four years have been something of a roller coaster ride for the UIAA would be an understatement. The perceived misfit between the UIAA and two of its three sports bodies led to their exit at the end of 2009. The departure of the German and Austrian Alpine Clubs was unfortunate but a timely reminder to the UIAA that it needed to reform itself to be more relevant to its federations.

In 2007 we created the Calvi Commission with two main objectives when examining the governance of the UIAA. First, special attention was given to the relationship between the Management Committee (the old Council) and the Board to ensure that the Board was responsible to and reported to the Management Committee. The other major objective was to reform the commissions to insure that their efforts reflected the interests of the General Assembly. This was further reinforced by the introduction of management by objectives and project management guidelines for the commissions.

Throughout this period the financial challenge facing us has been that the current cost of running the UIAA exceeds our revenue, thus we are drawing into our reserves. A strategy was developed where we would use our reserves to invest in a marketing plan to generate future income. This was approved by both the Management Committee and the General Assembly at Porto in 2009 and will run until the end of 2011.

In the early part of this year a major hiccup occurred with the change of executive directors. Our new Executive Director (Ingo Nicolay) has been hired on the understanding that 50% of his time will be allocated to income generation. The solid ground work that was undertaken over the last few years has been invaluable to giving Ingo the tools necessary to take us to the next level. It is not going to be an easy task but if we are focused we will persevere.

Also this year Steve Long, the chairman of the UIAA's Training Standards, undertook a major study into how we were providing these services to our members. In the past this had been done on a strictly volunteer basis, however this approach was not sustainable. A new model, combining

volunteers and professional moderators, is being established to deliver these standards to our member federations. We believe that offering these training standards to assist our federations in improving their climbing instruction skills is one of the major benefits of the UIAA. These standards are particularly important for smaller federations. Our alliance with the Petzl Foundation has provided in this endeavor.

The other initiative that has been reintroduced has been the old Environment Label, now resurrected as the Mountain Protection Label. Through the offices of the International Academy of Sports Science and Technology (AISTS) in Lausanne we were able to utilize their graduate students who undertook an in depth study to determine if such a label would be viable. The results indicated that this label has a huge potential to become an industry standard, in much the same way as our safety label is the byword for climbers' security around the world. The credit for this endeavor must be given to Linda McMillan and her Mountain Protection Commission.

During the challenging times we have faced over the last few years, much of the board's energies have been spent in reacting to events, rather than being proactive; but times are starting to change and more and more we find ourselves deciding our own future.

It is to this future that we need to look. What will be the UIAA's role tomorrow? That the UIAA has been around for the last 78 years says that there is a need for such an organization but what should be our course of action over the next few years? In order to help us decide this I believe that the UIAA needs to seek a professional facilitator to help us develop a strategic plan which would help us plan our future route. In order for

this to be a successful undertaking we will require the assistance and input from many of our federations. I know that all our federations will be willing to help, as this endeavor will be of benefit to all our federations – regardless of their size or location. I would like to develop this plan in 2011 and bring the results to the GA next year in Nepal.

As the international mountaineering association we have established a cordial relationship with the International Sport Climbing Federation and a close relationship with the International Ski Mountaineering Federation. Recently we met with the International Guides Association (UIAGM) and are re-establishing contacts with IKAR (the International Mountain Rescue Association) and the Club Arc Alpin (CAA). As well we have maintained our dialogue with both the Austrian and German Alpine Clubs. We need to maintain contacts with all these groups – the international climbing community is a relatively small group and it is absolutely critical that whenever possible we speak with one united voice to the outside world. We know what we do, but the beauty and esthetics of our sport are sometimes forgotten in a world that prefers sensationalism and 10 second sound bites.

So let's move ahead towards the next four years with a renewed sense of vigor and purpose, working to ensure our federations view their membership in the UIAA and their participation in the international mountaineering community with pride.

*Mike Mortimer*

Mike Mortimer  
President

# Executive Director's report

Dale Bechtel, Chief Web Editor is responsible for online communications, which include the UIAA website content, e-newsletter and new activities with social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Romanian freelancers Cristina Gabarov and Alex Paun take care of webmaster and programming duties respectively. Valérie Thöni runs the operational part of the UIAA office and oversees Safety Label administration, together with Gurdeepak Ahuja as Safety Label Manager. Agnès Semelet is responsible for accounting, forecasting and budgeting. I (Ingo Nicolay) joined the UIAA Team as the new UIAA Executive Director in July 2010, taking over from Judith Safford who left the UIAA in June to seek new challenges. I still run a large alpine club (a section of the DAV) with roughly 10'000 members. With this background I believe I have a good understanding of what UIAA needs. With a full-time equivalent headcount of 2.8 it's a small, but highly effective, efficient and motivated team.

## Safety Label

One of the best-run areas is Safety. Close to 1850 labels with more than 53 Safety Label Holders is an indication of the great success and teamwork of the Safety Commission and the office staff. The work on safety will increasingly extend from a technical to an educational focus. A first project to collaborate with Mammut to educate end users proves that there is a huge demand. Safety Label fees already represent one third of our income and is reinvested in further studies to advance mountaineers' security.

The Safety Label Solution, developed with Indian offshore resources is a best practice example for project management and offshore development, supporting our Safety Label Holders and stakeholders in a very efficient, seamless electronic way. The last Safety Commission meeting, well organized (Longarone, Italy), was the exchange platform for topics and best practices in the global mountain equipment industry. The next Safety Commission meeting will be held in Switzerland. We are targeting opinion and thought leadership for the safety of mountaineers.

