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## Letter from the IEA President No. 9 – March 2007

Dear Council Members,

I am delighted to provide our March Letter to members of the IEA Federated Societies.

### Certification requirements for Ergonomics Practitioners

The IEA encourages the professional status of ergonomics through the promotion of Certification programs around the world. The membership criteria for each of the 42 Federated Ergonomics Societies differ greatly. Some Societies have a range of membership grades depending on the educational level and competencies of their members. There are some Societies who have members with little formal education in ergonomics but have an interest in participating in the activities arranged by the Society. There are other Societies who only have members who are fully qualified as Ergonomists. Importantly for the future of our profession, most Societies also have student members.

At an international level the common link between those persons who wish to be professionally identified as an Ergonomics Practitioner is participation in an independent certification process. The IEA provides a list of competencies that need to be met to achieve the certification status. These can be found at [http://www.iea.cc/events/edu\\_introduction.cfm](http://www.iea.cc/events/edu_introduction.cfm).

We also have a range of Certification Bodies who have been endorsed by the IEA to offer Certification status of Ergonomics Practitioners. The major Certification body in Europe is CREE and in the USA is BCPE. Individual Societies also manage their own certification programs. These are in countries such as UK, Brazil, New Zealand and Australia. The Japan Ergonomics Society has recently applied for endorsement of their certification program.

The criteria for the IEA Endorsement of Certifying Bodies are provided in [http://www.iea.cc/events/edu\\_criteria.cfm](http://www.iea.cc/events/edu_criteria.cfm). The IEA Executive committee is wishing to review the currency of these processes in consultation with Council members.

During the next year I would like to see that promotion of the certification programs results in more eligible Ergonomics practitioners seeking to have an independent external certification. In this way the IEA can assist in promoting the professional status of practitioners through certification programs. Federated Societies can continue to promote membership to a wide range of members using their breadth of membership levels. The IEA and Federated Societies can promote the Ergonomics practitioners as those who have been through an independent certification program.

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This will assist the professional standing of the domain and provide clear distinction between an Ergonomics Practitioner recognized by IEA criteria from those individuals who use the name Ergonomist without any accepted independent certification assessments.

I look forward to receiving feedback of support or concern about this initiative as a legitimate role of the IEA.

## IEA Membership Dues – 2007

The IEA Treasurer, Min Chung, has sent the renewal notification for 2007 to each Federated Society. If you have not received your notification, please email Min at [mkc@postech.ac.kr](mailto:mkc@postech.ac.kr).

## IEA Dues Calculation

The 2006 IEA Council meeting voted on two important motions in relation to Dues paid by Federated Societies to the IEA.

- (1) To reduce the option of 20% of membership fees as the IEA subscription to 5% to assist small societies particularly from developing countries.
- (2) “The IEA Council recognizes that the current IEA dues structure for federated societies has significant flaws: it is unfair to small societies and societies from developing countries, therefore hindering their development. It does not consider inflation, therefore leading to a gradual decrease in IEA resources. The dues structure should be changed to a dues system that is equitable and adjustable for inflation. The IEA Council mandates the IEA Executive Committee to propose next year a fundamental revision of the dues structure that addresses the above concerns.”

We have reviewed the current IEA Dues against the total membership income for 50% of the IEA Federated Societies. It is evident that their current Dues are equivalent to between 0.71% to 5% of their total fees collected from their members. This excludes other sources of income to societies, such as conference proceeds, publication sales, etc...

At the 2007 IEA Council meeting, a vote will be taken on a motion to eliminate the option of a fixed base rate and fee per society member. The IEA Executive is considering a motion to have just one method for IEA Dues. This would be based on 3% of the total membership fees collected by the Society the previous calendar year. This would be introduced from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. The Dues for 2008 would be 3% of the collected membership fees for 2007 for each Federated Society. This new IEA dues structure addresses the flaws identified by the 2006 IEA Council motion (see above), in particular the lack of fairness and the lack of consideration for inflation. Additionally it enables the Societies to calculate their Dues on the basis of their own currency and remove the problem of different exchange rates with the US dollar impacting on the equity of Dues to be paid by countries with poor or fluctuating exchange rates with the US dollar.

As a transition option for those Societies who currently pay Dues less than 2% of their total fees, a two-year implementation is proposed. This would be 2% of fees for 2008 Dues, then 3% from 2009.

I encourage you to discuss this issue with your Federated Society prior to the IEA Council meeting in August. Feel free to contact the IEA Treasurer, Min Chung [mkc@postech.ac.kr](mailto:mkc@postech.ac.kr) or myself in the meantime at [davidcaple@pacific.net.au](mailto: davidcaple@pacific.net.au).

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## IEA Website

At the end of March, the IEA will launch our new website. This was proposed by me at the 2006 Council as part of a focus on Communication strategies.

I encourage you to inform your members about the new site [www.iea.cc](http://www.iea.cc) and feedback is welcome. I would like to thank the EC members for their input and also Andreas Boehmer from Addictive Design who designed this new site for the IEA.

I would also like to thank Elsevier, our Diamond Sustaining member, who contributed towards the development costs of the website.

## IEA Council Meeting Boston – August 2007

We welcome IEA Council members to the 2007 meeting in Boston, USA. The Council meeting this year will be held over 3 days:

- Friday, August 23: a full day workshop on EQUID
- Saturday, August 24 and Sunday, August 25: IEA Council meeting

Please note these dates for your travel arrangements.

Further details on the EQUID workshop and the IEA Council meeting will be provided later.

The Council meeting is held in conjunction with the PREMUS conference (Sixth International Scientific Conference on Prevention of Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders). If you would like to attend, their website is [www.premus2007.org](http://www.premus2007.org)

As a new initiative this year there will be an informal social gathering on Friday, August 23 in the evening. We will invite each Council member to bring an example of drink and/or food from your country to share. We will provide non-alcoholic drinks for those who would prefer it. You may wish to discuss an appropriate contribution. This initiative will be used as a time for introductions and updates on your societies' activities, and we will not use the valuable time of the IEA Council meeting for each Council member to introduce their Society. This will free up to several hours for the Council business discussions.

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## Conferences on Ergonomics

The IEA is frequently requested to promote national and international conferences on ergonomics. Our website lists those conferences that have been brought to our attention. Please check the details on the Home Page of the IEA website at <http://www.iea.cc>.

## Readings provided by Elsevier

The IEA Diamond level Sustaining member, Elsevier, has provided copies of the 10 most downloaded articles in 2006 for the International Journal of Industrial Ergonomics and for Applied Ergonomics. These are available free on the IEA website to promote the diversity of ergonomics research and to encourage members of the public visiting the website to easily read examples of high quality ergonomics research papers. These can be downloaded from the Home Page of the IEA website at <http://www.iea.cc>.

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

Yours sincerely,

*David C Caple*

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

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