

## **1. President's Annual Report (2002-2003)**

*(Advance text)*

*State of the International Ergonomics Association in 2003*

*By Waldemar Karwowski*

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### **1.1. IEA Strategic Plan**

The IEA mission is *to elaborate and advance ergonomics science and practice, and to expand its scope of application and contribution to society to improve the quality of life*. Our mission is reflected by three principal (and strategic) goals:

#### Goal I:

Effective communication and collaboration to support the work of member societies and to improve IEA operational effectiveness.

#### GOAL II:

Advance the science and practice of ergonomics at international level by facilitation of knowledge exchange and improving the quality of professional practice and education.

#### GOAL III:

Enhance contributions of the ergonomics discipline to global society by promoting wide recognition of our discipline in all aspects of life.

Realizing that the *Strategic Plan* is a working document, which should evolve over time in order to reflect our changing needs and aspirations, we are proposing some changes and modifications to be reviewed and acted upon by the Council in Seoul at our 2003 Meeting.

### **1.2. IEA Officers Summit Meetings**

In order to plan for and coordinate the current IEA business for the EC and the Council, the IEA Officers held the *Summit Meetings* in Paris, France as follows: December 11-13, 2002; February 2-3, 2003; (before the Executive Committee's Mid-Year Meeting held in Krakow, Poland on March 22-23, 2003); May 30- July 2, 2003 (to develop content of the *IEA Triennial Report 2000-2003*); and finally on July 2-3, 2003 in preparation for the Council meeting in Seoul. I would like to thank Pierre Falzon (Secretary-General) and Kazu Kogi (Treasurer) for organizing and participating in these important meetings

### **1.3. IEA 2003 Congress**

I am pleased to report that preparations for the ***XV-the IEA Congress*** Seoul, Korea, August 24-29, 2003 are on schedule. Despite recent political, economic and health care challenges, the upcoming Congress is poised for great success. I believe the 2003 IEA Congress it will shape the future of our profession and the discipline of ergonomics worldwide for the years to come. Please continue helping the organizers in publicizing the Congress and to actively support development of the scientific program.

### **1.4. International Affairs**

#### *PREVENCAT '2002*

On October 16, 2002, I presented the Opening Welcome Remarks at the *Catalonian Government Symposium on Occupational Safety at Work*, held in Barcelona, Spain,

#### *III CONGRESS OF APERGO. LISBON, PORTUGAL' 2003*

I was invited to present the Welcoming Remarks and the Keynote Address at the *III Congress of APERGO. Lisbon, Portugal, April 10-11, 2003*. Unfortunately, due to my University duties, I was not able

to participate. However, Prof. Ken Laughery, Chair of the IEA Science, Technology and Practice has kindly agreed to present the *Welcoming Remarks* on behalf of IEA.

#### *ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE SOCIETY OF MEXICAN ERGONOMISTS '2003*

I was also invited to deliver the *Welcoming Address* at the Annual Congress of the *Society of Mexican Ergonomists (Sociedad de Ergonomista de Mexico, A.C.)*, held on May 1-3, 2003 in Juarez, Mexico. Unfortunately, due to my previous commitments, I was not able to participate. Prof. Ken Laughery, Chair of the IEA Science, Technology and Practice has kindly agreed to present the *Welcoming Remarks* on behalf of IEA.

#### *The GfA 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY*

On my 7, 2003, I had an honor to present *Opening Remarks* at the *Special GfA's Anniversary Conference* held in Munich, Germany, on May 6-9, 2003. On behalf of IEA, I was pleased to congratulate the GfA's, one of the founding societies of IEA, on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrating their outstanding contributions to IEA and ergonomics worldwide.

#### **1.5. Federation of European Ergonomics Societies (FEES)**

After more than 5 years of preparations, the *Federation of European Ergonomics Societies (FEES)* was formally established at the inaugural meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2003, in Munich, Germany. I was very pleased to attend this historical meeting on behalf of the IEA Executive Committee and to welcome FEES as part of the IEA family. *FEES* has applied to become the first *IEA Network* to be approved by the Council at the 2003 Meeting in Seoul.