## Projects

The Mountain Protection Label (MPL) will be rolled out soon. It will provide guidance and support for mountaineers who want to know the tour operator they hire adheres to sustainable and environmental best practices, to protect the mountains in which they are travelling. AISTS – the Business School of the IOC is our project partner. With the MPL we want to “empower the next generation of mountaineers”. Training Standards is becoming increasingly important for the UIAA. Along with the Safety Label, the implementation of uniformly high training standards is key to increasing the safe-

ty for mountaineers all over the world. Improvement of training and training curriculums, audited structures, processes and sharing of best practices will reduce risk and increase safety. Finally we will implement a teamwork solution, bringing volunteers and professionals, partners and stakeholders together, across border, across times zones, sharing documents and information, facilitating better, structured and more efficient teamwork.

## Partnerships

We already intensified or will intensify our partnerships with AISTS, the International Mountain Summit (IMS) in Brixen, South Tyrol, and UNEP for the Mountain Protection Label. Last but not least we are deeply grateful for the outstanding backing of the Swiss Alpine Club as our host in Bern. Their support and ongoing commitment is a huge asset for us.

## The Future

We believe in your outstanding potential as volunteers. With your hard work, your skills and your passion, supported by a professional UIAA office, we will shape the future of worldwide mountaineering. Services for you, results and execution are our leading principles, based on a transparent strategy and proven and tested tailored processes. Or as John F. Kennedy said: *“Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.”* We will provide you transparency, efficient support and a high level of services for you as a Member Federation and key stakeholder.

We at the UIAA are inspired by the quote, often attributed to UIAA Honorary Member, the late Sir Edmund Hillary: *“People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things.”*





# Access Commission

- The mission of the UIAA 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. Problems of access can be observed all over the world in all mountain and climbing regions. These issues are caused by poor communication, bad practice and a lack of understanding between the parties involved.
- In 2009-2010 the Access Commission reviewed its mission, objectives and long-term goals. These were ratified by the Management Committee of the UIAA in Kalymnos, Greece, in May 2010. The new objectives of the Access Commission are to:

- 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 environmental, 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.
  - Provide online up-to-date access information related to mountaineering and climbing via the UIAA website. *During the year the Access Commission has been working with the UIAA office to create an online UIAA database of the access situation for climbing and mountaineering across the globe. A work-plan has been designed to allow three stages or levels of information for countries to be developed through time.*
  - Work with the Mountain Protection Commission to provide online resources for best practice in mountaineering and climbing with reference to environmental, social and legal considerations. *A number of publications have been collected to form an initial resource. These include best practice guides to manage climbing sites and green guides for climbing sites.*
  - Promote the freedom to practice climbing and mountaineering sustainably through research, conferences and by establishing links and building relationships
- The goals and the commissions progress towards them over the year are outlined. It's to:

with relevant international organisations, with a view to organising a conference/summit on: freedom of access for climbers and mountaineers. *In 2009-2010 the Access Commission has continued to build on our existing relationships with South America, both through existing relationships and through the Access PanAm organisation. Juan Ibanez Martin, UIAA Access Commission secretary has been liaising on issues in Argentina, Peru, Chile and Brazil.*

The Access Commission will focus on: development of the online Access database including fundraising for the project and increasing links and joint activity with the Mountain Protection Commission. During the 2010-2011 time period the Access Commission will focus on developing online resources to support climbing and mountaineering volunteers and professionals involved in access issues worldwide and to develop the online Access database.





# Mountain Protection

- For the past two years, the Mountain Protection Commission has focused intently on designing, developing and launching a valuable new certification service for the global mountain ecotourism industry: the UIAA Mountain Protection Label.
- This Label aligns perfectly with our long-term vision to bring the three key mountain stakeholder groups—science, sport, and tourism—together with land managers to dramatically improve mountain protection around the world through education, collaboration and communication. Designed to serve as an industry standard like the highly successful UIAA Safety Label, the UIAA Mountain Protection Label offers a credible global standard for the ecotourism industry and a simple way for clients to choose tourism operators who are committed to protecting the natural and cultural resources of mountain regions.

The Mountain Protection Label will periodically bring together ecotourism operators from all over the world to help shape future standards for the global mountain ecotourism industry. Our new Mountain Protection Label clearly proves that the UIAA is committed to continually creating, testing and promoting new ways to pursue our sports while “leaving no trace” on the mountains we cherish. We demonstrate our environmental leadership and ethics by establishing a better, more ethical and sustainable path for the world’s mountain tourists and tour operators to follow.

The UIAA Mountain Protection Commission offers:

- A compelling long-term vision and unified voice for climbers and mountaineers to again “claim the high ground” as historical leaders and key stakeholders in mountain protection issues;
- Strong working partnerships with governmental agencies and the world’s leading conservation organizations to achieve effective protection of mountain ecosystems;
- Updates, alerts, and action programs on mountain protection issues facing mountain regions of the world;
- Innovative events that educate and inspire meaningful action in response to the impacts of climate change, loss of biodiversity, population growth, etc. on mountains and their cultures;
- A collaborative platform for Federations to share mountain protection information, actions, results, “best practices”, and opportunities from their regions;
- Valuable international mountain stewardship projects linking climbers and mountaineers with scientists and land managers to better

assess, understand, and protect the special natural and cultural resources of mountain regions such as the Himalaya and Yosemite.

