



**FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE
INTERNATIONALE
Ballooning Commission**

Hall of Fame

Michio Kanda
Inducted 2010



MICHIO KANDA

Japan

Inducted 2009

Sport balloonist

1949 – 2008

Michio Kanda established an FAI-World altitude record of 13897 meters (42358') for AX-7 class in 1988 and held the FAI world record for the longest-duration balloon flight, with a time of 50 hours and 38 minutes. He was lost at sea attempting to break two world records: his own for duration, and Richard Branson's distance travelled in a hot air balloon.

Image courtesy Sabu Ichyosi

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1949-2008

Diplomas and Merits:

Icarus Diploma	1984, 1989, 1995, 1998, by Japan Balloon Federation,
Aviation Sports Prize	1984, 1989, 1995, 1998, by Japan Aeronautic Assoc.
Montgolfier Diploma	1989 by Federation Aeronautic International, first Asian recipient
Citizen in Honour,	1997 Calgary, Canada
Paul Tissandier Diploma	1998 by Federation Aeronautic International
Naomi Uemura Adventure Award	2001 by Uemura Naomi Memorial Foundation

CV for Michio Kanda,

- 1949 Dec. Born in Kawajima Town, Saitama, Japan
- 1977 Jun. Founded Saitama Balloon Club.
- 1979 Feb. Obtained Hot Air Balloon Pilot Licence.
- 1979 Jul. Flight over Mt. Fuji, from Asagiri to Gotemba 24km.
- 1980 May Flight over Northern Japan Alps, from Kamiho Mura to Omachi 37km.
- 1982 Apr. Test flight for challenge to the high altitude record. Saku Nagano to Kuki Saitama 106km. Altitude 6,236m.
- 1982 Dec. Flight from Kanazawa Ishikawa to Matsumoto Nagano 116km.
- 1983 Feb. Flight across Honshu Island. From Kanazawa Ishikawa to Ogawa-machi, Nasu, Tochigi 303km.
- 1984 Feb. Flight from Oki Island off the coast of Shimane Japan to Ida, Nagano, establishing New World Distance Record of 419km for FAI Class AX-6. Previous record was 369km.
- 1986 Nov. Challenged to renew World Altitude Record for FAI Class AX-6. Flight from Akeishi Nagano to Utsunomiya Tochigi. Climbed to 9,560m. Established a new altitude record of Japan.
- 1987 Nov. Challenged Class AX-7 World Altitude Record of 12,375m. Made 12,163m at the first attempt. Flight from Kamioka Gifu to Shiobara Tochigi.
- 1988 Mar. Second challenge flight from Matsumoto Nagano, ditched in the Pacific off the coast of Choshi, Chiba. Flight recorder lost in the Pacific.
- 1988 Nov. Third attempt: Flight from Kamioka Gifu to Matsumoto Nagano. Climbed to 10,800m.
- 1988 Nov. Fourth attempt: Flight from Kamioka Gifu to Utsunomiya Tochigi. Established a New World Altitude Record of 12,910m for FAI Class AX-7.
- 1990 May Challenged to fly over Mt. Everest by Hot Air Balloon. Made the first hot air balloon flight over Himalaya at altitude 10,000m. However couldn't fly across Mt. Everest.
- 1993 Feb. Flight across East China Sea for the first time by a hot air balloon. This was also a AX-8 distance record for Japan to cover 940km from Rudong (near Shanghai) China to Ubuyama Kumamoto, Japan.
- 1994 Jun. World Distance Record of 2,366.1km for FAI Class AX-10 up AX-14. Flight from Mullewa, Western Australia to Frome Downs, South Australia, Flight duration 24 hours 09 minutes.

- 1997 Feb. World Duration record of 50 hours 38 minutes for FAI Class AX-10 up AX-15, from Calgary, Canada to Jordan Montana, USA.
- 1998 Sep. Challenged Mt.K2 however flight abandoned due poor weather.
- 2000 Oct. Flew over Mt.Nanga Parbat, the highest peak in West Himalaya.
- 2004 Jan. First challenge to cross the Pacific but no success.
- 2008 Jan. Second attempt to cross the Pacific, last contact from him the following day, still missing then,



Text prepared by S. ichiyoshi