



PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

2005 – 2008

Summary of the stages

CURRENT STATE IN MEMBER COUNTRIES QUESTIONNAIRE

RESULTS ANALYSIS

ADVICES AND GOALS

1/ CURRENT STATE OF ULTRADISTANCE RUNNING IN MEMBER COUNTRIES -QUESTIONNAIRE.

A questionnaire was sent to the Member Federations of the IAAF on March 14th, 2005.

- 53 countries have answered.
- 51 questionnaires could be analysed

2/ RESULTS ANALYSIS

- 28 countries organise races of ultra-distance.

Especially in Europe.

- 23 countries are not interested.

For these 28 countries, the most frequently organised distance is 100 Km.

100km	24h	50km	12h
24/28	19/28	11/28	8/28

1 to 3 100 km are organised in each country during the season, except in Russia and Germany (6), in Korea (12), in France (14) where Ultra-distance benefits from the craze for road races.

Not all the countries interested in Ultra-distance organise National Championships.

100km	24h	50km	autres
14/28	8/28	6/28	1/28

Race participation is very mixed and races can include from 15 / 20 athletes to 150/200 for countries such as Germany or France.

When the International Championships are accompanied with open races, participation can reach thousands of competitors, as, for example Winschoten, Taïnan, Cléder...

In the great majority of the countries organising ultra-distance races, especially those organising National ultradistance Championships, there is liaison with the National Athletics Federations either by full integration or by affiliation.

However there is not necessarily a specialized committee as in Great Britain, France, Austria or Russia or a coordinator as in Poland.

Specific cases exist:

In Germany, the 100km is integrated into the Athletics Federation whereas the 24 hours and the 50km depend on an Association.

In New Zealand, a specific ultradistance association exists which is independent from the National Federation but there is collaboration for representation at international ultradistance competitions.

In Italy, Italian athletes win ultradistance championship medals but there is no integration into the National Athletics Federation Relations exist but are rare.

In Korea, ultra-distance races are organized (12 100km) without any relation with the Federation.

Whether or not countries are interested in ultradistance running, the great majority of countries organized their information needs into a hierarchy of three very different and sharply distributed groups.

Medical Aspects

The medical questions connected to the practice of the ultra-distance races, stand out sharply at the head of the questionnaire. It is the point mostly expressed as being one of the priorities.

Communications - Race Calendar

Communications and the race calendar are jointly in second position.

Technical Aspects – Group of Specialized Officials

The technical aspects are in third position but very close to the second group.

3/ RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBJECTIVES

From this first analysis, we see quite naturally ideas for the development of ultradistance competition.

Medical

Awareness and information on the medical aspects of ultradistance running, which is the responsibility of the IAU, is of priority to National Federations. There are certainly risks connected to the practice, that's the reason why it is important to be aware of them by close liaison with the medical profession so that information can be disseminated widely

For instance we can approach the French Federation of Athletics which, thanks to its medical service, organized a study on its National team of 100km for the season 2004. .

Communication

We noticed it in the survey that , a certain number of countries who are not interested in the ultra-distance running.

Therefore, there exists, naturally, a capacity of development and progress for the activity. It needs more information to be disseminated to these countries to raise their awareness.

Principal Objectives:-

To increase the number of countries involved in ultradistance running,

So that they have successful national championships

And can hold IAU international championships.

Race Calendar

The calendar,, an indispensable tool for communication, should evolve towards an attractive and complete document. Attractive through modern presentation and containing the following information:

- Word of the President*
- Review*
- International Competitions*
- Big international organizations*
- IAU Technical Rules.*

This will placed on the IAU website.

Technical Aspects

The Technical Guidelines being finalized by the Directors of Competition and Organisation and the General Secretary is eagerly awaited.. It will contribute to a better knowledge of ultra-distance running and will be the foundations for the successful running of ultradistance events.

In addition, a group of specialized Officials operating under the Director of Competition's responsibility is indispensable to the follow-up and the application of the IAU rules.

The work of these specialists, well trained in the modern techniques of communication, will contribute to the development of ultra-distance running in the spirit of openness listening and advice for the organizers of international Competitions.

The launch of "IAU LABEL" will also be a determining factor.

The implementation of these objectives should position the IAU and ultradistance running as a, mature, responsible, structured but open and modern speciality