## Achievements

Here are some of the notable achievements of our UIAA Mountain Protection Commission members around the world in 2010:

- Demonstrating Mountain Protection “Best Practices”: during the 2010 spring expedition season on Mount Everest, our Commission member Ang Tshering Sherpa, his son Dawa Steven Sherpa (Expedition Leader) and their Asian Trekking team continued for a third year the innovative successes of their Eco-Everest Expeditions, focused on creating climate change awareness and testing effective low-impact mountaineering practices. Their 2010 Eco-Everest Expedition continued to refine their eco-friendly “leave no trace” mountaineering style using solar-powered cookers, advanced human waste management and removal systems, and a highly-effective “Cash for Trash” program which removed over 4803 kilos of trash from the Everest massif.
- In late May a series of important international events took place in Kathmandu and in other high-mountain districts of Nepal, organized by Commission member Ang Tshering Sherpa with the assistance of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, the Everest Summiters Association and the Government of Nepal. On May 13th, the Government of Nepal marked the Golden Jubilee of the first ascent of Mt. Dhaulagiri in 1960 with various programs in Pokhara. The third International Mt. Everest Day was celebrated on May 29th with a large procession through the

streets of Kathmandu featuring national and international Everest summiters from around the world. Commission President Linda McMillan delivered a keynote speech at this event, and Nepal’s Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Sarat Singh Bhandari, presented the Tenzing-Hillary Award to Ms. Junko Tabei of Japan as the first woman to summit Mt. Everest and as a long-time supporter of mountain ecotourism.

- Preserving the Natural and Cultural Resources of Mountain Regions: June 2010, Commission member Ang Tshering Sherpa and Dawa Steven Sherpa worked closely with local, national and international groups to organize two events which attracted worldwide media attention to the dangers of spontaneous glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) that could destroy the precious natural and cultural resources of that region, and others around the world with rapidly-growing glacial lakes, at any moment. The Imja Tsho Action Run featured more than 112 local men and women trying to “Beat the GLOF” by racing along the footpaths of the expected flood zones.
- In late July 2010, Commission members and UIAA President Mike Mortimer helped to organize the “Exit Strategies: Managing Human Waste in the Wild” conference in Golden, Colorado (US) hosted by The American Alpine Club and the UIAA. During the two full days of the conference, over twenty presentations were given by international experts on this important global issue, and the latest technologies in human waste management were explained and discussed.

# Mountaineering Commission



The Commission met twice after the Porto General Assembly: in November 2009 in India, hosted by the IMF and in spring in Spain by the FEDME. We have undertaken collaborative work with the Petzl Foundation in order to assist developing federations to establish their own leader training programmes. Jean-Jacques Eleouet, General Secretary, participated in the meetings. He described recent work carried out in Nepal, as well as the imminent completion of a training manual to assist those countries currently unable to produce their own material. The IMF and his Foundation, under the Mountaineering Commission umbrella, negotiated a pilot scheme to be run in 2010.

**New Delhi:** AVM P.C.S. Rautela, Col H.S. Chauhan and S.M. Chamoli presented the Commission an overview of the evolution of the IMF since its formation shortly after the first ascent of Everest.

The **Training Standard Working Group** agreed upon streamlined procedures that should reduce the workload, whilst improving communication. President Humblet outlined the delicate balance between satisfying the UIAA's need to identify additional income sources and protecting core services provided in return for subscription. The Safety Commission is working with and charging manufacturers for gear to be bought by individuals, whereas the Mountaineering Commission is working with the federations: the context is different. We should avoid trying to compensate the loss of fees by incomes that could jeopardize the remaining membership! New incomes should come from outside.

The Commission, with limited human resources, is facing increasing demand from UIAA members but also non-members. Some of the latter feel that they are blocked from accreditation due to the UIAA historical structure which had led to a "first-come, first served" approach to membership.

We suggested drawing a distinction between services to members and outside associations. The latter could be charged including not only the costs but a profit. A balance must be struck between the cost of managing a professional sustainable moderation and the ability of a federation to pay. To generate incomes we could distinguish between the accreditation and the use of the logo.

The Commission is investigating the comparison of **climbing-related accidents**; this project is being coordinated by Chiaki Aoyama. After his

presentation, a recent fatal accident in Japan involving risk management misunderstandings was discussed: this is a disturbingly common underlying factor in large-scale accidents and underlines the importance of developing training programmes for leaders.

During last winter the development of the TSWG has been discussed further. After several bilateral encounters, this was discussed at an Executive Meeting, with Pierre and Steve, who finalized a PPP with an overview of the standards' purposes, what they provide, the duties of the TSWG, and who they are available to.

The Commission drafted its **New Mission Statement** promoting "best practices by identifying and addressing ethical, technical & training, and legal issues of international importance".

Historically the TSWG has worked with Federations, and occasionally with organisations elected by a Federation to provide training for it. However, other organisations have shown an interest in becoming UIAA accredited. If the TSWG work expands then the Member Federations must always receive the highest priority. The ambiguity of "the UIAA member federations' right of refusal" – whether they should be able to veto another application – was discussed but no general consensus was reached.

Steve proposed a structure as to how an expanded accreditation system could be structured, and the prerequisites for applicants. This includes a system of revalidating approved training schemes. It would also professionalise the process by paying approved assessors. The procedure would ideally be web-based.

