Symposium Proposal 2 “Human Factors and Sustainable Development”

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Introduction

Sustainable development – in its overall meaning as defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1987 – emphasizes on meeting human needs of current as well as future generations. In particular, this anthropocentric perspective leads to joint objectives between Human Factors/Ergonomics (HF/E) and sustainable development. Going back to Jastrzebowski (1857) and the roots of ergonomics, we can see that long before the modern global idea of sustainable development was born, ergonomics was defined as an approach promoting the satisfaction of individual needs as well as the common welfare through the design of work systems.

The explicit reference to “sustainable development” is thus relatively new for HF/E, but not the underlying ideas and approaches. For example, the sustainability of human resources is based on enduring workability and employability, which have been dominant elements in ergonomics/human factors ever since.

In Symposium 2 “Human Factors and Sustainable Development”, about six speakers will present their specific focus on this topic. They show how ergonomic principles and interventions can contribute to more sustainability.

Together with Symposium 1 of the same name, it corresponds to the IEA Technical Committee “Human Factors and Sustainable Development” that was set up at the IEA Conference in Beijing (2009). This group recently works with four Sub-Committees, dealing with specific aspects in this research field.

The two Symposia “Human Factors and Sustainable Development” will also give the opportunity to wrap-up and discuss six years of TC work in this field.

Please find more details about the speakers of this symposium in the final conference program.