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IEA Newsletter from the IEA President

No. 23 May 2008

Dear Council Members,

I am delighted to provide our May 2008 Newsletter to members of the IEA Federated Societies and Technical Committees (TC). This Newsletter is a Special Edition and provides a focus on the planning for the IEA 2009 Congress. The various Organizing Committees led by the Chinese Ergonomics Society (CES) are now working very hard to ensure that the 2009 IEA Congress will be as successful as our previous wonderful Triennial Congresses. I would like to thank Professor Sheng Wang and his team for their ongoing commitment and work. I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous work of our IEA STP Chair Dr. Halimahtun Khalid who has worked so hard in involving all of our 24 Technical Committees (TC) in developing the Congress program materials, together with Professor Kan Zhang as Co-Chairs of the IEA Congress Scientific Committee.

1. Congress Website

The CES has completely updated the Congress website to provide new information. It can now be found on the IEA website home page (www.iea.cc) or directly at www.iea2009.org. Save it in your favorites and check it regularly.

2. Congress Theme

The theme for the Congress is **“Partnerships in Ergonomics - Changes, Challenges and Opportunities”**. This theme provides us in 2008 to reflect on the changes to our ergonomics discipline and the future challenges and opportunities. Your reflection of this theme in the promotion of the Congress and submissions to the Congress would be appreciated. One research and application domain that has become critical in need of interdisciplinary and global cooperation is natural disaster management, response and recovery. How can ergonomists address this problem? We look forward to joint discussions between IEA Technical Committees and all our IEA partners in finding solutions for the New Millennium.

3. Congress Flyer

The Congress Committees have developed a Flyer to promote the Congress via the Federated Societies and our partners. An electronic copy is attached and we encourage you to load this onto your own Federated Society websites to assist the Congress promotion in your own countries. A number of federated societies are already advertising the 2009 Congress on their website, and we thank them. You may also print the flyer and circulate copies at your own scientific meetings and other promotional opportunities. You will notice that this flyer provides the following information:

- Contact names and email addresses for each IEA Technical Committee. A Co-Chair for each TC has been nominated for the Congress preparation activities.
- Details of other Tracks for the program proposed beyond the Technical Committee list.
- Suggestions for special sessions in the Congress program.

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- List of the important dates for you to note to ensure that the planning deadlines are met.

I would like to encourage your members to monitor the discussion with the Technical Committees on the Discussion Forums in the IEA Members section of the website (www.iea.cc). This is open to any member of a Federated Society. You first need to register as a member; you can then enter your email address and the password “ergohfe” to have access to the discussion forums.

4. Call For Proposals

A Call for Proposals is also included in the attachment. This document includes the personal invitations from all Track Chairs to seek participation in their stream of the Congress program. These tracks involve those from the IEA Technical Committees, which correspond to the TC name, and additional tracks organized by the members of the International Scientific Committee. Can I encourage you to circulate these to your members to encourage their participation in various optional programs? It is commendable to see that a number of the Technical Committees have developed joint sessions where their research and application areas overlap. You are also welcome to propose suggestions from your own Federated Societies TC where this may provide useful discussion opportunities for collaboration.

5. Publisher for Keynote Addresses

The IEA Executive invited all the IEA-endorsed journals to consider publishing the Keynote papers from the Congress. We had responses from all journals and/or their publishers. We have invited “Applied Ergonomics” to work with us for this role. We have also invited one of our newly endorsed Journals “Work” to publish selected papers that are of interest to “Work” as part of their support for the Congress. We acknowledge the heavy burden for all our major journals to consider our invitation, when they in fact have a backlog of research papers awaiting publication.

6. External Participation

Consistent with the aims of the IEA Executive Committee to encourage a participative approach to involve related organizations into the IEA activities, I am pleased to report that we have representatives from the WHO, ILO, ISO, ICOH and IOHA joining our International Advisory Committee. This Congress provides us with the opportunity to discuss our Congress Theme within a broader context.

7. Researchers and Practitioners

We are very keen that researchers and practitioners use this Congress as an opportunity to discuss the Congress theme within their respective technical sessions. The future opportunities for development of ergonomics through practice are well and truly happening. We need to showcase this at the Congress. We strongly encourage practitioners to feel welcome to join the Congress and participate in the planning process to ensure they receive the benefits desired.

8. Students and “Retired” Ergonomists

Finally, I would like to encourage students to use the reduced registration rates to come to this Congress and take advantage of the experience to enhance their engagement into ergonomics. Students represent the future of our domain and we welcome them with open arms. We also believe in expertise sharing between the young and seasoned ergonomists. We invite our experienced colleagues to come and share their know-how with junior ergonomists as part of one big interactive family.

We look forward to providing further IEA activity information in the next Newsletter during June 2008.

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Yours sincerely,

Prof. David C Caple

President – International Ergonomics Association

Appendix: Congress Flyer; Call for Proposals

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