The **LEWG case law database** now includes 54 cases, searchable by keywords. Chiaki Aoyama also has a database of 25 Japanese cases. Members

of the LEWG will collaborate in order to standardize and merge the bases. The LEWG will issue a report about the increase of climbing wall accident cases. The LEWG is revising his 2002 report and will publish the overview on the website.

**Disciplinary Appeals Panel:** Martin Wragg underlined that the Appeals Panel has only 3 members, from the LEWG, and couldn't fulfil its duties in case of one arbitrator's unavailability. He proposed that the Disciplinary Panels be reconstituted as Tribunals with reduced bureaucracy.

**Ethics:** Phil Wickens described the UIAA document 'To Bolt or Not to Be' which identifies our stance on fixed equipment. This is now over 10 years old. He proposed that a group be set up to identify current bolting policies, draw up a proposal, invite comment, and formally propose a policy to the Management Committee.

Ersan Başar gave an **overview of grading systems**. Comparison tables on the internet are often incorrect. We should amend the Wikipedia statement on the UIAA scale. But to compile an accurate comparison table we need to ask for nationals to compare their own grading system with the UIAA one. Claudio Melchiorri mentioned that this was something the CAI had been investigating and he will initiate collaboration. Francisco Aguado developed the use of colours to represent specific aspects of difficulties.

Ron Whitehead has questioned the value of assigning **UIAA book labels** to guide books. The purpose of the existing label is to ensure that presentation is standardised with minimal requirements and common symbols are used in diagrams. A financial policy for awarding the label must be decided by the MC.



# Safety Commission

In 2010, the UIAA Safety Commission continued to qualitatively enhance its principal work in maintaining and developing standards for mountaineering and climbing equipment. Such standards are deliberated upon by national delegates, representatives from equipment manufacturers and test laboratories. The highlights of the year include:

- Significant research in areas of harness testing, ropes energy absorption, rope conditioning, load repartition at a stance, EAS peak force filtering, corrosion of bolts in marine environment and alternative axis testing on carabiners
- New work areas identified as lanyards, crash pads (mobile) and snow pickets
- Better organized working groups with interim reporting system in each research area
- Focus on education for mountaineers & climbers and possible cooperation with other UIAA commissions for information sharing
- Higher global impact with the participation of national delegates from Russia, Georgia & Argentina and newer markets for Safety Label – Middle East and South America.

### Annual Meeting & UIAA Standards

The annual Safety Commission meeting was held at Longarone, Italy between 2-4 June. There were a total of 50 participants at the meeting: 24 representatives of manufacturers, 7 laboratories, 13 national delegates, corresponding members and experts & 6 members of staff, board as well as guests. Working groups were formed to continue probing and making new studies.

The Safety Commission, in collaboration with the UIAA office in Bern continues to manage and update the 20 standards for mountaineering and climbing equipment. In the past year a small change has been made to the Braking Devices standard (UIAA 129).

Regulations for test laboratories were proposed and accepted at the UIAA Safety Commission meeting in Longarone, Italy. This highlighted the rights and obligations of both, the UIAA and the test laboratories. In the future, the laboratories will bear a nominal cost for being UIAA-accredited with the objective of professionalizing relationship while also strengthening cooperation. Such close interaction is inevitable to fulfil the strict demands that mountaineering and climbing standards must meet. Currently there are 10 UIAA Accredited Laboratories with 2 new applications under review.

### Award for Contribution

After 17 years as a Chairman of the BMC Technical Committee and 23 years as a National Delegate of UIAA Safety Commission from the UK, Neville McMillan, national delegate from the British Mountaineering Council formally ended his role as a commission member at the annual commission meeting in Longarone, Italy. Neville is well known for his paper on

“How strong does your climbing gear need to be?” His collaboration with Pit Schubert on numerous projects including pictorials has been one of his many outstanding achievements; instrumental in shaping the global mountaineering and climbing equipment standards.

### New Web Developments

Keeping with high demands with the growth of the Safety Label, additional services were added to benefit the mountaineering and climbing community and as well as help in efficient sharing and distribution of documents. These were developed with the help of the Safety Commission, UIAA office staff and a software company in India.

#### a. Recalled climbing equipment

Significant development was made by creating a one-stop shop database for equipment related recalls. This feature on the UIAA website also serves as an additional service to manufacturers seeking to safeguard the risk to climbers' life by spreading correct information.

#### b. Document management system

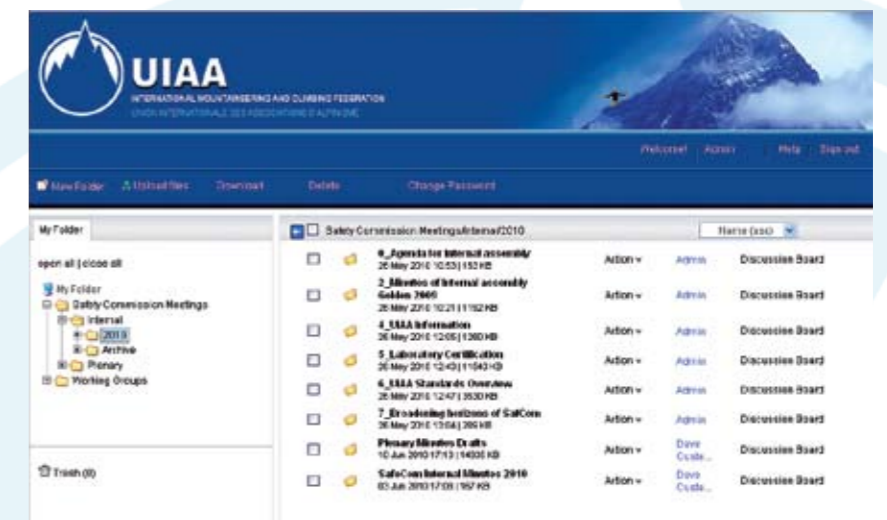
A beta version of document

management system was introduced to integrate all the archives of the past Safety Commission meetings as well as storing documents for working groups and future meetings. Its features include – web access, creating, updating and uploading files, manage discussions on specific topics et al.

