

INTERNATIONAL ERGONOMICS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Executive Committee, held at Mullard House on 17th December 1973.

Present: Dr. F.H. BONJER
Dr. J.R. DE JONG
Mr. R.G. Sell
Prof. B. SHACKEL (by invitation)

73/1 F. Bonjer reported on the final results of the 1973 International Conference held in Amsterdam. The sum guaranteed by the International Ergonomics Association had now been paid back by the Dutch Society. An analysis of evaluation forms filled in by participants after the Conference showed that there was a general impression that the Conference had been too expensive, especially for young people.

73/2 The Dutch Society had posed the question as to whether the International Congresses should be called "International Congresses on Ergonomics" or "International Congresses of the International Ergonomics Association". After discussion, it was agreed that the Secretary should write to H.L. Davis giving the view of the Executive Committee that the 1976 Congress should be called either the "6th International Ergonomics Association Congress" or the "6th Congress of the International Ergonomics Association".

ACTION:
Sell

The meeting of the Human Factors Society had been held on the 17th and 18th November to discuss the 1976 Conference. It was agreed there was a need for continuous contact with the Human Factors Society to decide the broad philosophy of the Conference and to give them help in organising the scientific programme. A letter should be sent to the Human Factors Society officially accepting their invitation to hold the Conference in the U.S.A. in 1976 with a copy to H. Davis. Agreement should be reached with the Human Factors Society on the responsibilities of the IEA and the HFS and a timetable of critical dates produced. It is necessary for there to be an IEA Congress Committee to work in an advisory way with the Human Factors Society; this should be fairly small, and it was suggested that the following should be the provisional members:-

ACTION: ?

(Note:

Who has the original invitation - I have not located it yet.)

T.M. FRASER
B. SHACKEL
J.R. DE JONG
S. SUGIYAMA

73/3 Sell put forward the view that the Association should move towards becoming a Federation of Societies. The Council Members would be direct representatives of the Member Societies, although this would increase the size of Council, it was thought that this would be desirable. The Officers of the Association would be elected by Council. Problems would arise as to what constituted a General Assembly and what should be done about Corresponding Members. It was agreed that Sell should put his ideas down in principle and circulate initially to Council Members. After this they should be circulated to the Secretary of the National Societies who should be given 6 months' notice to produce comments. Draft Rules should be produced 12 months before the next General Assembly. Sell would draft the Principles.

ACTION:
Sell

A question was raised as to where the Association should be registered. It was uncertain what tax or other benefits arose due to its present registration in Switzerland. De Jong agreed that he would write to Grandjean to find out what the Swiss tax was based on and why we pay it. Should tax liability arise in whatever country it was registered, it was agreed that it might perhaps be preferable to stay in Switzerland because of its stable currency.

73/4 Doubts were expressed regarding the membership of the Czech Society. It did not pay any subscription for 1970/3 and had sent no delegates to the 1973 General Assembly. The Secretary would write to the Czech National Society as part of his general circular to see if the situation could be made clearer. It was agreed that there was a need for a more personal contact and in the next circular the Secretary should ask if anyone going to Prague could contact the President or Secretary to get more details.

ACTION:
Sell

73/5 There were no applications for Society membership outstanding. The Secretary was asked to write a letter to Corresponding Members reminding them of the prime requirement of belonging to a National Society direct rather than to the International Association.

ACTION:
Sell

73/6 Bonjer reported that he was in contact with the Secretary of the International Standards Organisation and it had been proposed that the International Ergonomics Association should become Category Members of ISO. ISO was hoping to set up a new

Technical Committee on Ergonomics and a decision on this should be reached in early 1974. It was stated that there was a need for care in the discussions to ensure that in ISO Technical Committees the Ergonomists were in a strong position to resist the pressure of manufacturers. Shackel stressed that there was a need for formal relationships between the IEA and ISO. It was agreed that the IEA should push ISO to take notice of the Australian comments made on the proposal for an Ergonomics Committee. It was suggested that ISO should be persuaded to set up a joint meeting between ISO, IEA and IEC preferably during early 1974. Local Standards Institutes should be prepared to pay expenses. The IEA would send representatives financed, if possible, by their employers or by the local Standards Institutes. The President was asked to reply to the ISO cable suggesting a meeting in 1974.

ACTION:
Bonjer

73/7 The International Labour Office hoped that representatives of the International Ergonomics Association could attend their meeting in Bucharest. De Jong agreed that he would let the Secretary know of the date so that he could see if there were any Council Members or other representatives of the Society likely to be going to the Meeting.

ACTION:
de Jong

73/8 It was agreed that the Secretary should ask Dr. Paule Ray if she could represent the Society at the 15th January meeting in Geneva of the World Health Organisation. She should be asked if she could let us have a report.

ACTION:
Sell

73/9 It was agreed that consideration should be given to the holding of other meetings in addition to the one on Standards. It would be highly desirable to have a European meeting in the near future to compensate for the next International Meeting being in the United States. One suggestion made was to have a meeting on the implications for ergonomics with greater European co-operation in the area of things like air-traffic control, rail travel, water and canal transport. An alternative suggestion was for a meeting on ergonomics in a conservation environment to consider both energy and ecological problems. It was not agreed whether this should be a scientific or a publicity/education meeting. The Secretary agreed that he would sound out from Prof. Beishon and Dr. Edholm their views on this as a possible topic, he would also

ACTION:
Sell

check out with the Nordic, British, Dutch and French Societies. Shackel agreed that he would raise the possibility at the Loughborough Departmental Meeting and Bonjer with the Dutch Society. If the meeting could be arranged, it would be desirable to hold a Council Meeting at the same time.

73/10 Date of next Meeting : It was agreed that a further meeting of the Executive Committee should be held in March/April in Holland, the date to depend on whether the Secretary was paying any visit to Holland in connection with his work at Philips.

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R.G. SELL

RGS/PJR/17.1.1974.