



International Ergonomics Association

President

David C. Caple
David C. Caple & Associates Pty Ltd
PO Box 2135
East Ivanhoe
Victoria 3079
AUSTRALIA
Tel: +61-3-9499-9011
davidcaple@pacific.net.au

Secretary General

Pascale Carayon
Industrial & Systems Engineering
University of Wisconsin-Madison
610 Walnut Street #575
Madison, WI 53726 USA
Tel: +1-608-265-0503
carayon@engr.wisc.edu

Treasurer

Min K. Chung
Industrial & Management Engineering
POSTECH
Hyoja San 31
Pohang 790-784
KOREA
Tel: +82-54-279-2192
mkc@postech.ac.kr

Awards

Pierre Falzon
Laboratoire d'Ergonomie, CNAM
41 Rue Gay Lussac
75005 Paris
FRANCE
Tel: +33-1-44-107802
falzon@cnam.fr

Development

Jan Dul
Rotterdam School of Management
Erasmus University Rotterdam
PO Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
THE NETHERLANDS
Tel: +31-10-408-1719
jdul@rsm.nl

EQUID

Lina Bonapace
Ergo Solutions
Via Budua 13
20159 Milan
ITALY
Tel: +39-02-398-20100
bonapace@ergosolutions.it

International Development

Marcelo Soares
Federal University of Pernambuco
Department of Design/CAC
Cidade Universitaria
50.670-420 – Recife, PE
BRAZIL
Tel: +81-2126-8909
Marcelo2@nlink.com.br

Science, Technology & Practice

Halimahtun Khalid
Damai Sciences
A-31-3 Suasana Sentral
Jalan Stesen Sentral 5
504790 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA
Tel: +603-2272-2228
mahtun@damai-sciences.com

Letter from the IEA President

No. 11 – May 2007

Dear Council Members,

I am delighted to provide our May Letter to members of the IEA Federated Societies. The IEA Executive Committee met in Stockholm on the 19th and 20th May in conjunction with the WWCS Technical Committee conference. Five members who were in Sweden attended and two participated using Skype. This was a very productive meeting to prepare for the Council meeting at Boston in August.

1. New Technical Committees for the IEA

I am pleased to announce three new Technical Committees that were approved by the IEA Executive Committee at our May meeting. They are:

1. Affective Product Design – Martin Helander (Singapore) as Chair. Contact Martin via martin@ntu.edu.sg
2. Anthropometry – Johann Molenbroek (The Netherlands) as Chair. Contact Johann via J.F.M.Molenbroek@IO.TUDELFT.NL
3. Aerospace Human Factors and Ergonomics – Guy Boy (France) as Chair. Contact Guy via guy.boy@eurisco.org

Details of the new committees will soon be added to the Technical Committees section of the IEA website. www.iea.cc. These IEA Technical Committees are open to any member of a Federated Society interested in professional development through international exchange and collaboration. Please inform the members of your Federated Society if they wish to participate in any of the TCs. Also, if you have suggestions for new Technical Committees, please contact Mahtun Khalid, the Chair of the Science Technology & Practice Committee, at: mahtun@damai-sciences.com.

2. Potential Technical Committee on Forensic Investigations

Mike Wogalter from the HFES in the USA is seeking interest at an international level to form an IEA Technical Committee on Forensic Ergonomics. This TC would enable interaction and professional development of Human Factors and Ergonomics professionals involved in providing expert witness testimony in courts under the various legal systems used across the world.

Mike proposes that the Technical Committee would try to organize some sessions at the IEA 2009 Congress in Beijing. These would be open to the international community and persons interested in Forensic Investigations could get together and gauge interest.

If you or your members would like to express interest to Mike please email him at WogalterM@aol.com Preferably use the term Forensic Investigations in the subject line, and

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- Ergonomics Society of Korea
- Ergonomics Society of South Africa
- Ergonomics Society of Taiwan
- Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft
- Hellenic Ergonomics Society
- Hong Kong Ergonomics Society
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- New Zealand Ergonomics Society
- Nordic Ergonomic Society
- Österreichische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Ergonomie
- Polish Ergonomics Society
- Associação Portuguesa de Ergonomia
- Slovak Ergonomics Association
- Sociedad Chilena de Ergonomia
- Sociedad Columbiana de Ergonomia
- Sociedad de Ergonomistas de Mexico
- Società Italiana di Ergonomia
- Société d'Ergonomie de Langue Française
- South East Asia Ergonomics Society
- Swiss Society for Ergonomics
- Turkish Ergonomics Society
- FEES
- Human Ergology Society
- ULAERGO

include your full name somewhere in the email.

3. Another Honor for our Past IEA President Waldemar Karwowski

Our Past IEA President, Waldemar Karwowski, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering from the Russian MIREA Technical University in Moscow. This was on the 24th April 2007 in the presence of Professor Vladimir Munipov.

Congratulations Waldemar on this further recognition of your service to our domain.

4. Certification of ergonomists in Japan

Congratulations to the Japan Ergonomics Society (JES) for the endorsement of their excellent certification system by the IEA Executive Committee at our May meeting. The JES has been developing their certification system based on the IEA Certification requirements as well as the other main certification systems in the USA and Europe.

Their work has highlighted a range of improvements that could be made to the IEA processes. These will be considered later in 2007/08 with an international review of certification requirements for ergonomists.