### Increase in Safety Labels

As of date the number of Safety Labels has increased by approx. 12% from last year. Currently there are 1827 UIAA labels with a total number of label holders reaching 57 from 18 countries. Presence of UIAA at OUTDOOR in Friedrichshafen, Germany and Salt Lake City, United States has helped informing the prospective label holders about UIAA Standards. The result was an increased interest from various manufacturers around the world.

Such proactive initiatives have increased the visibility of UIAA and the work of the Safety Commission.





# Medical Commission

Since the last UIAA GA meeting in Porto in 2009, the UIAA Medical Commission has had 2 meetings, one in Kathmandu, Nepal on November 16 and 17, 2009, and the other more recently in Arequipa, Peru on August 8, 2010.

In the Kathmandu meeting Medcom members had an opportunity to interact with the local Mountain Medicine Society of Nepal (MMSN) members. About 12 different countries were represented and many vibrant and entertaining discussion and presentations were carried out during this two day meeting.

Importantly we discussed about the Medex booklet related to Travel at High Altitude (for the lay person) supported by the UIAA which is now in 8 languages, although we still do not have Spanish translation. But we are working to rectify this. There is even a Nepali version (translated by one of the MMSN members) that has been very helpful for Nepalese who do not understand English.

This booklet not only talks about the prevention and treatment of altitude sickness in layman's terms, but also very elegantly presents other common non-altitude sickness problems encountered at high altitude; for example, hypothermia, frostbite, and diarrhoea, just to mention three common problems.

Because nowadays many people with pre-existing medical problems (diabetes, high blood pressure, etc.) venture out to the mountains, the booklet also covers these important topics in a simple manner. This booklet is freely downloadable from the UIAA website.

### Aconcagua Regulations Update

Following the meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal, letters from the Medcom UIAA and other councils in English and Spanish had gone repeatedly unanswered regarding the scientifically unproven use of oxygen saturation and blood pressure measurements as screening tools for AMS/HAPE/HACE on Aconcagua base camp and arbitrarily turning away unsuspecting climbers from the base camp site. Letters have been published in journals (for example the Wilderness and Environmental Medicine journal) and warnings put up on the BMC website. Apparently the park authorities simply gave the medical concession to the cheapest bidder with no regard for experience. We are considering sending our UIAA Medcom corresponding member from Argentina, Dr Antonio Ramon Chioconi to Mendoza since this issue is not just medical but also involves many aspects of the UIAA work. We may have to try to obtain some funds from the UIAA to accomplish this.

Crucially at the meeting in Arequipa we discussed about how links are being maintained with our active Austrian and German colleagues although

they are not officially in the UIAA. Within UIAA Medcom there was total agreement that we wanted to continue to work with our Austrian and German colleagues.

### Medcom Projects

In the last year 18 guidelines have been revised, finished or virtually finished and put in our website. Five guidelines are in draft form awaiting final comments. Two projects have been dropped (Mountain Medicine Education and Body mass index). We discussed the difficulties in obtaining a consensus in any form regarding doping so it was decided that the whole emphasis for this topic should change to one that is less biased and more positive but looks at the dangers of drug use in the mountains. New recommendation papers which are proposed are for people with pre-existing cardiac conditions as the first of a series of extensions on the basic and simple paper on those with any preexisting conditions. Future ideas not yet started include pulmonary disease and diabetic problems.

### Central Registration of Mountain Medicine Courses

Not all countries who issue the diploma may be able to provide a list of holders. The first step to this may be to put a list of all UIAA/IKAR/ISMM courses on our website(s) with details of the organisers and responsible bodies. David Hillebrandt with John Ellerton from IKAR are working on this.

### Diploma

There are now 10 basic diploma courses running in the world and new applications are expected from Scandinavia, Nepal and North America. We welcome Japan's new diploma, they had 45 candidates on their first course module.

The need to maintain standards was

discussed taking into account that specific high technical climbing standards might deter some countries from applying to run a diploma. A high degree of competence is needed rather than a high technical ability.

### UIAA Medcom/ISMM/ICAR Joint Meeting

Support for Proposed Nepali Diploma: Dr Suzi Stokes (UK) will do a feasibility visit in the Khumbu region in Oct/Nov 2010 and produce a report in December. IKAR may help for rescue section of the common course and UIAA Medcom may help for other sections of the common course.

### Long Line Rescue in Nepal

Concept of foreign rapid deployment teams and local teams were discussed. IKAR are striving to work out best development policy for practical rescue training (not medical training). Commercial aspects discussed. Needs of Nepali local population mentioned with ethical implications.

In conclusion our own UIAA medcom meeting was only a small part of the five day ISMM Congress at Arequipa which brought together altitude, expedition and rescue doctors from around the world. The university venue in Arequipa, dominated by 5000m peaks, has been an ideal place for lectures on cutting edge research in to high altitude illness, practical sessions and workshops and most importantly for an informal exchange of ideas and a chance to make new friends for future cooperative ventures. We all look forward to closer working relationships between our UIAA Medcom, the ICAR Medcom, the ISMM and the Wilderness Medical Society (WMS) especially in producing more advice guidelines for both doctors and interested persons.

