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IEA Newsletter from the IEA President No. 17– November 2007

Dear Council Members,

I am delighted to provide our November Newsletter to members of the IEA Federated Societies.

1. IEA Website – Statistics and Discussion Group Enhancements

As part of our Communication Strategy, we have focused the IEA website as the single point of information exchange. The website address is www.iea.cc

I have reviewed the statistics on utilization of this website and conferred with the previous webmaster, Andy Marshall (UK). It appears that the “hits” of the website have increased by 50% since the launch of the new site in 2007.

The average number of pages viewed per visit has doubled from 3 pages to 6 pages during this period. Based on this data, it would appear that the investment in the website to increase information exchange has been successful.

In response to the Council discussion in Boston relating to interactive discussion, we have now contracted the website designer to introduce a password access section. This will enable IEA members to use a “discussion group” format for on-line exchange. We are hopeful that this will be operational in early 2008.

Thank you to Pascale Carayon (Secretary General) and Emmanuel Dimiccoli for maintaining the website. **Please check the details relating to your country and university courses listed on the website and inform Pascale (carayon@engr.wisc.edu) if updates are required.**

2. New IEA Technical Committees

Due to the leadership of the STP Chair, Halimahtun Khalid, we continue to refine and embrace new technical committees to service the needs of IEA members. During October she has received strong offers of interest to host two new committees. **Thank you for promoting these within your country and encouraging members interested to contact the provisional committee contact persons below:**

- “On-Line Communities” – contact Andrew Thatcher (South Africa), email – Andrew.Thatcher@wits.ac.za. Others in the group include Peter Budnick (UK) and Françoise Detienne (France).

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- “Transport Ergonomics & Human Factors” – contact Anabela Simoes (Portugal), email – asimoes@fmh.utl.pt.
- “Mining” – contact Schu Shutte (South Africa), email – PSCHUTTE@csir.co.za. Others who have expressed interest to join the group include Elias Apud (Chile), Barbara McPhee and Jim Knowles (Australia).

I thank these IEA members for their leadership in offering to coordinate these activities.

3. Ergonomic Checkpoints in Agriculture

A successful workshop was conducted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 25th and 26th November 2007. This involved participation from 18 invited technical experts from the IEA global community to work through 100 checkpoints that had been developed under the leadership of Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan). We were honored to have representatives from the ILO office in Geneva, Switzerland, attend the workshop.

The ILO, IEA, and ICOH provided financial support to delegates from developing countries to participate. We are most grateful for this demonstration of partnership and collaboration.

Once the checkpoints are updated, they will be provided to the ILO for editorial review prior to publication.

4. Agriculture Ergonomics Development Conference

The IEA hosted the AEDeC 2007 conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from the 26th – 29th November 2007. This was a highly successful conference; we are particularly grateful to Halimahtun Khalid for her leadership as conference convener and the participation of her company in managing the logistical support. The conference was officiated by the Chair of NIOSH Malaysia, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, who delivered an impactful speech about ergonomics and OSH in agriculture.

This conference demonstrated the significant application of ergonomics to the agriculture industry sector and through the Primary Industries Technical Committee; further programs relating to agriculture are being planned, including sessions at the IEA 2009 Congress. The IEA TC on Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD) was also active at the conference, with several sessions on MSD and work posture problems in various agriculture settings such as paddy, oil palm, and rubber.

If you are interested to join the Primary Industries TC, contact the TC Chair, Dave Moore (New Zealand) dave.moore@cohfe.co.nz. To join the MSD TC, contact the TC Chair, Enrico Occhipinti (Italy) epmenrico@tiscali.net, and possibly contribute to the IEA 2009 Congress preparations.

