



**AGREEMENT ON AWARD COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN  
THE INTERNATIONAL ERGONOMICS ASSOCIATION  
AND  
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING OF  
TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY**

**1. Objectives**

Tsinghua University, as a world-renowned high-ranking university, is dedicated to the well-being of Chinese society and to global development. As one of China's most prestigious and influential universities, Tsinghua University is committed to cultivating global citizens who will thrive in today's world and become tomorrow's leaders. Through the pursuit of education and research at the highest level of excellence, Tsinghua University is developing innovative solutions that will help solve pressing problems in China and the world. The Department of Industrial Engineering of Tsinghua University was established in 2001. The founding chair was Prof. Gavriel Salvendy, a member of the National Academy of Engineering (USA) and a Professor at Purdue University. Global collaboration in education and research has been one of the key factors to the success of the department. After 21 years of development, the department has established a strong research group in human factors and ergonomics (HFE), with 3 full professors, 3 associate professors, and nearly 50 full-time PhD students/candidates. The group also received the President's Award from the Ergonomics Society of UK (now CIEHF) in 2008.

The Department of Industrial Engineering of Tsinghua University has benefited from global collaborations; now, in return, through the Tsinghua MEM Education Center (hereafter referred to as "MEM Center"), the department wishes to contribute to the promotion of international HFE postgraduate education collaboration efforts. More specifically, with the collaboration with the International Ergonomics Association (IEA), this award is expected to encourage and recognize external academics and/or industrial experts who work collaboratively to deliver successful HFE program content to students.

For this collaboration, the IEA will be represented by:

- i. President of IEA,
- ii. Chair of IEA Awards Standing Committee;

whereas, the Department of Industrial Engineering of Tsinghua University will be represented by:

- i. Head of the Department of Industrial Engineering
- ii. Director of the MEM Center

## **2. Purpose of Agreement**

This Agreement makes it possible for the IEA and the Tsinghua MEM Education Center to collaborate on providing awards to professors and industrial experts as described in the objectives.

## **3. Scope**

The collaborative awarding undertaken by this Agreement applies to professors and industrial experts who work collaboratively to deliver successful educational programs related to HFE. The award will be given annually to honor persons (e.g., researchers, teachers) who, through international and/or inter-regional collaboration, have made significant and outstanding contributions to the success of postgraduate educational programs that include human factors/ergonomics (HFE) courses or substantial HFE content in the curriculum. The program may be implemented at a university in any country. Provisions for students in the program from low-income countries should include scholarships and/or enable an actual tuition burden within a low to medium economic range. The intent of this award is to mobilize educators worldwide for HFE education. This award does not support educational programs with high tuition fees and no provision of financial aid for students from low-income countries.

## **4. Title of the Award**

The title of the award is specified as “The IEA/Tsinghua Award for Collaborative Human Factors and Ergonomics Education”, abbreviated as “The IEA/Tsinghua HFE Education Award”.

## **5. Criteria for Eligibility**

### **Eligibility of Educational Program**

- The program meets country standards for the education of masters or PhD level graduate students;
- The program is a result of international/inter-regional collaboration. See Item-1 of Eligibility of Person Representing the Educational Program (below) for the nature of international/inter-regional collaboration;
- The program has HFE courses in its curriculum or contains substantial HFE content in some courses;
- The program may be implemented at a university in any country. Provisions for students in the program from low or middle-income countries should include scholarships and/or enable a tuition fee burden within the low to medium economic range;
- The program is formally selected for consideration by an IEA Federated or Affiliated Society.

### **Eligibility of Person Representing the Educational Program**

- The nominee can be anyone (e.g., scholar, researcher, industrial expert) who contributed to the success of the selected educational program through its development or implementation. The contribution may be made through a short-term visit to the university, an inter-professor collaboration, or just by personal invitation. Directors, leaders, and key collaborating faculty of inter-regional or international collaborative programs are also eligible.
- The nominee is a member of an IEA Federated or Affiliated Society;

- The nominating person formally represents the educational program selected by an IEA Federated or Affiliated Society;
- The nominee has not received the proposed award before.

## **6. Nomination Process**

- The representative of an educational program specifies one or two nominees and applies to the IEA Federated or Affiliated Society in the country where the educational program is implemented; and
- The society selects the educational program(s)/individual(s) to nominate. Note, any society may select up to two programs. Also note, each program can be represented by up to two nominees. These collaborators may be from different IEA member societies.
- The nominating representative and society combine the following evidentiary documents into a single pdf file and send the file to the Chair of Awards Standing Committee ([PastPres@iea.cc](mailto:PastPres@iea.cc)) and the Vice President and Secretary General ([VPSG@iea.cc](mailto:VPSG@iea.cc)) by **June 30, each year**:
  - A letter of nomination from the nominating society that justifies the selection of the educational program and the nomination of person(s) representing the educational program;
  - A letter of nomination from a representative of the educational program that confirms the program meets country standards and documents the contributions of each nominated person;
  - Details of the selected educational program;
  - The nominee's curriculum vitae or résumé. This document should include the nominee's current mailing address and email address.

## **7. Formation of Selection Committee**

A selection committee is formed by the IEA. The chair of the selection committee will be appointed by the chair of the IEA Awards Standing Committee, and the members of the selection committee will be appointed by its chair. MEM Center will provide honoraria as described below for the chair and selection committee members.

