



International Ergonomics Association

President's Newsletter No. 2 December 30, 2009

President

Andrew S. Imada
A. S. Imada & Associates
4910 Phelps Court
Carmichael, CA 95608 USA
Tel: +1-916-486-1635
Email: asimada@gmail.com

Secretary General

Eric Min-yang Wang
Department of Industrial Engineering and
Engineering Management
National Tsing Hua University
101, Sec. 2, Guang Fu Road
Hsinchu 30013
Taiwan, ROC
Tel: +886-3-574-2649
Email: mywangeric@gmail.com

Treasurer

Klaus J. Zink
Chair of Industrial Management and
Human Factors
Research Institute for Technology and
Work e.V.
University of Kaiserslautern
P. O. Box 30 49
67653 Kaiserslautern
GERMANY
Tel: +49 631 205 2027
Email: kjzink@wiwi.uni-kl.de

Development and Promotion

Ralph Bruder
Institute of Ergonomics
Darmstadt University of Technology
Petersenstrasse 30
64287 Darmstadt
GERMANY
Tel: +49-6151-162987
Email: bruder@iad.tu-darmstadt.de

International Development

Barbara Silverstein
SHARP, Washington State Department of
Labor and Industries
PO Box 44330
Olympia, WA 98504-4330 USA
silb235@lni.wa.gov

Science, Technology & Practice

Verna Blewett
Occupational Health and Safety
CFSR – University of South Australia
Level 7 Playford Building – City East
Campus
GPO Box 2471 Adelaide SA 5001
AUSTRALIA
Email: verna.blewett@unisa.edu.au

Past President - Awards

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

Dear IEA Council Members:

Here is the latest news from the IEA as we close out the year. I think you will see that several of our officers and leaders have been quite active with federated societies and other allied organizations.

IEA Governance Ad Hoc Committee

At the Beijing meeting, a proposal was made to restructure the IEA officers' roles and responsibilities. The council decided to undertake the issue more broadly by studying restructuring alternatives in light of the IEA's mission and goals. I have asked David Caple to chair this committee and report the results to the IEA Council meeting in October 2010. I am extremely grateful for the committee's willingness to take on this task. Committee members include: Jan Dul, The Netherlands (Past Development Chair); Pierre Falzon, France (Past President); Kentaro Kotani, Japan; Yair Lifshitz, Israel; Bill Marras, USA; Pieter Rookmaaker, The Netherlands (FEES Chair); Torunn Sveinsdottir, Iceland; and Kan Zhang, China

This committee will provide vital information toward making our organizational structure and function meet its current needs. We have operated in essentially the same way for the past 50 years and have managed to grow and achieve our objectives. However, in light of our size and strategic plan, we need to consider options for examining how the IEA should function in the future. I fully support this effort and look forward to the committee's recommendations.

WHO and ILO Meetings in Geneva

In October, IEA Treasurer Klaus Zink attended the WHO meetings in Geneva where he participated in two days of meetings on a variety of topics. As a WHO NGO, IEA participates as a member of the Planning Committee for the Collaboration Centers. The meeting focused on the activities of the 8th Network meeting. Professor Zink expressed IEA's continued interest in partnerships with WHO, ILO, ICOH and IOHA and envisioned an enlarged contribution to the WHO Collaboration Networks. Moreover, the WHO Collaboration Centres for Occupational Health have five objectives and 14 priorities. We may be able to contribute most readily by developing

