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President's Newsletter

September 28, 2009

Dear IEA Council Members:

This is the first of what I hope will be bi-monthly letters from the 17th IEA Executive. It is a great privilege to serve this group and we take this honor seriously. For those who were not at the council meeting in Beijing, the newly elected officers include:

- President, Andrew S. Imada (USA)
- Secretary General, Eric Min-yang Wang (Taiwan, ROC)
- Treasurer, Klaus J. Zink (Germany)

Since the election we have assembled a most capable team of chairs to fill most of the positions for the standing committees. These include:

- Development and Promotion, Ralph Bruder (Germany)
- International Development, Barbara Silverstein (USA)
- Science, Technology and Practice, Verna Blewett (Australia)
- Past President & Awards, (Ex-Officio), David Caple (Australia)
- 2012 Congress Chair, Marcelo Soares (Brazil)

Together the elected officers and committee chairs constitute the IEA Executive Committee. This group is generally referred to as the EC. This team is responsible for managing the activities and programs to meet IEA objectives. As the leadership group of our IEA council we will guide and take input from the council to ensure a smooth operation of the IEA and our resources. It is a great team and our pleasure to serve you.

Successful 17th IEA Congress!

Congratulations and thanks to the Chinese Ergonomics Society (CES) for successfully hosting the IEA Congress in Beijing last month. Under the leadership of Sheng Wang and Kan Zhang, the Congress was a big success with content-rich sessions, impressive speakers, pageantry, and opportunities to appreciate the rich Chinese culture. The organizers did a great job in bringing us together with our partners and potential partners. Engaging ICOH, ILO, ISO, and WHO into the program builds on the IEA's robust relationships with other important world organizations. This is the most important event for the IEA in three years. Because of the CES and its leaders, we enjoyed a successful event. Thank you.

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New IEA Members

In the IEA Council meeting in Beijing, the Ergonomics Society of Thailand and the Ergonomics Society of Singapore became our new federated societies, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Ergonomics Societies Network joined the IEA as a network in IEA Networks. At the same time, the South East Asian Ergonomics Society (SEAES) ceased to exist as the IEA federated society. Welcome, new members!

Indian Researcher Wins Prestigious Liberty Mutual Award

The 2009 Liberty Mutual Medal in Occupational Safety and Ergonomics was awarded to Dr. Suman Singh at the IEA Congress in Beijing. Dr. Singh is from the College of Home Science, Udaipur, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Rajasthan, India. Selected by the International Ergonomics Association, the winning paper related to the technological empowerment of farm women to reduce their drudgeries, increase work efficiency in the context of agriculture and animal husbandry in seven States of India.

The committee was impressed by: (a) the systems approach of combining ergonomic design/redesign of equipment, development/application of a participatory training program involving and repeated field demonstrations in the proper use of the ergonomically improved farm instruments; and (b) the impact of the project, which directly benefitted 4,200 women, and potentially can benefit many more farm workers in IDC's.

The Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety and the IEA presents the annual Liberty Mutual Medal to recognize outstanding original research leading to the reduction of work-related injuries and/or to the advancement of theory, understanding, and development of occupational safety research. The Medal is awarded to the authors of an original scientific paper that meets criteria for innovation and impact. The most prestigious award of its kind in the field of occupational ergonomics and safety, it carries a stipend of \$10,000. An international review committee, established by the IEA, selects the winning contribution from among the applicants worldwide.

Loss of Great Leaders

Shortly after the jubilation of our successful Congress, Secretary General Eric Wang received news that two of our pioneering leaders had passed away. Earlier this month we lost Professors Bernard Metz (SELF) and Walter Rohmert (GfA). Both were important contributors to our discipline, leaders in their federated societies and the international organization that we enjoy today. As we received condolences and kind words from around the world, it is striking to note how often both are described as great humanitarians and teachers. We are fortunate to inherit their example.

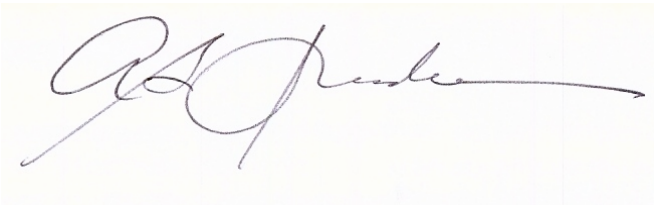
Thanks to the Outgoing 16th IEA Executive

As we speak of inheritance, it is fitting to thank the outgoing officers, standing committee chairs, and all who have worked so hard to turn over to us an active, growing and vibrant organization. David Caple, Pascale Carayon and Min Chung did an outstanding job leading the organization to a size and level of involvement with international organizations that we have not seen before. They led us in an amiable and comfortable way while

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still getting the work done. The specific domains were ably led by Jan Dul (Development), Halimahtun Khalid (Science Technology and Practice), Ralph Bruder (EQUID), Marcelo Soares (International Development), Tom Smith (Professional Standards and Education) and Pierre Falzon (Past President and Awards). It is apparent that this team worked well together and had fun doing it. They worked tirelessly, quietly and often unnoticed. But we know the value they bring to a voluntary mutual benefit society such as our own. They are good mentors for what the incoming EC would like to model.

All the best



Andrew S. Imada

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