- The chair of the selection committee should be familiar with the operation of the IEA and major related societies.
- The selection committee should have at least one member from a low or middle-income country and at least another from a middle/high income developed country.
- The MEM Center will be invited to provide a member of the selection committee.
- Committee members who have a conflict of interest, including from the MEM Center, are not allowed to participate in the selection.
- The decision made by the selection committee will be subject to approval by the IEA Executive Committee.

## **8. Award Frequency**

Yearly

## **9. Relationship with Existing IEA Awards**

Two existing IEA awards are similar to the proposed award. These are the IEA Outstanding Educators Award and the IEA Award for Promotion of Ergonomics in Industrially Developing Countries.

The major difference between the proposed award and the IEA Outstanding Educators Award is that the proposed award only accepts nominations by a representative from an HFE educational program that has been assisted by an external collaborator, whereas the IEA Outstanding Educators Award honors individuals who have “developed ergonomics education programs” or “produced new methodology and/or materials for teaching ergonomics” or “graduated persons who have become outstanding ergonomists” at their own educational institution.

The major differences between the proposed award and the IEA Award for Promotion of Ergonomics in Industrially Developing Countries include:

- The proposed award encourages and highlights the collaboration of the nominees with the educators responsible for the selected education programs, whereas the counterpart award highlights “the development of HFE infrastructure”.
- The recipient of this proposed award should be nominated by a representative from a qualified education program, whereas the counterpart award may accept individuals who “manifested through development of teaching/training programs, implementation of HFE design in industry, development of R&D programs, organization of HFE professionals, and extensive collaboration with international bodies such as United Nations”.

#### **10. Award Presentation**

The time and place of the award presentation will be suggested by the MEM Center in consultation with the IEA after winners are selected. Usually, the award presentation will be arranged within a major IEA-endorsed conference or the IEA Triennial Congress.

#### **11. Transfer of Award Fund**

Before May 31 each year, the MEM Center will transfer a total of \$21,000 USD to IEA as a corporate sustaining membership fee, which will be reserved in a dedicated fund. The fund will be used for the award recipients (max 4 programs, \$4,000/program), the award selection committee (\$1,000 shared among the committee chair and committee members as determined by the IEA Awards Chair), and IEA operations (minimum of \$4,000).

The IEA will invoice the following contact person at MEM Center every year at least one month before the scheduled transfer as specified above. MEM Center will inform IEA when the contact person has been changed.

Prof. Wei Zhang  
Director of MEM Education Center  
Room 411 Shunde Building  
Department of Industrial Engineering, Tsinghua University  
Beijing 100084, China  
Email: [zhangwei@tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:zhangwei@tsinghua.edu.cn); [myluulu@tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:myluulu@tsinghua.edu.cn)  
Phone: +86 139 1133 7590

#### **12. Payment of Prize and Handling of Balance**

The IEA will distribute the prize funds to the award winners. Each year, the Selection Committee will choose no more than 8 individuals nominated from no more than 4 educational programs as the award winners. Nominees from each selected program will receive \$4,000 USD, to be shared equally if 2 individuals are nominated from the same

program. The award selection committee will share \$1,000 USD as determined by the IEA Awards Chair. The balance will be reserved in the fund and will be used by the IEA for operational and administrative purposes. When the award is terminated the fund will be integrated into the IDC fund and/or into the general reserve of the IEA.

### **13. Expected Duration**

The MEM Center will guarantee the collaboration for three years starting from 2025. IEA and the MEM Center will determine the continuation of the award and may adjust the amount of fund and policies before January 2028.

### **14. Announcement of Award**

IEA will make an announcement of the award on the IEA website - <https://www.iea.cc>. A draft announcement is found in the Appendix, which may be subject to change depending on discussion between the IEA and the MEM Center.

### **15. Oversight**

The presidents of the IEA and the MEM Center or their representatives will confer annually to evaluate this collaboration and to identify issues and corrective actions. In addition to the annual evaluation, each party may request the other party to hold a high-level meeting any time critical issues are recognized.

### **16. Updates and Termination of the Agreement**

This Agreement enters into force upon the signature of the Signatories of the IEA and the MEM Center. It may be modified at any time by a written agreement between the IEA and the MEM Center. Upon determination of continuation of the award, this Agreement will be extended according to any changes agreed upon by the IEA and the MEM Center.

This Agreement may be terminated before the scheduled duration when the IEA or the MEM Center provides a written notice to the other party ninety days prior to the effective date of such termination.

### **17. Dispute Resolution**

If a dispute arises and cannot be resolved, MEM Center or the IEA may refer the matter for mediation to a Dispute Resolution Panel to be established in the following manner: Each party shall appoint one member to the Panel. These two appointed members shall jointly appoint an additional member as chairperson. The Dispute Resolution Panel shall review the facts, the terms of this Agreement and applicable statutes and rules and make a determination that shall be final and binding on both parties.

In the event of a dispute, parties shall continue to carry out all their respective responsibilities under this agreement not affected by the dispute.

Jan 16, 2025



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Dr. Andrew Thatcher,  
President  
International Ergonomics Association (IEA)



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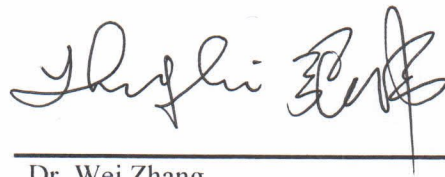
Dr. Jose Orlando Gomes,  
Past President and  
Chair of Awards Standing Committee  
International Ergonomics Association (IEA)

Feb 20, 2025



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Dr. Jingshan Li,  
Head of  
Department of Industrial Engineering  
Tsinghua University



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Dr. Wei Zhang,  
Director  
MEM Education Center  
Tsinghua University