# Youth Commission



The UIAA Youth Commission's mission 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.

The Global Youth Summit is an annual series of events offered by Federations which started in 2004. In every mountain range there is an ongoing need to develop projects that strengthen regional cooperation for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development; the Global Youth Summit gives participants a platform to propose and support such projects. It brings attention to positive health, performance and educational benefits of sport.

In 2010 we had over 28 countries taking part, with Kazbek and FYR Macedonia receiving the most countries participating in any event. The trend this year seems to be more involvement from countries surrounding the host with people not being willing to travel so far and with whom the UIAA needs to work with to bring into the international mountaineering community. As usual participants' comments and feedback is useful to event organisers as they develop their programmes and Federation activities.

**Objectives:**

- Highlighting and supporting training needs & regional sport development – Assisted by a tool kit Criteria & Recommendations – event application and reporting – organisers guidelines – workshops – promotion – post event resources and longer term planning
- Inspiring Federations to organise events, ideas exchange, mountaineering technique development, mountain ethics, history and culture. Using media and partnerships to achieve this
- Peace and co-operation ascents. Working with other organisations on joint objectives
- Training assistance requests According to budgets and policy and made in the year prior to the activity
- Supporting young people to achieve their ambitions on the rocks and in the mountains – produce and collate resources, videos etc.

**Follow-up work needed:**

- Continued support for regions and new country participants after an event is over
- Follow up with UIAA Office to encourage new countries to become UIAA members with tangible ben-

efits for them as often small or developing Federations

- Fund raising of the series as a whole or events and participants fund-raising option for mountain community or environment cause.
- Partnerships with other international organisations
- Making sure that all Federations advertise at least one of the events and that host countries have the logo on their website.

What is offered in addition to the 'Camps'? Youth coaching and leader training (sending mountain guides or other appropriately qualified people to assist Federations in their youth leader training – we do not have enough applications but have worked with Georgia, FYR Macedonia, South Africa, Russia and Ukraine recently), seminars and collection of papers on youth climbing and mountaineering related topics. Event organisers guidelines, advertising medium through facebook, twitter and publication of event reports, advice and support for regional development, international voice, support to federations producing coaching materials/video and publicising them financially and through contacts, subsidy to provide flags and banners, an opportunity to interact internationally with a youth mountaineering /climbing voice, collection of methodologies and papers.

**UIAA Youth Commission Training and Coaching 2010**

Saas Grund European Youth 'Coaching the Stars' January 2010 - ARISF supported. Through the ARISF funding we organised coaching with Ines Papert and Urs Odermatt for national team members competing in the European Youth Ice climbing championships and local young ice climbers. 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. Link shown between mountaineering, ice climbing and competitions.

**Up and Coming**

Youth leader workshops Ukraine September 2010. Topics: "Humanitarian principles as a basis of educational activity of youth leaders. Acquaintance of youth with activity of ARISF, UIAA and YC UIAA. Sponsorship and grant funding for youth organizations, training youngsters in climbing, involvement of youth to tourism and mountaineering. Due to budget constraints this event is now taking place with presentations from Commission members and with input from the Ukrainian leaders of the Youth Climbing Festival.





# Ice Climbing Commission

There were five official UIAA Ice Climbing events in 2010: four World Cup stages in Russia, Italy, Switzerland, Romania and the European Championship in Romania. 132 athletes (35 women and 97 men) from 20 countries competed in UIAA-IWC-2010. Additionally, 15 young climbers competed in the first UIAA Youth European Championship. All together a total of 147 athletes took part in official UIAA competitions in 2010. A bold new structure has been erected for the competition in Busteni, Romania. The structure contains a refrigeration unit that can keep the ice in perfect condition up to about 12 °C. The really impressive structure may point the way to the future in this sport.

Additions and changes have been made in the competition regulations in accordance with the progress of ice climbing and the recommendations of athletes, judges and organizers. Judges/routesetters courses were held in Russia and in Korea in January 2010. As a result we have qualified routesetters and judges teams in these countries too. There was live video feed on the IWC-2010 events on the UIAA website. A video has been uploaded onto YouTube.

**Strategic priorities:**

- Strengthening advertising and sponsorship to help realise our Strategic Plan;
- Increase of the number of athletes and participating countries;
- Increase of the number of competitions in different countries (UIAA events and Challengers),
- Media presentation of ice climbing competitions on international level (printed media, TV and other broadcasting services),
- Further interaction with IOC and the Russian NOC for the promotion of ice climbing competitions during the next Winter Olympic Games held in Sochi.

tion of Use). Dr Marija Andjelkovic has been communicating on a regular basis with the relevant athletes. The first Athlete Outreach program during an ice climbing competition was done in Saas Fee. Through quiz and questionnaire we have educated athletes about the basics of doping and at the same time we collected some general data about them, about injuries in Ice climbing. The questionnaires will be analysed by team of Dr Thomas Kupper from the Medical Commission.

**Project "Anthropometric Profile of Ice Climbers"**

During the competition we have measured 32 ice climbers. The second measurement was conducted in Belgrade in July 2010 when we measured 30 rock climbers who can also climb ice at high level. The third stage will be done in September 2010, when we will measure the control group consisting of non-climbers: athletes from the Faculty of Sport in Belgrade. Some additional measurements might be done in January 2011 if necessary to conclude the project.

