Symposium title:
International cooperation on certification of professional ergonomists

Moderators:
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Abstract:
There are many certified professionals ergonomics and their certified / accredited organizations in many countries. Though activities and merits of each organization have differences because of their specialized areas within ergonomics field, they are very important. However, as these activities and their effects are not known widely, these important outcomes are not handed down to many industrial fields and their specialty is not recognized enough. Thus, it is important that specialists’ activities and their effects are known to other professional accredited organizations. And, there is another big problem in ergonomics and human factors fields; that is not to be enough education on ergonomics to engineers not only under graduation/graduate programs but also on the job training. Because of this, in many product and system development area, human centered design does not apply to these areas and the best product or system for users cannot be developed.

About industrial area, one of the most important problems of ergonomics is "education" on Ergonomics. Worldwide engineers are trained on 4/5 year-course but except industrial engineers they don’t have any course on ergonomics in their syllabus. Considering most of all artifacts are designed by engineers, it may be effective that engineers train ergonomics enough.

Education in upstream (under graduation) is important but in engineering course, curriculum related to ergonomics is not so much. Education in downstream (on the job training), it is difficult for almost engineers to learn ergonomics because they do not recognize importance of ergonomics, once their mindset is already formatted on stereotypes.
How to promote importance, usefulness of ergonomics in general, and in particular to engineers? How to have them interested in ergonomics certification?

Although there are many issues in industrial field about ergonomics, it is fact that there are many certification professional ergonomists in worldwide. To maximize these activities and effects by certified professional and their organizations, it is important to know activities of an organization each other.

As first step of this, we had a session in an international conference (Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics: AHFE2014) to have joint discussion on the actual situation of education/training/certification of ergonomics worldwide and to discuss how to expand education and to promote ergonomics certification in the industry as well as in the society. The purpose of the session is to initiate interactions and discussions among professional certification organizations in countries. The session provides an opportunity to exchange information and rethink the roles and functions of the organizations in the future. At that time, we have discussed different positions of ergonomist in various area (industry, research, consulting), the relationship among economic environment and healthcare, and education. We could have common recognition about education and position of industry about ergonomics.

So, the purpose of this proposal session is mainly to discuss education and clarification of position in industry about ergonomics. The session provides an opportunity to successfully exchange information and rethink the roles and functions of the organizations in the future. Final goal is to be able to collaborate with industry trough ergonomics. From this collaboration, we can think on new ways to accelerate ergonomics training internationally.

Jose Orlando Gomes
Shin’ichi Fukuzumi
To IEA2015 for proposal

1. **Theme**: Progress of ergonomics and the role of certification professional ergonomist
2. **Objectives**: Attendees will share many problems about ergonomics in industry and way of thinking about ergonomics education.
3. **Expected number of papers to be included (titles and authors if known)**: Totally 8 or 9 presenters
   - A) Australia (not decided. Contact to Dr. Jenni Miller, HFESA)
   - B) Brazil (Prof. Jose Orlando Gomes, IEA)
   - C) Canada (not decided, contact to Dr. Margo Fraser, CCPE)
   - D) China (Wei Zhang, IEA)
   - E) Japan (Shin’ichi Fukuzumi, CPEJ)
   - F) United States (not decided, contact to Carol Stuart-Butte, BCPE)
   - G) Asked to a few countries (South Africa, Swiss (CREE), New Zealand, Chili and India) certification body
4. **Length of symposium**: two or three hours (depend on the number of presenters)
5. **Target audience and expected level of interest**: Ergonomist in industry, ergonomist in education, students, certification body member of professional ergonomist, and so on
6. **Type of room and/or facilities required**: Normal oral presentation room prepared PC connectors, projectors and screen. Room of capacity is about 100 people.
7. **Materials needing to be provided (if any)**: Same above.