

IEA NewsBriefs: November 2022

Dear IEA Community

The November edition of the IEA NewsBriefs come at a time of the year when most are in the throes of the end of year rush to complete work before the holiday season, which is coincidentally also the time when most are experiencing end of year fatigue. This edition also coincides with the Soccer World Cup, which is the most watched sporting event in the world. In the midst of all of this, this edition of the IEA NewsBriefs offers a slight reprieve and provides details of upcoming events, updates and highlights from past events including the IEA Council meeting. You can also look forward to reading about the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (CIEHF), one of the most vibrant of IEA societies whose impact is transcending the UK borders. We hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to receiving your contributions to future editions of the IEA NewsBriefs, which can be forwarded to the editor (sma.ngcamu@gmail.com).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report on IEA Council meeting 2022

On 31st October and 1st November, the IEA held its annual Council meeting in Delft, in the Netherlands. This was the first in-person Council meeting in three years and the officers, standing committee and ad hoc chairs, and 20 Council representatives were happy to be able to meet face-to-face at last. Since it was not possible for all Council members to travel, the meeting was also offered online and a further 23 members participated virtually, some staying up into the following morning, due to the time differences. Although these members were not able to participate in the lively discussions over the dinner table or stroll through the ancient streets of Delft exchanging experiences with colleagues, their participation was welcomed and appreciated by all. Many thanks are due to the host Society, Human Factors Netherlands, in particular Marijke Melles and her team, who also organized the Healthcare Systems Ergonomics and Patient Safety Congress which took place immediately following the IEA Council meeting (www.heps2022.com).

The Council meeting gives the members of the Executive team a chance to present their current work to the Council representatives, hear their ideas and take up suggestions from the vast store of knowledge and experience that the Council members bring to the meetings. Both in-person and online Council members gave updates on the activities, opportunities, and challenges that they were facing. Due to the Covid pandemic most societies faced challenges, but many were able to turn them into opportunities to promote HFE and thereby improve working life as well as offer new communication methods within their societies.

The next Council meeting will take place in Chile in October 2023 and the officers are sure that everyone is looking forward to meeting again. The HFE conclusion was: Online meetings work well and open doors to more participation by members in formal discussions. However, meeting face-to-face provides more opportunities to exchange experiences, discuss possibilities to network and advance new topics informally.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The challenges for HFE from the future of work- The experience from China: 2 December 2022, 9:00 UTC, 17:00 Beijing Time

While we grapple with the current challenges for managing work, it is important to also cast our sights ahead to understand the challenges that we may encounter in the future and to understand

the HFE implications that may come with these challenges. In this webinar, which is the second on-line webinar in this series, the discussion will focus on the challenges and implications for HFE when it comes to managing gig work and the adoption of AI in the Chinese context. To attend, register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IJWM29jjRa66LVXxWVw-qQ

The hazards of texting while walking: 7 December 2022, 01:00 AM UTC

Texting and walking have become so ubiquitous and is regarded by many as an acceptable practice in our society that one hardly bats an eyelid when seeing this behaviour. But shouldn't we be considering what the consequences associated with texting and walking are? This webinar will introduce the findings of recent studies on musculoskeletal risks and safety hazards associated with texting while walking. Part of the discussion will also focus on providing practical solutions to address the risks associated with texting and walking. While the timing of this webinar may be most suitable for Eastern USA, Pacific and Asian regions, everyone is welcome to attend. Further details about this webinar can be found here: <https://iea.cc/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/TC-webinar-Gwanseob-Shin-6-11-2022.pdf>

Attendance is free but registration is mandatory. Register here to attend the webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qVmgDe6CQcqRVtn3kligdw

PAST EVENTS

SELF Congress on Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders

The Society of French-Speaking Ergonomists, SELF, is one of the larger IEA members. This November, they organized their 4th international congress aiming at exchanging experiences in the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders (in French: TMS). The Congress took place over three days in Tunisia and attracted more than 400 participants from France, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Morocco, Algeria and other French speaking areas. Along with keynotes from leading researchers in the field, several parallel sessions of presentations and posters were offered. The ambience was warm, probably helped by the mild weather of Tunisia at this time of year and the welcome provided by the host organization.

The keynote speakers emphasized, amongst other themes, the importance of evaluating HFE interventions holistically, rather than focusing on single elements of a system: Meta-study research has shown that narrowly focused interventions in MSD prevention rarely succeed and inclusion of the organisational and environmental factors are essential to success. Another main theme that emerged was the need to encourage good HFE practice in informal work sectors, with presentations on seasonal workers and gender issues as a focus. A major theme spoke to changes in the world of work with a focus on issues resulting from the transfer of work from industrialised countries to those where work is less regulated. The savings in terms of wages may be high for the company, but the costs are often born locally in terms of increased disability and associated social costs.