Preliminary results obtained on the basis of measurements of the ice and rock climbers:

1. Flexibility significantly affects the rank in lead ice climbing;
2. Ice climbers have a much higher percentage of body fat; the majority being distributed in the lower limbs and trunk.

**Meeting of the Antidoping Commission**

Present members (Dr. Nenad Dikic, Dr. Enrico Donegani, Judith Safford and Dr. Sinisa Vujic as observer) have concluded that in 2010 ice climbing has become stronger from antidoping viewpoint too, after the breakthrough

in 2009 when UIAA achieved high position as code compliant international sport federation. The main reason is the athlete outreach education of the athletes, plus sports-medicine testing as part of the project "Anthropometric Profile of Ice Climbers". Dr Donegani was especially interested in discussing the Prohibited Substances List. There are many open questions, like Sildenafil (Viagra) which is used by mountaineers and also other athletes to improve sport performance. Cooperation with Medical Commission is excellent and there is an ongoing joint work on testing ice climbers. Cooperation with Youth Commission needs to be strengthened. Education of the young athletes is a hot question, specially regarding the supplements, nutrition and training.



## Antidoping

In 2010 we have continued the out of competition doping controls which is important for the recognition of UIAA as a Code Compliant International Federation. In each ice climbing competition we tested four athletes; the results of all tests have been negative. Our work has continued in the Registered Testing Pool with ten athletes. We have done maximal effort to put them all in the ADAMS system. The same applies to the Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) and DoU (Declara-



# Commission Reform

Commissions have always been the pride of the UIAA. They have produced during the years outstanding work aimed at serving the Member Federations and at the same time all mountaineers of the world.

In recent time a reorganization of their activity has been started, following also some criticism expressed by the President VAVOe at the moment of leaving the UIAA.

Fortunately all Commissions were already aware of the necessity of improving their scope and function and the following document summarizes and expresses the full range of activities that Commissions are carrying on.

The Management Committee in its meeting in May 2010 has taken the decision that all commissions must concentrate their activity on specific projects, well defined and planned so that it is easier to manage them all.

In May the Management Committee has approved the following list of projects, which represent the ongoing effort of UIAA Commissions to serve Member Federations. Details are available from the Commissions themselves.

## 1. Mountaineering

### 1.1. Accident statistics

Several climbing and mountaineering federations do not have their own statistics on accidents. Often the federations writing such material are reluctant to share the information. On the other side, the statistics are the first tool in preventing the hazards. The unknown risk is the major fear affecting the insurer and the federations would be in better position to discuss with the carriers having serious stats at their disposal.

### 1.2. Joint venture with the Petzl Foundation

The goal is to assist young UIAA Federations from Asia to develop their training skills. A first experience has been conducted in Nepal by the Petzl Foundation with a limited UIAA collaboration (advices, contacts, review of the teaching manual).

### 1.3. Information exchange on technical teaching material

The UIAA is often asked about technical literature on mountaineering, ski mountaineering, bolting, etc. Not all member federations have reached the same level of development and do not produce their own educational material. Some have to refer to teaching material prepared by others.

### 1.4. Traditional values and bolting

PH recommends an update on the document, in order to give more specific guidance on safe practice.

## 2. Legal Experts Working Group

The LEWG has been informed that

there are concerns on the usefulness of its activity for the Federations and that they are requested to redefine their functions.

## 3. Training Standards Project

The project will be presented to the Management Committee in Bormio.

## 4. Medical Commission

### 4.1. Diploma in mountain medicine

Together with our partners MedCom ICAR and ISMM, the Medical Commission has established and developed a joint Diploma in Mountain Medicine. The specialty course is designed for the training of emergency physicians and paramedics working in mountain rescue organisations.

### 4.2. Recommendations for mountaineers

We have now been successful in putting these recommendations in our Medcom UIAA website so that all who wish to can benefit from these recommendations.

For instance sickness, diarrhoea and its prevention in the mountains, water purification, drug use. Also access to mountains for specific groups with common medical problems.

Some of the guidelines have been translated in different languages: 12 in German, 4 in Spanish.

### 4.3. New papers

- Doping in Mountaineering
- Eye problems at altitude
- Dental problems at altitude
- Expedition/Trekking contract
- Non-caucasian at altitude
- Poisonous animals at altitude
- Healthy to the mountains
- Minimal standards for artificial hypoxia

### 4.4. Website health advice for common high altitude journeys

In all parts of the world access to high

altitudes carries hazards and can lead to problems.

Case studies have been related to Kilimanjaro and extension expected to Aconcagua, Everest base camp and Annapurna trek.

### 4.5. Mountain rescue medical preparation

Hands on mountain rescue medicine for local doctors, health professionals and Sherpas.

### 4.6. Education

The UIAA Medical Commission suggests better education and awareness about the prevention and treatment of altitude related illnesses to prevent these untoward deaths in this neglected population.

### 4.7. Country reports

Contacts with federations is a key to development of better mountain medicine knowledge.

## 5. Access Commission

### 5.1. Worldwide Access – online resource State of the nations: High level access over-view

## 6. Antidoping Commission

### 6.1. Anthropometric profiles of elite male and female ice climbers

Ice climbers require great physical strength and tremendous endurance. As relatively new sport, ice climbing is not researched enough.

### 6.2. Out of competition testing and outreach educational programme in ice climbing

There is strong interest to educate the athletes with all the new aspects of anti-doping rules and regulation.