#### **1.6. Plan for Cooperation with WHO and ILO (2003-2006)**

In response to the request by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Executive Committee has developed a long term plan for cooperation (2003-2006) through relevant *Task Forces* of the WHO as well as the ILO. The initial draft document was developed by the IEA Officers during our Summit meeting in Paris on December 11-12, 2002, and consequently discussed by the EC at our Mid-year Meeting in Krakow, Poland, March 22-23, 2003. A Draft of such a framework for cooperation has being sent to the Council in preparation for the discussion at our annual meeting in Seoul. Please send your comments directly to Prof. Pierre Falzon, IEA Secretary General.

#### **1.7. IEA Development Efforts: Campaign for Development (2002-2003)**

In 2000, we have set as a target to generate by the IEA 2003 Congress a total of \$100,000.00 (on a three year cycle, or 33,000 per year) in new and continued funding, i.e. the ***IEA Campaign for Development***.

Today, the total amount of money either pledged or paid *IEA Sustaining Members* equals to: \$ 63,600.00 (\$21,200.00 per year for 3 years). We are also receiving a total of \$ 15,000 (\$5,000 per year for three years) worth of the in-kind contribution from ErgoWeb, Inc., which provides a total contribution to IEA of **\$78,600** on a triennial cycle. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Kazu Kogi, our Treasurer; and all of those who supported us in this important task.

#### **1.8. The IEA Ergonomics Quality in Design (EQUID) Program**

At the 2001 meeting in Florence, the Council approved creation of the ***IEA Ergonomics Quality in Design (EQUID) Program***, and in 2002 the Council endorsed its further development. The EQUID program aims to provide the means for IEA to enhance the public understanding of the meaning of *ergonomics* and *ergonomics design*, and serves to implement the standards of minimum quality assessment of the claims for something was *ergonomically-designed*.

*The EQUID Committee's Core Group*, that includes Klaus Zink, Pierre Falzon, Ian Noy (excused) and Waldemar Karwowski, has met on September 3, 2002 in Santiago, Chile and February 5-6, 2003 in Kaiserslautern, Germany in order to further develop the EQUID documents related to Part I of the EQUID

Program. As development of these documents took a lot of efforts, I would like to express my personal appreciation to the members of the *EQUID Committee* for their efforts.

### **1.9. IEA Symposium '2002: *Developing Ergonomics in a Developing World***

On 2-3 September 2002 we organized the *IEA Symposium on "Developing Ergonomics in a Developing World"* in Santiago, Chile. The logistical support for this Symposium was provided by Ken Laughery, Chair of the *IEA Science, Technology and Practice Committee*, with the financial and logistical support from Martin Fruns of *ACHS*, the Chilean Ministry of Labour, Pedro Mondelo, President of the *Spanish Ergonomics Society*, *Prevencion-integral.com*, and the Chilean Society of Ergonomics. This successful Symposium was the largest gathering on ergonomics in the history of South America, with over 700 participants from all over the world. I would like to especially thank many of the Council members who actively participated in this historical event.

### **1.10. Communication with other ergonomics societies**

One of our objectives is to foster development of new ergonomics societies, and help the cause of the ergonomics profession and ergonomics discipline in both industrially developed and developing countries. During 2002-2003, we have maintained active communication with the following new societies in order to help them to join the IEA family in the near future: *Ergonomics Society of Thailand*, *Egyptian Ergonomics Society of Fitness and Disability*, *Ergonomics Society of Venezuela*, and *Ergonomics Society of Argentina*.

