

IEA NewsBriefs: May 2022

Dear IEA Community

We are excited to bring you another edition of the IEA NewsBriefs where you can keep up to date with key HFE developments and events within the IEA and from around the world. Following the celebration of Africa Day on the 25th May, it is apt that we showcase the Ergonomics Society of Nigeria in the IEA societies feature, which you will also find in this edition. To include an item in a future edition of the IEA NewsBriefs, please email the Editor at: sma.ngcamu@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IEA/Tsinghua and IEA/Kingfar applications closing 30 June 2022

The IEA/Kingfar Award is given annually to early career professionals to promote and reward high-quality original research and applications on new and emerging HFE issues or issues specifically related to industrially developing countries (IDCs), as well as to promote a career path in HFE. Nominees can be from any country including both IDCs and developed countries. Up to 13 winners can be recognised each year, with eight awards given to PhD students, and five awards to early career scholars/researchers (within 10 years of completing a PhD). The award amount is \$1,000 for each student winner and \$1,500 for each early career winner.

The IEA/Tsinghua Award for Collaborative Human Factors/Ergonomics Education is 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 intent of this award is to mobilize educators worldwide for HFE education. Up to four programs may be awarded. Each program may be represented by up to two nominees. The award consists of a monetary prize of \$4,000 per selected program.

Further details on these two awards, including the nomination criteria can be accessed here: <https://iea.cc/iea-kingfar-award/> for the IEA/Kingfar Awards and here: <https://iea.cc/iea-tsinghua-award/> for the IEA/Tsinghua Awards. The deadline for submission of applications for both awards is the 30th June, 2022.

Standardisation work

Standards are widely used by industry and may be used by enforcement bodies, such as labour inspectors or courts, to determine what is acceptable practice. Standards are agreed by all stakeholders but the contribution of HFE experts provides scientific validity of the effectiveness of the proposed interface between humans and the work system. The IEA wants to improve communication between people working in this field and will be surveying its federated societies and networks to identify those who are involved in this type of work. If you are involved in the development of national and international standards for tools, working methods and processes, we would be interested to hear

from you. Or if you would be interested in joining an interest group on this topic, please contact the Secretary General (vpsg@iea.cc).

Early Career Professionals

People starting out in their careers may appreciate opportunities to network with more experienced experts and, on the other hand, the IEA welcomes the involvement of new people in its activities. Over the next months the IEA will be developing various initiatives to encourage the participation of and contact with people starting out in the field of HFE. For example, who would be interested in working in the field of standardisation? The IEA officers would like to involve a couple of less experienced people in this new network, where current activities will be analysed and sustainable strategies developed.

IEA Technical Committees

Why not join one of the IEA Technical Committees (TCs)? You only need an interest in the topic to become a member and find out about events, publications and anything you would like to discuss with the experts who run them. To join, contact the person specified on the Technical Committee page (<https://iea.cc/leadership/technical-committees>). There are about 25 such interest groups at present. If you think we are missing an important topic, let the Chair of Science, Technology and Practice, Professor Nancy Black, know. The TCs are an important part of the IEA and also help to put together the scientific content of the triennial IEA Congress.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar: Why you should consider sex/gender in your musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) prevention efforts, 16 June, 2022

The world we live in is one where gender equality has not yet been fully realised within workplaces and society at large. While we strive for gender equality, there are instances that call for women to be considered differently to their counterparts, particularly in sub-optimally designed work environments that render women more vulnerable to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). The “Musculoskeletal Disorders” and “Gender and Work” IEA Technical Committees will be jointly hosting a webinar on the 16th of June at 15h00 UTC to discuss why sex/gender should be considered in MSD prevention interventions. Through summarising available evidence, the panellists will also highlight how MSD prevention measures can fail if sex/gender is not considered. The webinar will also provide insights on some of the strategies that can be adopted to better integrate sex/gender considerations into MSD prevention efforts in research and applied contexts. Make sure you register to attend this webinar by registering now via this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZkZaAq6ySgu57tX6NFYXhg

