

Public Letter 2-09

www.fai.org/aeromodelling/ciamflyer
Editor: Emil Ch. Giezendanner

Shortage of Young Talent – what’s that?

As long as there are great offerings for children and young people in aeromodelling there will be plenty of new blood in aviation.

Tokyo on a Sunday at the end of last November. If it weren't for the strong icy wind from the North, the light blue sky could be seen as an invitation to go for a hike outdoors. The wind stings your face and makes your clothes flap. Not so in the cosily heated gigantic Exhibition Centre, a structure with cutting edge architecture. During the Hobby Exhibition taking place in one of the numerous halls, the modelling industry's stands exhibit everything to make the passionate aeromodeller's heart beat faster.

The best model flying cranks of Japan, including World Champions, are giving aeromodelling demonstrations in the rear of the huge building, showing aerobatics with helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. Suddenly, at least 100 children flock into the hall through one of the doors. Some of them are already quite independent, proudly and carefully carrying their small planes. Others are more timid and holding their mother or father's hand. They are being overseen by several teachers with the aim of holding a competition. The flying models are equipped with a rubber band motor and the little propeller winds the lightweight planes into the hall's vast heights.



The little pilots wind up the rubber band motor and then concentrate hard for the launch. Occasionally the teacher's support is required and some parents have to intervene encouragingly. Finally the seconds flown are shown on a totaliser beside the names and then there is a dignified presentation of medals.

These little miracle machines were exclusively manufactured by the Japanese Aero Club and made available for children's events. Congratulations! ⇒

Under supervision of experienced aeromodellers, around 80 young pilots built small aeroplanes with an electric motor and a real propeller. ↓



Three month's later on a cold and rainy Sunday in the town of Pfäffikon, Switzerland. This was the first time an indoor flying meet was held here. Not long after lunchtime, not only several hundred spectators were finding their way through the exhibition to the gallery, but also many children and young people. Under supervision of experienced aeromodellers, around 80 young pilots built small aeroplanes with an electric motor and a real propeller. Finally about 20 young competitors took part in the children's competition scheduled for the afternoon and fought over every second. In addition, Switzerland's best indoor pilots and helicopter acrobats demonstrated their beautiful and sometimes bold manoeuvres, and again some juniors insisted on participating.