5. Visits to Federated Societies

During May I have had the pleasure to meet with the Presidents and Board members of Federated Ergonomics Societies in;

- **UK** – The Ergonomics Society in Loughborough provided an excellent overview of their range of activities. This includes their work towards professional recognition by applying for a Royal Charter from the Privy Council in the UK. The diverse range of programs and services under Roger Haslam and Anne Ferguson reflects the maturity of a large dynamic Society.
- **Turkey** – The future opportunities for the Society in Turkey were discussed with Prof Ozok whom we thank for his leadership in the establishment and development of the Ergonomics Society in Turkey over the last 17 years.
- **Sweden and the Nordic Ergonomics Society** – The cooperation with the Nordic countries to work together in a range of exciting projects provide a great model for us to consider in other regions. The Nordic Ergonomics Society has actively promoted a range of innovative projects under the dynamic leadership of Christina Jonsson. What about trialling the workshop idea from Finland of walking together through a forest or another lovely area to discuss informally as an alternative professional development program format to working in a stuffy seminar room?
- **Denmark** – The Danish Ergonomics Society reflects the broader interests in the working environment and brings together a range of technical skills in projects within Denmark as well as their leading role in NES. Their President, Inger-Marie Wiegman, and Board members have an extensive program of professional development initiatives. Their innovative ideas to encourage greater participation and discussions amongst the participants at the IEA 2009 Congress were appreciated and acknowledged.

6. Meeting with the International Standards Organization (ISO)

I had the opportunity to meet with the ISO in Geneva in May to discuss opportunities for the IEA to work more closely in relation to the development and dissemination of International Standards relating to ergonomics and human factors. Whilst the major focus on ergonomics is with the ISO 159 committee and its four Sub Committees, there are a range of other international Standards relating to ergonomics and human factors. Many IEA members are representing our domain on these committees and we wish to acknowledge their work and

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promote these Standards. As such, the IEA TC on Standards will be dropped to enable specific TCs to look into the standards of their respective domain.

My discussions were with the Editor of ISO 159, Stephen Kennedy, and the new Chair of ISO 159, Georg Kramer. We have agreed to explore how the IEA may be able to provide details of all the ISO Standards on the IEA website that include participation of ergonomists in the development of the Standard. This will enable users of the website to easily see those Standards that are relevant to our domain.

We are also exploring opportunities for sessions at the IEA 2009 Congress in Beijing to discuss the role and development of Standards at a national and international level. Your feedback on interest in this area would be appreciated.

7. World Health Organization meeting

Whilst in Geneva I also discussed a range of joint initiatives between the IEA and the WHO. The WHO has developed a 2006 – 2010 Strategic Plan which includes a range of projects involving ergonomics. These are directly with the IEA in our Industrial Developing countries projects on Ergonomics Checkpoints. The Plan also includes details of University researchers who are registered WHO Collaborating Centres and are involved in undertaking projects relating to ergonomics.

A joint WHO / IEA project under consideration includes an international project on the functional needs of face masks for use in pandemics such as SARS and Avian Influenza. This may also involve working collaboratively at an international level with other relevant professionals such as occupational hygienists. We are also working jointly with the WHO on the application of ergonomics in agriculture in developing countries. An emerging issue relates to the broader issue of Health in Working Life. The UK Government initiative in this area will involve The Ergonomics Society; but the WHO is also interested in broader discussion and participation. This may be another discussion topic for the IEA 2009 Congress.

8. International Labour Organization discussions

Joint discussions are currently underway for the active participation of the ILO in a workshop on Ergonomics Checkpoints in Agriculture to be hosted in Malaysia, November 26-27, 2007. The IEA is indebted to the tremendous work and leadership provided by Dr Kazutaka Kogi from Japan in the development of the Ergonomics Checkpoints. We look forward to the participation of attendees working in agriculture in developing countries to attend this workshop with some financial support from the ILO and the IEA. Following the workshop, the Agriculture Ergonomics in Developing Countries, AEDeC 2007 conference will be held from November 28-29, 2007. For details, visit www.aedec2007.org.

9. Financial Support for specific IEA projects

The IEA Executive regularly receives requests for financial support for a wide range of projects associated with the advancement of ergonomics particularly from developing countries. The example above relating to agriculture is a good one where we would like broader participation if funding could be provided.

Another example is a current opportunity to host workshops on ergonomics in the mining industry in Botswana and Columbia. These are aimed at developing local ergonomic expertise to contribute to the advancements in health and safety in this industry sector. We would like to support attendance of ergonomic experts to conduct these workshops as part of the Foundation for Ergonomics commenced this year under Hal Hendrick's leadership. We would also like to support the participation of local and regional ergonomists that have been identified.

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The new Ergonomics Society in Nigeria is hosting their first conference in October this year and would like support to assist participation of potential members. Brazil would like to conduct the workshops on ergonomics in agriculture targeted to developing countries and seek IEA assistance with arrangements.

The new Technical Committee on Anthropometry is closely involved in the development of an international database of 3D anthropometry which they plan to launch at the IEA 2009 Congress. We would like to support them in their goal. The potential project in developing a functional design review of face masks suitable for pandemics is another project requiring IEA support.

On behalf of the IEA Executive I would welcome any offers of support from Federated Societies or any potential Sustaining Members to assist with these and other outreach projects in ergonomics. I am aware that some Societies are strongly committed to providing outreach as part of their goals. I would encourage your consideration of collaborating with the IEA's program so we can jointly work together.

10. 2007 IEA Council meeting, Boston, USA

The IEA Secretary General, Pascale Carayon, will soon be emailing additional information for the Council meeting in Boston on the 24th and 25th August. All Council members are invited to a Welcome reception at the Liberty Mutual laboratories on the Friday evening prior to the Council meeting. Please plan your travel to Boston to enable leaving your hotel by 4pm on a bus for this function. This function will be used for introductions of Council members. We propose not to conduct the time consuming Round Table session at the start of the Council meeting. This will enable us more time for the actual Council agenda discussions.

We look forward to providing further IEA activity information in the next letter during June 2007.

Yours sincerely,

David C Caple

Prof. David C Caple
IEA President

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