## 7. Mountain Protection Commission

### 7.1. Relations to mountaineers and leading mountain-related NGOs

**7.2. Extension of membership, appealing to youth**

**7.3. Climate change and climbing activities**

**7.4. Mountaineering and UNESCO sites**

**7.5. Database Declarations on Mountain Protection**

**7.6. Mountain Protection Label (a development of the UIAA Environment label)**

**8. Youth Commission**

**8.1. Support for training to federations**

**8.2. Youth events handbook**

**8.3. Route setting**

**8.4. Anti-doping education for youth leaders and in schools**

**8.5. Youth training, environmental project**

**8.6. Video: Capturing Global Youth Summit activities**

**8.7. Seminar in Ukraine**

**9. Safety Commission**

The Commission works on the following ongoing projects, through specific working groups which are actively engaged in exchange of documents and comments, which finally are discussed and subject to approval during the annual meeting. The list of projects:

- Criteria for inspection of the equipment
- Changes, effectiveness of standards and transition periods
- Harnesses
- Ropes, testing on sharp edges
- End and center marking in ropes
- Ropes, Slipperiness
- Dry coating
- Conditioning of ropes
- Equalizing belay anchor systems
- Lanyard
- Tidying up the Doderro test
- Education
- Crash pads
- Snow pickets
- Braking device
- Bolt corrosion
- Alternate Axis Testing
- Canyoning equipment
- Via ferrata construction
- Update of Safety Label Regulations
- Mission and goals of Safety Commission
- Definition of UIAA partners



# Venues of the UIAA General Assemblies

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

# Member Federations

**Andorra:** Federacio Andorrana de Muntanyisme

**Argentina:** Federaciòn Argentina de Ski y Andinismo

**Belgium:** Climbing & Mountaineering Belgium

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Mountaineering Union of Bosnia-Herzegovina

**Brazil:** Confederaçãõ Brasileira de Montanhismo e Escalada

**Bulgaria:** Bulgarian Climbing and Mountaineering Federation

**Canada:** The Alpine Club of Canada  
Ecole Nationale d'Escalade du Québec  
Fédération Québécoise de la Montagne et de l'Escalade

**Chile:** Federaciòn de Andinismo de Chile

**China:** Chinese Mountaineering Association  
Chinese Taipei Alpine Association  
Chinese Taipei Mountaineering Association  
Hong Kong Mountaineering Union  
Hong Kong Sport Climbing Union

**Croatia:** Mountaineering Association of Croatia

**Cyprus:** Mountaineering and Climbing Federation of Cyprus

**Czech Republic:** Czech Mountaineering Federation

**Denmark:** Danish Alpine Club  
Danish Climbing Federation

**Dominican Republic:** ADEM

**Ecuador:** Union Panamericana de Asociaciones Montañismo y Escalada

**Finland:** Finnish Climbing Association

**France:** Fédération Française des Clubs Alpins et de Montagne

**Georgia:** Mountaineering and Climbing Association of Georgia

**Greece:** Hellenic Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing

**Hungary:** Hungarian Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Association  
Magyar Sportturisztikai Szövetség

**India:** Indian Mountaineering Foundation

**I.R. Iran:** I.R. Iran Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation

**Ireland:** Mountaineering Ireland

**Israel:** The Israeli Alpine Club

**Italy:** Club Alpino Italiano  
Alpenverein Südtirol

**Japan:** Japan Mountaineering Association

**Latvia:** Latvian Alpinist Association

**Liechtenstein:** Lichtensteiner Alpenverein

**Lithuania:** Lithuanian Mountaineering Association

**Luxembourg:** Fédération Luxembourgeoise d'Escalade, de Randonnée Sportive et d'Alpinisme

**Mexico:** Federaciòn Mexicana de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada AC

**Monaco:** Club Alpin Monégasque

**Mongolia:** NMF

**Nepal:** Nepal Mountaineering Association

**Netherlands:** Royal Dutch Mountaineering and Climbing Club

**New Zealand:** New Zealand Alpine Club

**Norway:** Norwegian Alpine Club  
The Norwegian Climbing Federation

**Pakistan:** Alpine Club of Pakistan

**Poland:** Polish Mountaineering Association

**Portugal:** Clube Nacional de Montanhismo  
Federaçãõ de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal

Federaçãõ Portuguesa de Montanhismo e Escalada

**Republic of Korea:** Corean Alpine Club  
Korean Alpine Federation

**Romania:** Clubul Alpin Roman

**Russia:** Climbing Federation of Russia  
Russian Mountaineering Federation

**Serbia:** Mountaineering Association of Serbia

**Slovakia:** Slovak Mountaineering Union

**Slovenia:** Alpine Association of Slovenia

**South Africa:** The Mountain Club of South Africa

**Spain:** Federaciòn Española de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada

Centre Excursionista de Catalunya

Basque Mountaineering Federation

Federaciò d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya

**Sweden:** Swedish Climbing Association

**Switzerland:** Schweizer Alpen-Club  
Vereinigung Akademischer Alpenclubs der Schweiz

**The former Yugoslav Republic of**

**Macedonia:** Macedonian Mountain Sport Federation

**Turkey:** Turkish Mountaineering Federation

**Ukraine:** Ukrainian Mountaineering Federation

**Great Britain:** British Mountaineering Council

The Alpine Club

**USA:** The American Alpine Club  
Alaskan Alpine Club