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IEA Newsletter from the IEA President No. 33 March 2009

Dear Council Members,

I am delighted to provide our March 2009 Newsletter to members of the IEA Federated Societies and Technical Committees.

1. IEA'2009 Congress Updates

Early bird registration for the IEA'2009 Congress is available until **April 15, 2009**. Details are on the website www.iea2009.org.

1.1 Submission of Papers

All Abstracts have now been received and assessed by the Congress Scientific Committee. Authors will be notified shortly and remember that the full paper needs to be submitted by **April 15, 2009**.

1.2 IEA Technical Committee meetings

Meetings of all 25 IEA Technical Committees will be scheduled during the Congress week. These meetings are open to all so consider attending the meetings of interest. The IEA has a rule that Chairs of TCs must stand down after 6 years in the role to enable others to have the opportunity for a leadership role at an international level.

1.3 IEA outreach activity

The IEA has planned some outreach activities during the Congress. All Technical Committees will provide information/materials about areas of research and practice. Details will be provided in the Congress program.

1.4 Health Resort and Chinese medicine

Delegates should note that the Congress venue in Beijing is famous in China for the large natural health spas within the site. This will be available to all delegates staying at the Congress to visit. So bring your swimming costumes. There is also a Chinese medicine hospital on site.

1.5 Beijing and China Tours

The Congress website now provides details of a range of tours within Beijing and around China. You should consider booking these when you register for the Congress to ensure you take this opportunity to visit this amazing country.

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2. New Definitions on the IEA website

The IEA Executive Committee has been discussing an update to the definitions on the IEA website. Two new definitions have just been added.

An ergonomist is an individual whose knowledge and skills concern the analysis of human-system interaction and the design of the system in order to optimize human well-being and overall system performance.

An IEA-recognized Certified Ergonomist is a professional ergonomist whose practice and training have met the quality criteria set by an IEA-endorsed certifying body.

It is proposed to add further definitions relating to other ergonomists such as ergonomics educators. We welcome discussion from members on these definitions to enable the IEA Council to make informed decisions on future requirements.

3. EQUID Committee Meeting

The Chair of the IEA EQUID Committee, Ralph Bruder, hosted a meeting in Darmstadt, Germany this month with representatives from Federated Societies to provide input to the future directions for this important IEA project. This was a very successful meeting. The IEA Executive Committee considered their recommendations at the meeting in Amsterdam this month and agreed to circulate the final draft of the EQUID Design Process document to all Federated Societies for comment prior to endorsement from the Council meeting in August.

4. ICOH Congress – South Africa

The International Commission for Occupational Health hosted their triennial Congress in Cape Town, South Africa during March. I was honored to be invited to represent the IEA at the Congress and to participate in the Congress discussion. My Registration was covered by ICOH with whom the IEA has a Memorandum of Understanding. This partnership between IEA and ICOH has developed with a range of joint programs. A significant program is with the World Health Organization where we are developing practical tools for use in developing countries.

Congratulations to Dr. Kazutaka Kogi from Japan who was elected as the ICOH President.

5. Dutch Ergonomics Society Conference

The Nederlandse Vereniging Voor Ergonomie (NVvE) hosted their Conference in Zeist this month and I was delighted to attend and present a keynote address on behalf of the IEA. This was a wonderful event in a beautiful location. It provided an opportunity to engage the NVvE members in IEA activities.

6. Meeting with Pieter Rookmaaker, President of FEES.

During the NVvE conference I met with Pieter Rookmaaker and also Jan Dul and Kamiel Vanwonderghem to discuss the activities of this important Network of Ergonomics Societies in Europe. Their extensive work in providing ergonomics input into the European political debates was discussed. FEES will be hosting an important conference in Brugge, Belgium on the 10th 10; 10; 10 (10th October 2010). This conference will be linked to the European Parliament focus on Ageing and is targeted to engage politicians and Government staff to consider the ergonomics research outcomes in their deliberations. This is a significant initiative from FEES and I urge all Societies to support this conference.

7. Bahrain Ergonomics Society meeting

On my way back to Australia I stopped in the Middle East and attended a meeting to explore the potential formation of the Bahrain Ergonomics Society. This provided an opportunity to meet members of their petrochemical, agriculture and aluminum industry as well as the Government to promote ergonomics and the programs underway in Bahrain. These

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included a meeting with the Bahrain Government Minister of Health. This new Society hopes to apply for IEA membership in the future.

8. Arabian Ergonomics Society meeting

I also hosted a meeting in Dubai with potential members of an Ergonomics Society for the United Arab Emirates. This was attended by representatives from Dubai and Abu Dhabi who are interested in this initiative. We will be providing encouragement and support as they explore this possibility.

9. IEA Sub Executive Committee meeting - Amsterdam

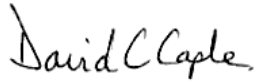
Whilst I was in the Netherlands the IEA Executive Committee held a two-day meeting to discuss a range of IEA business matters in preparation for the Council meeting in August. This was attended by Pascale Carayon, Pierre Falzon, Jan Dul, Tom Smith and Ralph Bruder. Our thanks to the Dutch Ergonomics Society and also to BMA Ergonomics BV for their hospitality. Particular thanks to Bas van der Doelen for his assistance in hosting our meeting.

10. Congratulations – William Marras, USA

We are delighted to learn that Bill Marras (IEA delegate – HFES, USA) has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering. Bill joins a very select group of researchers from the Ergonomics / Human Factors domain who have been recognized by this Academy. Not only is this a tremendous honor for Bill but also for the contribution of our domain.

We look forward to providing further IEA activity information in the next Newsletter during April 2009.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. David C Caple
President – International Ergonomics Association

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