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- Asociación Ecuatoriana de Ergonomia
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- Association of Canadian Ergonomists
- Belgian Ergonomics Society
- Chilean Ergonomics Society
- Chinese Ergonomics Society
- Croatian Ergonomics Society
- Czech Ergonomic Society
- Ergonomics Society (U.K.)
- Ergonomics Society of Korea
- Ergonomics Society of Nigeria
- Ergonomics Society of Serbia
- Ergonomics Society of Singapore
- Ergonomics Society of South Africa
- Ergonomics Society of Taiwan
- Ergonomics Society of Thailand
- FEES
- Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft
- Hellenic Ergonomics Society
- Hong Kong Ergonomics Society
- Human Ergology Society
- Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (U.S.A.)
- Hungarian Ergonomics Society
- Indian Society of Ergonomics
- Inter-Regional Ergonomics Association
- Iranian Ergonomics Society
- Irish Ergonomics Society
- Israel Ergonomics Society
- Japan Ergonomics Society
- Latvijas Ergonomikas Biedrība
- Nederlandse Vereniging Voor Ergonomie
- New Zealand Ergonomics Society
- Nordic Ergonomics Society
- Österreichische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Ergonomie
- Perhimpunan Ergonomi Indonesia
- Philippines Ergonomics Society
- Polish Ergonomics Society
- Slovak Ergonomics Association
- Sociedad Colombiana de Ergonomia
- Sociedad de Ergonomistas de Mexico
- Società Italiana di Ergonomia
- Société d'Ergonomie de Langue Française
- Société Tunisienne d'Ergonomie
- Spanish Association of Ergonomics
- Swiss Ergonomics Society
- The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia
- Turkish Ergonomics Society
- ULAERGO

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practical tool kits for assessing and managing occupational health risks, with special focus on MSDs, and ergonomic checkpoints. Many of these materials can be found under www.who.int/occupational_health.

Professor Zink also attended the ILO Better Work Program while he was in Geneva in October. This program seeks to improve labor practices and competitiveness in global supply chains. With three current projects, Better Work estimates that it directly affects 800,000 workers. Zink believes that this broader ODAM-like approach that focuses on competitiveness in globalized markets will be more sustainable than simply focusing on improving working conditions. This stakeholder-oriented approach that embraces ODAM and TQM offers great promise to improving working conditions. IEA can support this important initiative through our federated societies and relevant Technical Committees. We would encourage support on this approach. For more information see: http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/Projects/lang--en/WCMS_084616/index.htm

Indonesian Ergonomics Society 2009 Meeting

The Indonesian Ergonomics Society hosted their 2009 meeting at Semarang, on Java Island, during November 2009. David Caple was invited as the IEA representative at this conference and made a keynote presentation in relation to global initiatives in ergonomics research and practice. This conference provided an excellent forum for a diverse range of ergonomics research that is being undertaken across Indonesia. Professor Caple reported that it was wonderful see the large number of students who had been sponsored by the conference by their Professors to interact with the broader scientific community and also with each other. More than 120 delegates attended the conference. Attendees included ergonomists from research, education and practice, industry representatives from large Indonesian companies, as well as invited keynote speakers from Singapore and The Netherlands. In August 2010, Indonesia will host a conference that combines the Ergonomics Society with the Human Computer Interaction Society meetings. This will take place in Bali, so look out for further information early in 2010.

ICSID meeting in Singapore

In November, Pierre-Henri Dejean represented IEA as an observer at the ICSID general assembly, which was held in Singapore in November. This builds upon his work first started in 2007. After several exchanges between presidents David Caple and Carlos Hinrichsen, and later Ralph Bruder and Martin Darbyshire, IEA was invited to be an observer at the ICSID general assembly. Our organizations have a common goal of ensuring that both ergonomics and design are in fact used when such a claim is made. Users will benefit if they can differentiate proper ergonomics and design thinking from mere claims to these features. Dejean was able to meet with ICSID presidents Carlos Hinrichsen and Mark Breitenberg to discuss possible collaborations and enlarging relationships between IEA and ICSID. He noted that the six priorities defined in the president's speech are compatible with ergonomics interests. Several potential collaborations were discussed and encouraged. These include: Advancing the EQUID project, further ErgoDesign Forum initiatives, joint events at ICSID and IEA congresses, benchmarking organizational, lobbying and promotional events, and having

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students interact on a common topic (e.g., agriculture, aging). This extends the good work begun over the past few years and we will follow up and welcome further initiatives.