Notable Past Events

The PhD Program on HFE for Latin America was officially launched on the 27th April 2022. This program is organized by a network of Colombian universities led by the University of Valle and the National University. The official launch was organized by the

first Chair of the new Doctoral Program for HFE and was supported by participation from the IEA President, Prof. Jose Orlando Gomes, the UALERGO's Secretary General, Mauricio Santos, the President of the Colombia Ergonomics Society, Prof. Martha Saravia, and Profs. Juan Carlos Velasquez (PhD Program Director) and Prof. Lessby Gomez (Director of the Human Rehabilitation School), both from the University of Valle. More information about the doctoral program requirements, applications and research areas can be found here: <https://salud.univalle.edu.co/2-uncategorised/209-doctorado-ergonomia>

SPOTLIGHT ON IEA SOCIETIES

Nigeria, in West Africa, is not only regarded as one of the biggest economies on the African continent, but it is also the home of one of three IEA federated societies on African soil, the Ergonomics Society of Nigeria (ESN). In May we commemorate Africa Day, and it is thus fitting that we turn the IEA societies spotlight to ESN in this edition of the IEA NewsBriefs. We thank ESN for their invaluable contribution to raising awareness about HFE on the African continent and for the work they will continue to do to assist other African countries in their region to establish IEA federated societies.

If your society would like to be featured in future editions of the IEA NewsBriefs, please contact (sma.ngcamu@gmail.com).

Ergonomics Society of Nigeria (ESN)

The Ergonomics Society of Nigeria (ESN) has been in existence for almost 16 years and is a representative organisation for HFE practitioners in Nigeria. ESN is not only a federated IEA society, but it is also a member of the Ergo-Africa network.

ESN fact sheet

- **Established:** 14th September, 2006
- **Approximate number of members:** 50

Overview of ESN activities

The Ergonomics Society of Nigeria currently conducts congresses annually both nationally and in the geopolitical zones of the country. Some of the exciting upcoming developments that ESN is working on include the following:

- The inauguration of its maiden HFE academic peer review journal
- The society is looking forward to hosting its website successfully by the second quarter of next year and welcomes any assistance both from the International Ergonomics Association and other affiliate bodies to achieve this.
- Collaborating with relevant stakeholders to assist with establishing HFE societies in the West Africa region in countries such as in Ghana, Benin Republic and Togo

Status of Human Factors/ Ergonomics (HFE) in Nigeria

The discipline of HFE is not yet well-known or applied across Nigeria. From a legislative perspective, the requirement to manage HFE risks is embedded within existing health

and safety requirements. In order to improve HFE awareness and implementation across Nigeria, ESN plays a central role in the promotion of ergonomics practice in the country. Since its inauguration, ESN has been successful in improving awareness of HFE and facilitated the interests of HFE practitioners especially in the oil and gas sectors, which are the main drivers of the Nigerian economy. These HFE awareness efforts have been well-received and demonstrate the pressing need to facilitate the active implementation of HFE across all industries, while also mobilising local experience to develop HFE research and risk management capacity. In line with this, ESN is working on plans to introduce Ergonomics Training Programs in Nigerian Universities. Additionally, ESN will be collaborating closely with the Ergonomics Society of South Africa, at the continental level, and IEA at the global level to increase its membership and to contribute towards increasing the number of local HFE practitioners.

ESN Membership

ESN membership is open to Nigerian and international academics, practitioners and members of the general public who are interested in HFE matters. For membership-related enquiries, please contact ESN through its President Dr. Echezona Nelson Ekechukwu (nelson.ekechukwu@unn.edu.ng) or the ESN Secretary, Dr. Victor Egwuonwu (va.egwuonwu@unizik.edu.ng).

LINKS OF INTEREST

Archive of previous NewsBriefs: <https://iea.cc/iea-newsbriefs-archive-of-past-issues/>

More news from IEA: <https://iea.cc/category/headlines/>

IEA Press publications: <https://iea.cc/publication/>

IEA YouTube channel (includes recorded IEA webinars): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDnjCjRcYB7rBR2PJFw6k6w>

IEA LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1114517/>

IEA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalErgonomicsAssociation>