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**NEWS FROM IEA 2012**

**18th WORLD CONGRESS ON ERGONOMICS**

**ULAERGO CONGRESS – UNIÃO LATINO-AMERICANA DE  
ERGONOMIA**

**ABERGO CONGRESS – ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE  
ERGONOMIA**

Newsletter, March, 2012

Very dear friends,

We would like to thank all of you for attending the 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Ergonomics in Recife from 12-16 February. For us it was a great joy to meet you face-to-face and a great honor to receive some of the world's most renowned ergonomists, who shared their professional experience with us and brought us up-to-date on the latest advances in their areas of expertise. Our warmest thanks to our keynote speakers Najmedin Meshkati, Elias Apud, Frida Marina Fisher, Kapila Jayaratne, Dave Moore, Francisco Rebelo, Waldemar Karwowski, Barbara Silverstein, Kenji Kurakata, Georg Krämer, Jan Dul, Kurt Landau, Kazutaka Kogi and William. S. Marras for their contributions which did so much to add to the academic excellence of the event.

We believe we achieved the goals we set ourselves by holding this congress, the first in Latin America, and by doing so we succeeded in realizing an old dream of Brazilians ergonomists. We managed to put together a high quality scientific program, which presented the state of the art of ergonomics today; we had the opportunity to establish new partnerships and strengthen old ties of friendship; we could depend on the involvement of a motivated team of undergraduate and postgraduate students as volunteers, and are sure this involvement will prompt them to wish to take part in other Congresses

on Ergonomics; in addition, we sought and found significant space in the local press, which provided the opportunity for advertising what Ergonomics is about in newspapers, radio, TV and online media, including blogs and personal and institutional websites.

We give special emphasis to the fact that this is the first IEA Congress to have its proceedings indexed, over six thousand pages, published in *Work, A Journal of Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation*, IOS Press, which is a scientific journal of international renown. All articles can be accessed directly at <http://iospress.metapress.com/content/q66420837m77>. The 13 keynote talks will be published later this year in the journal *Human Factors*.

We were very gratified to learn that our efforts to provide a social program that emphasized the diversity of the culture of Pernambuco met with your approval and played their part in relaxing and entertaining delegates at the end of each heavy day of studies. Our Carnival party held on Feb. 15 at the *Cachaçaria Carvalheira* was an especially fun occasion at which everyone could sample the carefree spirit and joie de vivre that reigns in Brazil during the month of February.

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### **OUR APOLOGIES**

However, not everything went as we wanted it to. Unfortunately, due to renovation work at the Governor's Palace, the State governor moved with his team to the Convention Center of Pernambuco in January 2012, and took over the rooms originally set aside for the Congress. It was only in mid-October 2011 that the Local Organizing Committee was officially informed of the problem. The Directorate of the Convention Center ignored the signed contract and payment that had been made four years before, leaving us up against a vexing situation with only two options: cancel the congress or build some rooms. Since, by that time, a significant number of people had already registered, and many had already bought air tickets and booked their hotel, cancelling the conference was not feasible. Nor was it possible to transfer the event to another location, because they were all fully booked. Thus, that just left us with the option of building rooms. But it never

entered our minds that this option would cause us so many problems.

We humbly offer our sincere apologies for any inconvenience. The problems were also aggravated by the lower than expected number of registrations and sponsors, resulting from the global economic crisis, which led to a substantial cut in the budget for the Congress and the consequent elimination of activities and additional facilities which were rather short on comfort

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### **CONGRESS CERTIFICATES**

We wish to advise you that the certificates of attendance at the congress and the certificates of participation in various activities of the event (oral presentation of papers, posters, special sessions, symposia, participation in workshops and giving talks) are being sent, as from March 4, directly to the email you provided when you registered for congress. We alert you to the fact that some delegates registered through their companies and did not provide an email, if this affects you or if you have not received your certificate by March 9, please contact the secretariat of the congress <secretary@ [iea2012.org](mailto:secretary@iea2012.org)>.

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### **ANAMARIA DE MORAES**

Alas! it was not to be that we could end the 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Ergonomics on a high note. The passing away of our dear friend Anamaria de Moraes, who suffered a heart attack in her hotel room in the early morning of Thursday (Feb. 16), deeply shocked all who knew, loved and respected her as a pioneer of Ergonomics in Brazil. She was a teacher at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, was founder and first President of the Brazilian Ergonomics Association, participated in several IEA Congresses and was the First Ergonomics Fellow of IEA in Latin America. On the afternoon of Wednesday, 15 we had a chat and she told me how happy she was because the IEA Congress was finally taking place in

Brazil. Ergonomics was her greatest passion, and she simply adored taking part in congresses and conferences on ergonomics. Once she told me she would die happy if she died during a Congress on Ergonomics. I never thought she would take this so seriously. Anamaria remains in the memory of all who are active in Ergonomics in Brazil. No-one will ever surpass her as the greatest ergonomist our country has produced.

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This is our last newsletter on IEA 2012, so once again, thank you all. One last big hug and until 2015, in Australia.

Marcelo Soares

Chair of IEA2012

José Orlando Gomes

Chair of ULAERGO and ABERGO

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