HWWE Conference in Calcutta

The Indian Society of Ergonomics has organized a series of International Ergonomics Conferences on Humanizing Work and Work Environment (HWWE). Dr. Somnath Gangopadhyay and the University of Calcutta organized the 2009 HWWE Conference that was held from December 17-19, and invited Secretary General Eric Wang to present a talk entitled “Ergonomic challenges for an old and new society: Lessons from developed countries.” Other invited international presenters at this conference included: Kazutaka Kogi, Verna Blewett, Arun Garg, Wendy McDonald, Wen-Ruey Chang, and Biman Das. I’m sure that the Indian and invited speakers contributed much to the conference theme of “Ergonomics for Everyone.” The conference opened with a unique Indian ceremony, which included singing, festivities and opening speeches. There were about 200 participants; nine of these were international delegates at the conference. Most of the 176 papers were presented in oral session on a wide range of topics on research, practice and learning from diverse sectors. At their annual general meeting, the Indian Society of Ergonomics decided to make the HWWE an annual ISE conference. The next conference will be held in Chennai in December 2010. Eric Wang reported that the conference was full of energy and a successful one. Congratulations!

IEA Awards Nominations

The IEA awards two professional recognitions annually and federated societies and individuals are encouraged to nominate candidates for the Liberty Mutual Award and for IEA Fellow Award. You can get information about these awards from the IEA website: <http://www.iea.cc/browse.php?contID=awards>. The IEA website will feature these awards starting in January.

IEA/Liberty Mutual Award. The IEA/Liberty Mutual Award in Occupational Safety and Ergonomics was instituted in 1998. The award along with a cash prize of US\$10,000 recognizes outstanding original research leading to the reduction or mitigation of work-related injuries and/or to the advancement of theory, understanding, and development of occupational safety research. Deadline for submitting applications for this award is 31 May 2010. This is the most prestigious award of its kind and we encourage you to seriously consider deserving candidates.

IEA Fellow Award. The IEA Fellowship Award is given to recognize extraordinary or sustained, superior accomplishments of an individual. To be considered for a fellowship two eligibility criteria must be satisfied. In addition, the candidate's distinction as an ergonomics professional must be demonstrated.

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Concluding Note

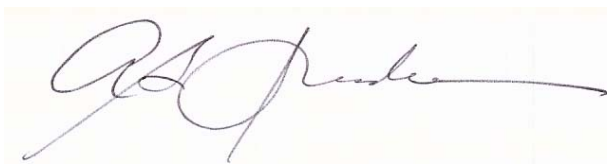
You may have noted how much so many people have devoted to the IEA recently. Notably missing are the contributions of your president. Unfortunately, I suffered a broken leg in a cycling accident shortly after the first newsletter. It is nothing serious, but the immobility has made me appreciate good health and the value of good design in accessibility. It helps me to appreciate our contribution to improving health and safety in many facets of our lives and what its absence can mean.

As we close the year, I want to thank the many active ergonomists who have contributed to advancing ergonomics around the world. The news contained in this short note captures the work that has gone on in the past two months. Thank you to all who were involved directly, and those of you, who supported these efforts and were not named, and those individuals and organizations that support these activities indirectly. Organizational and individual Sustaining Members, and ergonomists who contribute of their personal time and treasure are good examples of how the IEA works. As we close out the year, I want to express my personal thanks to all of you who have contributed to the IEA in the many ways that you do. This is how we advance as a profession to improve the world in which we all live, work and play. Thank you and best wishes for the coming year!

Upcoming Event

- [KEER 2010](#)
2-4 March 2010, Paris, France
- [APCHI & Ergofuture 2010](#)
3-5 August 2010, Bali, Indonesia
- [2010 International Conference on Control Room Design](#)
Autumn 2010, Paris, France
- [PPCOE 2010 Pan-Pacific Conference on Occupational Ergonomics](#)
7-10 November 2010, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, ROC

Sincerely,



Andrew S. Imada

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