SPOTLIGHT ON IEA SOCIETIES

In this edition of the IEA NewsBriefs we feature the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (CIEHF), formerly known as the Ergonomics Society. CIEHF was formed over 7 decades ago and is one of the biggest HFE societies globally. Beyond its size, CIEHF has not only managed to grow its footprint in the UK, but through innovative ways, has managed to harness the power of networking, partnerships and social media, which has enabled it to advance the HFE

agenda globally. Read further to find out more about CIEHF, what it stands for, and how it managed to offer value added benefits to its members and the global HFE community.

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

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ERGONOMICS & HUMAN FACTORS (CIEHF)

HFE is practiced across all the main industries in the UK including healthcare, defence, energy and transport. In some sectors, its application is mandated, for example, in process and safety standards or in equipment procurement. There are several HFE MSc courses that are popular as starting points in a career in the profession and currently there is a strong demand for qualified practitioners, and for Chartered members in particular.

CIEHF was formed as a representative body for HFE professionals in the UK. Over time, CIEHF has become a rich network and community of about 2000 members, and a home to HFE professionals as well as other stakeholders from various disciplines that are interested in HFE.

CIEHF Fact sheet

- **Established:** 1949 (as the Ergonomics Society)
- **Approximate number of members:** 2000 members
- **Approximate number of certified HFE professionals:**
- **Website:** <https://ergonomics.org.uk/>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/institute-of-ergonomics-and-human-factors/>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/CIEHF>

Overview of CIEHF activities

Raising awareness about the discipline and its application and impact is one of CIEHF's key priorities as this is one of the biggest barriers to wider implementation in the UK. One initiative is the development of Learning Pathways. These are sector-specific, self-paced, online frameworks that allow anyone with any level of knowledge or experience in the discipline to become proficient in human factors practice.

In response to the high demand for HFE professionals in the UK, CIEHF certifies HFE professionals through its Professional Affairs Board. They certify graduates (Graduate Membership), those who specialise in certain HFE areas (Technical Membership), those who cover the breadth of HFE (Registered Membership) and senior HFE professionals (Fellowship). Since CIEHF is the only professional body in the world that can offer Chartered status for ergonomists and human factors specialists, Registered Members and Fellows are also assigned Chartered status if CPD requirements are met. Chartered status is the highest recognised professional qualification for individuals in the UK. Chartership is a government recognition of the profession and the CIEHF certification system, which also protects against the use of the title by people who have not been designated accordingly by CIEHF. Additionally, CIEHF accredits organisations, degree courses and training courses using a rigorous, peer-review approach. The Institute also offers a range of CPD opportunities and ways for members to become more involved, increasing their skills and providing opportunities for them to widen their networks.

CIEHF also offers a wide variety of value adding services to its members including the following:

- A quarterly magazine, The Ergonomist, which provides content that covers news, HFE application articles, member profiles and opinion pieces. The Ergonomist is available in print and digital and is sent to all members.
- Full and free access to all papers in two leading HFE journals; namely Ergonomics and Applied Ergonomics
- Regular Regional Network and Sector Group meet-ups give members an opportunity to connect, share insights and learn about each other's work.
- Fortnightly webinars across a vast range of topics where leading experts share their insight and experience.
- Monthly eNewsletter, Think, which is sent free to all members and a further 3000 or so non-member subscribers. It contains news and information on a variety of subjects in an easy to digest format.
- Weekly emails featuring a summary of latest news and information about the CIEHF and HFE more generally are sent to members inviting them to engage with activities, many of which count as great CPD opportunities.
- Access to the CIEHF Communities online Open Forum is available to all members where they can get HFE help and advice and make connections with other members.

CIEHF upcoming events

CIEHF organises a variety of vibrant and informative events during the course of the year including the following upcoming events:

- Ergonomics & Human Factors 2023, 25-26 April, Kenilworth, UK Pre-conference Masterclasses, 24 April 2023 <https://conference.ergonomics.org.uk/>
- Ergonomics & Human Factors Careers Day & Jobs Fair, 24 April, Kenilworth, UK <https://events.ergonomics.org.uk/event/careers-day-2023/>

CIEHF Membership

Anyone can join CIEHF, from specialists, leaders, graduates, students and anyone with an interest in human factors and ergonomics. More information about CIEHF membership can be found here: <https://ergonomics.org.uk/membership/join-us.html>

IEA 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>