### **1.11. Support of the successful legislative act on "Ergonomics in Education", New Jersey, USA**

In November 2002, I have sent on behalf of the IEA a letter supporting the first successful legislative act in USA on the "Ergonomics in Education", which was recently adopted in the state of New Jersey. This act endorses the critical role of ergonomics in designing classroom environments for children. I would like to express our appreciation to Cheryl Bennett, Chair of the *IEA Technical Committee on Ergonomics for Children and Educational Environments* for her initiative and work towards this important accomplishment.

### **1.12. IEA Triennial Report (2000-2003)**

Following our recent tradition, the Executive Committee has prepared information that has been used to develop and print of the *IEA Triennial Report (2000-2003)*. This archival report not only accounts for the IEA accomplishments during this reporting period, but will also be invaluable in the near future facilitating our development efforts, as well as in our communicating to the outside world our goals and activities, especially those that focus on ergonomics in developing countries and on ergonomics education. This difficult task has been lead by Pierre Falzon, with the support of the *IEA Office* at CNAM, and we owe them a great deal of appreciation for their diligent work.

### **1.13. Development of the *Core Ergonomics Curriculum at the MS level***

We have made progress on development of the *IEA Basic Guidelines for Masters Degree in Ergonomics*. While recognizing diversity of educational approaches and differences between different countries, these guidelines are to focus on the possible educational content of such degree programs, including the core and elective courses, in accordance with the *IEA Definition of Ergonomics*. In order to finalize this important task, we plan to organize an IEA Symposium to be held in 2005. (All individuals interested in helping in our organizational efforts should contact me at: karwowski@louisville.edu or Pierre Falzon at falzon@cnam.fr).

### **1.14. IEA – Related Meetings at the IEA Congress 2003**

Please note that during the IEA Congress in Seoul, August 24-29, 2003, there will many IEA sponsored meetings to which you as members of the IEA Council are warmly invited. Tentative schedule for these meetings is included in these Council materials. The final schedule for these functions will be provided at eh IEA Council meeting, August 22-23, 2003.

### **1.15. Policy on IEA Membership**

One of the important policy issues we have been discussing with the IEA member societies over the last three years is the structure of our association's membership. I believe the IEA is in a unique position to embrace other organizations and bring under our common umbrella various societies and organizations who believe in the cause of ergonomics. As a federation that represents ergonomics worldwide, we will be more effective in fulfilling the needs of the global society by working together to adapt and design our living and working environments for the benefit of all people. The Council will be voting on the proposed changes at our meeting in Seoul.

### **1.16. Elections of the IEA Officers (2003-2006)**

On August 29, 2003, at the *Closing Ceremony of the IEA 2003 Congress*, Pierre, Kazu and I will hand over the responsibility for leading IEA in the 2003-2006 period to the newly elected IEA Officers.

The elections of the IEA Officers for 2003-2006 will be held during the second day of the Council, i.e. on August 23, 2003.

I am pleased to report to you that so far I have received the following nominations for the three IEA offices:

#### 2003-2006 IEA President:

- Pierre Falzon, France (SELF)

#### 2003-2006 IEA Secretary-General:

- Sebastiano Bagnara, Italy (Italian Ergonomics Society)

#### 2003-2006 IEA Treasurer (in alphabetical order):

- Shrawan Kumar, Canada (Association of Canadian Ergonomists)
- Ken Laughery, USA (Human Factors and Ergonomics Society)
- John Wilson, United Kingdom (The Ergonomics Society, UK)

### **1.16. Thank you**

As the third year of my 2002-2003 tenure as your President has passed, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Pierre Falzon, Secretary General and Kazu Kogi, Treasurer for their wisdom, personal support and collaboration in these very busy and productive three years. I would also like thank other members of the Executive Committee, the Council, and all members of various IEA sub-committees and ad-hoc committees for their voluntary work on behalf of the IEA. Finally, I would also like to acknowledge invaluable contributions by all of the IEA *Sustaining Members*. Thank you for supporting our discipline and the ergonomics profession worldwide.

Waldemar Karwowski

June 23, 2002