



International Ergonomics Association

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**Letter from the IEA President
No. 8 – February 2007**

Dear Council Members,

I am delighted to provide our 8th Letter to members of the IEA Federated Societies since the Executive election last July.

**Foundation for Professional Ergonomics
IEA and the Foundation for Professional Ergonomics enter into a joint project to assist ergonomists in industrially developing countries.**

I am pleased to announce that the Foundation for Professional Ergonomics (FPE) is joining with the IEA in offering professional consultant services to ergonomics societies and groups in industrially developing nations. The IEA will use its various means of communications to ensure that ergonomists in IDC's are aware of this service and how to avail themselves of it. The FPE plans to offer its service through two means.

First, if a request for information or advice is requested from an ergonomist or ergonomics group in an IDC, the FPE will identify one or more experts in the area of the request and put that expert(s) in contact with the requesting party. The expert then will provide the information or advice at no cost to the requester. The request can range from resource information or advice on a technical or professional issue to ways of making their ergonomics society more effective.

Second, if the request is for an expert to conduct a seminar or workshop on some particular ergonomics topic, the FPE will assist in identifying an expert in the area who would be willing to come to the IDC and provide the seminar or workshop at no cost other than coverage of the expert's expenses.

The Foundation for Professional Ergonomics was founded by a group of senior ergonomists who formally were Directors of the Board of Certification for Professional Ergonomics (BCPE) including three of its Past Presidents. The purpose of this independent foundation is to promote professionalism in ergonomics. One of the ways the foundation felt it could best serve the ergonomics community was to join with the IEA in offering the above described consultant services. The Foundation would welcome additional participants from around the world who are senior members of the profession (i.e., 10 or more years of teaching and/or practice as ergonomists). If you feel you would like to volunteer your time, you can contact Hal Hendrick at hhendrick@aol.com.

Finally anyone in an Industrially Developing Country who would like to request either of the above-described services should contact Hal Hendrick to seek if an FPE program can be

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arranged. Hal is a Past President of both the IEA and FPE, and currently heads this joint IEA-FPE project.

International Conference on Slips, Trips and Falls 2007: From Research to Practice, organized by the recently formed IEA Technical Committee on Slips, Trips and Falls, August 23-24, 2007, held at Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety, Hopkinton, Massachusetts, USA

Slips, trips and falls are the second largest cause of occupational injuries in the USA. It is estimated that the annual direct cost of occupational injuries due to slips, trips and falls in the USA may be as high as \$6 - 9 billion. Slips, trips and falls are also a worldwide problem. Serious losses are reported in France, Germany, UK, Finland, and Sweden.

The goals of the conference are to provide a technical forum on slip, trip and fall accidents for the safety researchers and consultants around the world to present their latest findings and to exchange research ideas.

This conference will cover all aspects related to the problem from both the research perspective to practical experience such as biomechanics, slip resistance measurements, standardization, pedestrian fall prevention, flooring and stairway design and development, design of footwear, anti-skid devices, and housekeeping. Details on the conference can be found at <http://www.slipstripsfalls.org>.

Announcement of a new IEA Diamond Level Sustaining member

I am pleased to announce that **Elsevier Publishers** have agreed to become a Diamond level Sustaining member of the IEA from 2007- 2009. They are one of the endorsed publishers for the IEA and their Journals – “**Applied Ergonomics**” and the “**International Journal of Industrial Ergonomics**” are among the most respected and requested publications on Ergonomics research.

I am delighted to have major publishers as Sustaining members of the IEA as it assists the IEA to promote research amongst our members. It also demonstrates our support for those publishers who choose to dedicate resources into the domain of Ergonomics. Without such partnerships the growth of Ergonomics would be impacted.

As a Diamond level member the following benefits are provided by the IEA:

- Free space at the IEA Congress, subject to approval of the conference organizer.
- Exposure of company logo at IEA conferences and congresses.
- Official listings in the programs of the IEA conferences and congresses.
- Two complimentary registrations at the IEA Congress.
- Direct links between new company products with relevant sections of the IEA website
- Company logo on IEA website home page
- Listings in printed IEA directories
- Sustaining Member Plaque with company name inscribed
- Complimentary copy of the updates from the IEA President to the federated Societies.
- Other benefits such as a speech by an IEA officer can be negotiated

It is proposed that 50% of the Sustaining membership fees will be committed to the IEA projects in Developing countries. As you are aware this is a high priority for the Executive. The remaining 50% can be agreed for specific IEA activities. In this instance the funding from Elsevier will assist with the relaunch and maintenance of the revitalized IEA website. This

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will be launched later this month once the final touches are made. This is consistent with the Executive commitment to improve communication from the IEA.

Feel free to contact me if you would like to nominate a suitable company for the Executive to invite as a Sustaining member of the IEA.

