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Letter from the IEA President No. 7 – January 2007

Dear Council Members,

I am pleased to send my seventh letter to launch our activities for the IEA for 2007. The IEA Executive Committee is currently in preparation of agenda items for our Council meeting to be held in Boston, USA on August 25th and 26th, 2007.

Report on Visit to Japan Ergonomics Society (JES) and Human Ergology Society (HES), Japan

During January 2007, I made a private visit to Japan with my family and thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality and opportunity to meet with the IEA Federated Society, JES, and the IEA affiliated society, the HES, in Tokyo.

It was delightful to meet our Japanese colleagues who are regular attendees to the IEA Council meetings, as well as the general membership and executive of their respective societies.

The presentations made during these meetings provided an insight into the research that is being undertaken in Japan. I note the wide level of expertise and recognition, particular in the area of transport ergonomics reflected in the discussions that were held.

An exciting initiative from Japan is the “Ergonomics Roadmap” that was launched at the IEA Congress 2006. This initiative of the Japanese Ministry of Science and Technology provides an opportunity to explore the future needs for education in ergonomics and is an excellent template for the IEA to use as a basis for more general discussions on this issue.

Please look at the IEA website www.iea.cc in the near future to find a link to this publication. I would encourage each of the Federated Societies to use it as a basis of your own discussions on the future directions of ergonomics. Our IEA Development Committee chair, Jan Dul, will be welcoming feedback on this, and other discussions relating to future directions of our domain.

A further initiative in Japan, relates to the long term planning of ergonomics particularly as part of a GIA (Government, Industry and Academic) process. A multidimensional model has been developed in Japan to look at the future development of the science and the integration opportunities.

This will also be put onto the IEA website for your consideration.

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On behalf of my wife and four children, I would like to formally thank our friends in Japan for their generous hospitality during this wonderful visit.

IEA 2009 Congress Meeting, Beijing China

In January I also visited Beijing as an extension to my trip to Japan to meet with the IEA 2009 Congress Committee.

My wife and I were again treated to exceptional hospitality by the IEA 2009 Committee and the Chinese Ergonomics Society (CES).

During this visit, we were hosted at the proposed venue for the Congress to be held August 9-14, 2009 in Beijing. This is a huge conference and holiday destination on the sixth ring road from Beijing downtown built around one of China's famous hot spring resorts. A major focus of the site and its infrastructure relates to health including a full Chinese medicine clinic. This will certainly add an element of the local culture for the attendees at our Congress together with a state-of-the-art conference facility with direct access to downtown Beijing.

The Congress Committee has worked well in refining the Congress arrangements and a second announcement for this Congress will be publicly circulated within the next three months. All members of the IEA Executive Committee have been provided a DVD of the Congress facility so feel free to borrow or copy these as part of the promotion of the Congress within your respective ergonomic societies.

EQUID Update

The IEA Chair of this committee, Lina Bonapace, has been working tirelessly to continue the development of the EQUID project (Ergonomics Quality in Design). This IEA initiative is to help the public make more informed decisions about the ergonomics quality of products and to promote the integration of ergonomics into the design process.

Through integration with international stakeholders, and considering the role of the ergonomics/human factors profession, this project hopes to promote awareness, guidance and recognition of ergonomics in design.

There are a number of committees that are assisting the EQUID project.

1. Advisory Committee – This committee is chaired by a previous IEA President, Professor Waldemar Karwowski, and will include persons who can provide strategic advice in relation to the directions of the EQUID project in consultation with the IEA council members.
2. EQUID Committee – This committee consists of Lina Bonapace, David Caple, Pascale Carayon (past Chair EQUID) and Pierre Henri Dejean (Chair of the IEA technical committee “Ergonomics in Design”).

It also includes the Chairs of the three subcommittees. These include:

- Michel Nael (France) – (Ergonomics Quality in Design)
- Susan Hallbeck (USA) – (Development)
- Yvonne Toft (Australia) – (Certification)

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• Asociación Española De Ergonomía	• Croatian Ergonomics Society	• FEES	• Iranian Ergonomics Society	• Polish Ergonomics Society	• Società Italiana di Ergonomia
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Each of these subcommittees has a range of task force members from IEA members around the world.

The activities that have been undertaken to date include:

- (1) Development of the “Ergonomics in Design” process. This process is based on the various International Standards Organisation (ISO) standards that embrace the issue of product design. It further enhances these processes particularly relating to the definition of user requirements and the processes of evaluation to also include the participation of the ergonomics/human factors specialist as part of the project team.
- (2) Consultation has occurred with a range of manufacturers of product who utilize ergonomics in their design processes and benchmarking of the IEA model against their processes will provide industry trialing and feedback.
- (3) The options for certification of companies, who embrace the ergonomics design processes, are currently under consideration. These include identifying accreditation bodies that could independently over see the certification process.

As series of “roadmaps” relating to these options are currently being prepared by the EQUID committee for discussion at the IEA Council meeting in Boston.

- (4) Consultation is being arranged with the ISO to discuss areas of collaboration and cooperation between the IEA initiative and the ISO programs.

A document outlining these options as a future roadmap will be circulated with the agenda items prior to the Boston meeting in August. In the meantime, if any of your members would like to participate in any of the committees and to be part of the EQUID program, please feel free to email Lina Bonapace at bonapace@ergosolutions.it and she would welcome your contribution.

IEA Code of Conduct

The Professional Standards and Education Committee (PSE) has launched the new IEA Code of Conduct on the website for your consideration. It can be found in the pages under the PSE standing committee on the website. Each of your Federated Societies would be welcome to adopt this code of conduct, or enhance it to suit your specific needs.

Special thanks to the past Chair of the PSE, Prof. Stephen Legg (New Zealand) for his work in preparation of this document.

List of Universities and Ergonomics Post Graduate Education Programs

The IEA website contains details of every post graduate ergonomics program to encourage students to consider a range of universities in determining courses that suit their needs. These can be found on the IEA website under the Education links (<http://www.iea.cc/directory/mainlist.cfm>).

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I would encourage the council member from each country to carefully check the details of the courses in your respective areas. If you find that changes are necessary, could you please inform the Secretary General, Pascale Carayon at carayon@enr.wisc.edu

I would like to acknowledge and thank Tina Worthey (UK) for her years of assistance to the IEA in maintaining this section of the website.

If any IEA member would be interested to be the primary link for monitoring this section of the website, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please inform Pascale of your interest.

Letters from President on the IEA Website

There has been considerable feedback and interest in these monthly letters beyond the IEA Council members. As a result, it is proposed that the letters back dated to July 2006 will soon appear in the Newsletter Section of the IEA website. If there are any specific issues of confidential nature which I would propose discussing with the Council members, then a separate direct email to you would be provided and not included onto the public website.

IEA Website Design

We are now in the final stages of uploading the website into a new designed template. It is proposed that this will be launched in February or March and further details will be provided when it becomes available.

This redesign will hopefully provide a more professional looking site that not only deals with the IEA but more broadly services the needs of other stakeholders relating to the domain of ergonomics. This includes current and prospective students as well as members of the public.

New Honour for Previous IEA President - Waldemar Karwowski

The IEA has recently been informed that Waldemar has been invited to become a member of the Committee on Human Factors by the Academy on Science, Engineering and Medicine in the USA. Waldemar, a previous IEA President, is currently the President of the HFES. This invitation brings another honour and recognition of his commitments and talents to our profession. Congratulations!

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

Yours sincerely,

David C Caple

Prof. David C Caple
IEA President

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