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IEA Newsletter from the IEA President No. 32 February 2009

Dear Council Members,

I am delighted to provide our February 2009 Newsletter to members of the IEA Federated Societies and Technical Committees.

1. IEA 2009 Congress Update

Details are on the website www.iea2009.org

Updating the specific program areas we have;

1.1 Submission of Papers

All Abstracts have now been received and assessed by the Congress Scientific Committee. Authors will be notified shortly and remember that the full paper needs to be submitted by the 1st April 2009.

1.2 Congress Registration process

All delegates should commence registering for the Congress using the online Registration process on the Congress website. You can also now reserve your accommodation at the Congress venue with a selection of hotel grades and costs. By comparison with USA and Europe the costs for the hotels are very reasonable with 5 Star at around US\$100 per night.

1.3 China Visa

All foreign delegates to China will require a visa for entry to China. Please make contact with the Chinese Embassy in your home country to make sure that you allow sufficient time for your visa processing.

1.4 Exhibitions and Sponsors

We are now calling for interests from potential exhibitors and sponsors for the IEA 2009 Congress in Beijing. Details of the opportunities for exhibiting in the special display areas during the Congress will be provided on the IEA'2009 website – www.iea2009.org
Can I ask each Society to promote the opportunity for exhibitors from your own country to check the website and discuss their needs with the Congress Organizers?

2. Nominations for the 17th IEA Executive

This month I have emailed all Federated Societies inviting them to nominate eligible members for the IEA leadership executive of IEA President; Secretary General and Treasurer. Nominations are now open and the election will be conducted at the IEA Council meeting in August in Beijing, China. I would be keen to hear from any Society who may wish to discuss potential nominees. The nomination forms were attached to the January 2009 Newsletter (No. 31)

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3. Submissions for the IEA'2015 Triennial Congress

Submissions for organizing and hosting the IEA'2015 Triennial Congress have now been officially received from Australia /New Zealand; Italy and UK. The IEA Executive have appointed an independent Committee to review the Submissions and to prepare a report back to the IEA Executive Committee by the end of March. I would like to thank Ernst Koningsveld (The Netherlands); Hal Hendrick (USA); Ken Laughery (USA) and Eric Wang (Taiwan) who have accepted to participate on this committee. They have all been extensively involved in previous IEA conferences and Congresses. We look forward to receiving their evaluation of the 3 submissions for the IEA'2015 Congress. I would like to congratulate and thank each of the Federated Societies who have put in such an enormous effort with their submissions. I am sure that each would be more than capable to arrange the 2015 Congress and it will be a difficult decision for the Council in August.

5. IEA Events / conferences

Keep checking the Events section of the IEA website to see the upcoming conferences arranged by IEA Societies as well as other events we have selected for members to know about. Check on the "Stay Informed" section of the website (www.iea.cc).

6. Ergonomics without Borders Proposal

During February, I have been engaged in consultation in the "Ergoweb" international forum about a request for developing an "Ergonomics without Borders" program. The IEA already has the "Foundation for Professional Ergonomics" chaired by Hal Hendrick, which offers ergonomics expertise as an outreach activity at an international level. The foundation Board and the IEA Executive are currently considering the options for embracing this program as part of the IEA family activities.

7. Ergonomics in Indigenous Communities

I have been contacted by Dr Karen Piegorsch, President, Synergo Arts who has founded this organization to bring simple practical ergonomics support to artists and artisans in Indigenous communities in Latin America. This looks like a wonderful outreach activity for IEA members to consider supporting. Check their website; www.synergoarts.org

8. EQUID Update

The Chair of the EQUID Standing Committee, Ralph Bruder, is hosting a two-day EQUID meeting in Darmstadt, Germany during March to review the progress and feedback on the EQUID documents circulated to the Federated Societies in 2008. The committee will also map out options for implementation to be considered by the Council meeting in Beijing in August.

9. IEA Website Update

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work by our wonderful Secretary General, Pascale Carayon and her Assistant Jonathon Ross who are regularly updating the IEA website with information provided by the Federated Societies and also through relevant external groups. Please monitor the homepage on the website on a regular basis to see any updating events and interesting issues that can be communicated to your members. Currently, we have the Seoul Declaration available on the homepage of the website together with a list of ergonomic assessment tools that has been collated by

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Professor Alan Hedge from Cornell University, USA. Alan has kindly offered to make these ergonomic assessment tools available to the IEA to maximize their dissemination and utilization.

10. World Health Organization Initiative

During March, I will be representing the IEA at the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. During this Congress, there will be a meeting with representatives involved in the WHO Global Plan of Action. The WHO is looking at adopting a standard model for professional contribution of advice relating to workplace health. During February, I circulated a letter to the IEA Technical Committees on MSD and ODAM as the initial targeted areas of participation in evaluating this model for the WHO. If any other member would like to participate in this process, please feel free to contact me directly.

11. Meetings during March

I am currently looking forward to a number of very important IEA meetings during March. These include the representation of the IEA at the ICOH Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. The IEA Executive will be having a sub-EC meeting in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, to discuss the future strategies for EQUID, Certification, and education program accreditation. This will be our final meeting prior to the Council in August.

I have been delighted to accept an invitation from the Ergonomics Society in The Netherlands to participate at their conference in Zeist. The organizational support provided by the Society for the sub-EC meeting and hospitality is greatly appreciated. I am also proposing to visit Bahrain for an inaugural meeting the Bahrain Ergonomics Society and also in Dubai to investigate the formation of a new network or regional Ergonomics Society in this part of the world.

We look forward to providing further IEA activity information in the next Newsletter during March 2009.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. David C Caple
President – International Ergonomics Association

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