Nominations to host the IEA Council meeting – 2008

I would like to remind Council members that we will decide on the location for the 2008 Council meeting in Boston in August this year. Please consider discussing this with your Federated Society to identify if you would like to submit a nomination. It would need to occur in July or August and it is a two day meeting with around 50 Council members attending. It is desirable that it coincides with a conference that may be a further attraction for them to attend.

Please feel free to contact our Secretary General, Pascale Carayon (carayon@engr.wisc.edu) if you would like to discuss this before the Boston meeting. Note that the 2009 Council meeting will be in Beijing, China prior to the IEA Congress.

Science, Technology and Practice Update

The Chair of the STP Standing Committee Halimahtun Kahlid has been working very hard to review and introduce a range of new simple processes and procedures for the IEA technical programs. These will be presented at the IEA Council meeting in Boston and form the basis for systematic approaches to our activities. These relate to conferences, the Triennial Congress and the Technical Committees.

A new initiative has been the development of a simple template for each of the Technical Committees to describe who they are and what they do. These are available on the IEA website to enable greater transparency and engagement with their activities (<http://www.iea.cc/events/technical.cfm>).

We are pleased to see a range of new Technical Committees emerging. These reflect how the domain of ergonomics continues to grow.

International Development Committee Actions 2006-2009

Since December 2006, Marcelo Soares from Brazil has accepted the role of Chair of the International Development Committee. The main objective of IDC Committee is [i] to promote, coordinate, and implement ergonomics activities in countries by giving support to local and regional initiatives concerning education and training, research and consultancy missions; [ii] to establish an international network in order to inform countries about ongoing activities, initiatives, and other relevant information; [iii] to cooperate with other IEA Standing Committees and ad-hoc working groups and [iv] To establish a collaborative working partnership with other international organizations with a common concern for working conditions in Industrially Developing Countries IDCs (eg. ILO, WHO, ICOH and others). In according to IEA Strategic Plan, IDC Committee has developed the following actions to be carried out between 2006-2009:

- 1. To support the work of member societies** by helping ergonomics societies in developing regions organize joint conferences such as the Arabian Ergonomics Society Workshop, the SEAS Triennial Conference by Ergonomics Society of Thailand, the ULAERGO 2007 - 2nd. Congress of the Latin America Union of Ergonomics, etc.
- 2. To support participation of industrially developing countries (IDCs) in IEA activities** supporting IDC members travel to IEA related conferences. It will make some actions in order to obtain funds to support attendance at

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congresses. In 2006 the IEA supported over 40 attendees from developing countries to the IEA Congress in Maastricht.

3. **To support the continuing growth of ergonomics in IDCs by training and education** facilitating the conduct of knowledge and competency-based workshops. We will be assisting Halimahtun Khalid (STP Chair) with the Ergonomics in Agriculture Workshop in Malaysia in November 2007. An Ergonomics in Agricultural Workshop is under consideration in Botswana, in September this year by Dr. Kazutaka Kogi in cooperation with the Ergonomics Society of South Africa. This is a further project with the ILO in the development and verification of the Ergonomics Checkpoints. in Agriculture. Other workshops are planning to be held in Brazil.
4. **To provide IDCs with ergonomics knowledge by stimulating the existing IEA mechanisms** distributing free resource material to libraries such as books, conference proceedings, etc. This service is continuing to be done by the IEA Book donation program.
5. **To enhance the quality of professional practice and education in ergonomics** maintaining and disseminating IEA minimum criteria for the process of certification of an ergonomists. This aims to disseminate certification criteria to IDCs and help with their implementation particularly in Latin America and Asia.
6. **To promote ergonomics in geographical regions where particular support is needed** appointing representatives from different regions to form a network of regional resource persons; supporting existing societies in their revival or restructuring effort; facilitating the inauguration of new ergonomics societies in IDCs; and facilitating the federation of newly formed ergonomics societies in IEA. There are two new ergonomics societies created in 2006: Nigeria and Malaysia. Some countries are in the phase of developing new Societies such is: Arabian, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Latvia. A number of IEA members are also in contact to stimulate the creation of new societies in Cuba, Uruguay, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Ecuador.
7. **To promote applications of ergonomics in all aspects of life** promoting collaboration in ergonomics projects among government and international bodies. This aim will be reached by collaborative projects including representatives from WHO, ILO, Liberty Mutual, NIOSH and other international focused bodies undertaking global projects. We are currently exploring the possibility of leading an international project on the design of face masks for Asian populations to protect against SARS and Avian Influenza.

International Standards Organization (ISO) participation

In May I will be visiting the International Standards organization in Geneva. We will be discussing the working relationship on Ergonomics standards and future collaborations with the IEA. It would be very useful for me to be aware of the current participation of IEA members on ISO committees.

Can I ask each Federated Society to identify any members who are participating on any ISO committees to represent ergonomics research? Would you mind emailing me directly with details of ;

1. Names of persons assisting the ISO Committees
2. Name of the ISO committee and the ISO Standard Number that the Committee is reviewing or developing.

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

Yours sincerely,

David C Caple

Prof. David C Caple
IEA President

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