5. Ergonomics in Mining – Botswana

The IEA sponsored a workshop in Botswana during September 2007, together with representatives from the mining industry and the De Beers mining company. Pat Scott (Past IDC chair) facilitated a workshop session on ergonomics assisted by ergonomists in the mining industry from Southern Africa. There were 5 ergonomists present and it is planned that ongoing networking will ensure further development and exchange of ergonomics expertise in Botswana, but also in other Southern African countries.

I would be delighted to hear from you if you wish to join the Mining TC, that has been formed to meet the needs of this interest group.

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6. Ergonomics Society of Singapore (ERGOSS)

It was delightful to read the revitalized activities of ERGOSS under the Chair, Yogesh Tadwalkar. This society is another example of successful activities to promote ergonomics within their region. Recently, their members were invited to participate in 'The Living Room' - a popular radio show in Singapore, to reach out to a nation-wide, diverse set of stakeholders, as a step towards elevating the appreciation and need for human factors and good design in Singapore. The IEA global ergonomics month is a similar initiative – to reach the masses through various communication modes, including media.

7. Definition of Certified Ergonomist

Thank you to the many respondents who have contributed to refining the definition for inclusion on the IEA website.

We have liaised with the Certification bodies around the world to support a unified approach and understanding on this issue. The definition that we now propose to include on the website is:

'An ergonomist is an individual whose knowledge and skills concern the analysis of human-system interaction and the design of the system in order to optimize human well-being and overall system performance.'

An IEA-recognised Certified Ergonomist is a professional ergonomist whose practice and training have met the quality criteria set by an IEA-endorsed certifying body.'

8. Nominations – 2015 Congress

Federated Societies are encouraged to ensure they have discussed their interest in **nominating to host the IEA 2015 Congress**. These expressions will be discussed at the IEA 2008 Council meeting with anticipation of a vote at the IEA 2009 Congress in Beijing. **Please liaise with Pascale Carayon (Secretary General) if any information on application requirements needs clarification (carayon@engr.wisc.edu).**

9. Second Symposium – ATWAD 2008

The IEA will be hosting the second symposium on “Activity Analyses for Developing Work” in Helsinki, Finland from the 12th – 14th May 2008. The symposium details can be found at www.ttl.fi/activity2008

Specific details can be obtained via Pascal Béguin, the chair of the IEA TC on “Activity Theories for Work Analysis and Design” at beguin@cnam.fr

10. Memorandum of Understanding with Taylor and Francis

The IEA has recently renewed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Publisher Taylor and Francis for their IEA endorsed Journals.

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Members of an IEA Federated Society can subscribe in 2008 for print only prices of:

Ergonomics – Volume 51 – US \$220 or GB 133 pound

Theoretical Issues in Ergonomics Science – Volume 9 – US \$99 or GB 60 pound

11. IEA Future Directions

At the Council meeting in Boston, there were 3 key issues identified that the Executive Committee encourages discussion and possible adoption by the Federated Societies. These relate to the future growth and development of the ergonomics domain.

- **Partnership** – the ergonomics domain will require ongoing strategic partnerships with other organizations and disciplines to ensure greater growth and adoption of ergonomics.
- **Inclusiveness** – the IEA and member societies should be adopting an inclusive approach to welcome groups and individuals to contribute and share their expertise.
- **Communication** – ongoing, targeted and specific communication strategies are required to maintain participation and engagement of IEA members and the broader community.

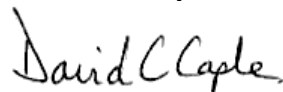
I would welcome feedback and examples how these principles are adopted by the Federated Societies together with outcomes.

12. Call for Nominations for IEA Fellowship

At the beginning of the 2008 year, we will be issuing the call for nominations for IEA fellowship. More details to come in January. Your societies may begin to think about possible candidates for IEA fellowship. **For more information, please contact Pierre Falzon, the past IEA president and chair of the Awards committee: falzon@cnam.fr**

We look forward to providing further IEA activity information in the next Newsletter during December 2007.

Yours sincerely,



**Prof. David C Caple,
IEA President**

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