

GM IFMGA November 2007

Matsumoto, Japan

Dear delegates of the national mountain guides associations

Dear mountain guide colleagues

This year was unfortunately overshadowed by the tragic fatal accident of our

President Claude Rey. Claude has done very much for our association and his

death has left a big and painful void in our lives. It takes time to fill this

void and I am very grateful that we can present Bruno Pellicier, a worthy successor for Claude, for the election later on the agenda. Bruno was a close

friend of Claude, has often spoken with him about his activities and I am sure

that the presidency of our federation will continue in accordance with the

wishes of Claude thanks to Bruno's work.

At the beginning of this year I was unexpectedly asked to assume the job as

Vice-President as Edi Bohren's successor. Already many years ago I got to know

Edi as a great mountain guide and dear colleague and I hope that I can take on

this job also in his accordance. I would like to thank you for the confidence

you gave me in Bormio. According to the situation it's now my job to make a

summary of the work of the managing committee since the GM of Bormio.

Also in this time period it was the main object of the managing committee to

guarantee the quality of the profession of the mountain guides and a high level

of the trainings in all the countries. We are offering a service to our clients

and the client pays for it. He engages us because he expects a highest possible

safety and a technically competent guiding. Maybe the client has only got few

time per year at disposal that he can spend in the mountains and he wants to use

this time in a best way as possible. He expects from us that we are fully committed to him, that we show him the beauty of the mountains and unforgettable

experiences. The fact that we are internationally acknowledged mountain guides

should give him the guarantee that he can demand high standards.

According to

this the IFMGA label is a certificate for guarantee of our high quality of work

and at the same time the logo through which we are recognized on the market.
Every company that is working internationally has got its worldwide logo and wants that the client connects this with a high quality. It's exactly the same with us and our logo of the internationally acknowledged mountain guide. Our by-laws say about the membership within our federation that the mountain guides training has to be nationally regulated and that the federation has the aim to unify this training as much as possible. Therefore it's the job of the managing committee to work towards this aim also if it can create the situation that we have to interfere into the internal affairs of the member countries, if this is necessary. We do this always in accordance with the aim to support the respective member country. In the end it helps all of us if we are able to reach our aim of a qualitatively high training and further education within our profession.
The technical commission has elaborated, under the head of Alexis Mallon, a summary / survey about the trainings in the different countries that he is going to present later. The managing committee and above all Claude Rey got in touch with those countries where the training could be unified or improved according to us. In the medium term we will more often have to deal with the problem with what resources - be it personal or financial - we can continue our work concerning the guarantee of our quality standard. Here I would like to mention the foundation that has been initiated by Armin Oehrli in Switzerland, which has got a capital of 140'000.- and which should also be supported by other countries. At the same time in the managing committee we have thought about a possible creation of an enlarged managing committee for certain basic questions, that would consist of the alpine countries and the last former presidents of the IFMGA.
Claude was fighting for the image of our federation. Therefore he has written a presentation about the IFMGA and several texts where he defines, what are the goals of the IFMGA and what dangers are at the moment affecting the IFMGA. The presentation will later be showed and be approved by the general assembly. In

the next future a model for the IFMGA could be drawn up on the basis of this presentation, that helps us to formulate these goals even more concretely and to reach them later. Further Claude has been in contact with South America, Spain and Italy concerning the mountain guides training. Further progresses could be reached in this sector.

The internet site of the IFMGA should be newly designed and the corresponding job was given to a professional company. The information booklet is ready to be printed.

Postum I want to thank Claude Rey for his great engagement for the IFMGA. In a later point on the agenda we will come back on this subject. I would like to thank our secretary Armin Oehrli for his devoted and often thankless work and I also thank our president of the technical commission. Probably he has the most difficult job considering the duties that he is treating and handling in the sector of training. I also want to thank all the others who collaborate with the managing committee and help to get our federation to the spot it is now. It is exactly what it should be, this is the basis for friendship among mountain guides across the national frontiers, but also the guarantee for the quality of our profession.

Zermatt, 19.10.2007
Hermann Biner