

## Notes from inaugural IEA Council Gathering - 0700

Recording of Feb 20, 2025 07:00 Universal Time UTC: <https://youtu.be/xN8eBJARbsY>  
(available until March 11th only).

About 20 people attended the 07:00 session. The following are notes based on the final 40 minutes of this inaugural IEA Council Gathering when all attendees had returned from the 3 break-out rooms (each discussing one pre-defined topic).

**Topic 1 - Activities of member societies that work well:** Presented by Note taker – Wei Zhang (Chair of Development and Promotion Standing Committee)

Indonesia – notes that their former Association president is now appointed Minister of Labour (National Ministry of Manpower)

- Monthly specific events – technical groups; National congress seminars
- Regional coordinators
- Promotion of young scholars

Korean – holds semi-annual meetings

Malaysia (HFEM) uses new and traditional media

- Uses new networks, like SEANES
- Has Student chapter « meet and greet » sessions
- Creates HFE guidelines
- Has a strategic plan until 2030

Chinese ergonomics society – holds trimonthly conferences

- Example: Oct 2025 – conference and IEA Council meeting (expect around 20

Japanese society – AI Human interaction (AI-augmentation)

- Systems approach
- New business issues
- Aging population

**Topic 2 - Encouraging Early Career people's participation:** Presented by Note taker Anindya Ganguli ((Chair of International Development Standing Committee)

Participants: NES (Sweden) – Mexico – South Korea - India

Membership increases when there are activities. Lots of activities = higher membership

Have prizes (particularly for EC).

- Ex. Mexico's "*Ergo Copa*" for ergonomics in informal settings; in India "Springer prizes" for papers in HWWE; NES Giving free membership and sponsoring people to attend conferences

Kingfar awards are encouraging activities – but currently there is no system for awardees to present at international conferences and to meet other people

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- Such initiatives could be developed through the *IEA's International Development Standing committee*

### Membership patterns

- Develop currently popular subjects – ensure more active topics in our community:
  - o HCI very popular – 4000 attendees at the HCI conference, but although this topic is present in HFE societies, attendance is lower
- Develop new areas – ex. Voice ergonomics (including audiologists)

### **Topic 3 - Quality assurance of EHF – protection of the profession (encroachment):**

Presented by Note taker Rosemary Seva (Chair of Science Technology and Practice Standing Committee)

Participating in break-out room: David Caple & Valerie O'Keefe (Australia), Stephen Kolose (New Zealand), Rosemary Seva & Jennifer Gutierrez (Philippines), Debkumar Chakrabarti (India)

Unique value-proposition of ergonomists

Multiple perspective makes them unique

- Currently we have low numbers of members – thus too much work for ergonomists
- Certification alone is not enough. We must develop requirements for HFE.
- Only a few certified people in Philippines - all through Industrial Engineering.
- No professional certification in India.

Clarify that Membership in HFE Associations is not Certification – this may be misunderstood by non-members

### **General discussion:**

From Canada notes that the AIHA (*American Industrial Hygiene Association*) has created their own *Ergonomics Toolbox*. AIHA is requesting that ACE (*Association of Canadian Ergonomists – Association canadienne d'ergonomie*) help with translation (into French) to market the AIHA's tool (but not to be involved in the Toolbox development and refinement)

- Some people are recognized with HFE but some don't possess the "systems approach" of HFE professionals
- Others may lack understanding of breadth and depth of HFE approach
- Better together rather than siloed.
- IEA President, Andrew Thatcher suggests that HFES be involved directly with AIHA (both American) to encourage HFE Associations' content contributions
- Technical colleges in British Columbia Canada hire *hygienists* to teach ergonomics courses! This is concerning.

**Do HFE professionals have a unique identity?**

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- Discussion of useful publications on this topic by John Wilson and Jan Dul
- All interested in human well-being
- Cross-disciplinary
- Designing things – processes – technologies (not post-hoc)

### **NES (Nordic Ergonomics Society) developments; rather than 5-member society – currently a 3-national society**

- To be discussed at the next NES Annual meeting.
- Rather than seeing eventual dissolution of NES as a “failure” it might be a change of model; greater development; a chance for further development
- Finnish and Swedish associations – could be IEA Federated Societies (membership numbers are sufficient)
  - o Iceland would be too small to be a Federated Society
    - President Andrew Thatcher notes IEA can support in such situations
  - o Denmark has drifted off – was a gigantic association of NES in past
- José Orlando notes Societies can have multiple countries working together
  - o Could also be an *Affiliated Societies* (no voting rights)

### **Shamsul (HFEM – Malaysia) notes his country is reviewing a new *Occupational Health and Safety Law***

- Luckily, they are working with the HFEM association
  - o The new OHS structure wishes to create a new “ergonomist” definition = any person with an undergraduate degree (post-graduate) + 1 year experience + government program
    - HFEM is working to ensure quality control beyond general guidelines proposed by government;
- HFEM states that only Finland had a government regulation in the world
- An IEA rule and function is to communicate with governments

Notes taken by Nancy Black (IEA Vice-President Secretary General), based on the Zoom recording. Image in Figure 1 taken by Rosemary Seva of attendees present at the end of the meeting.

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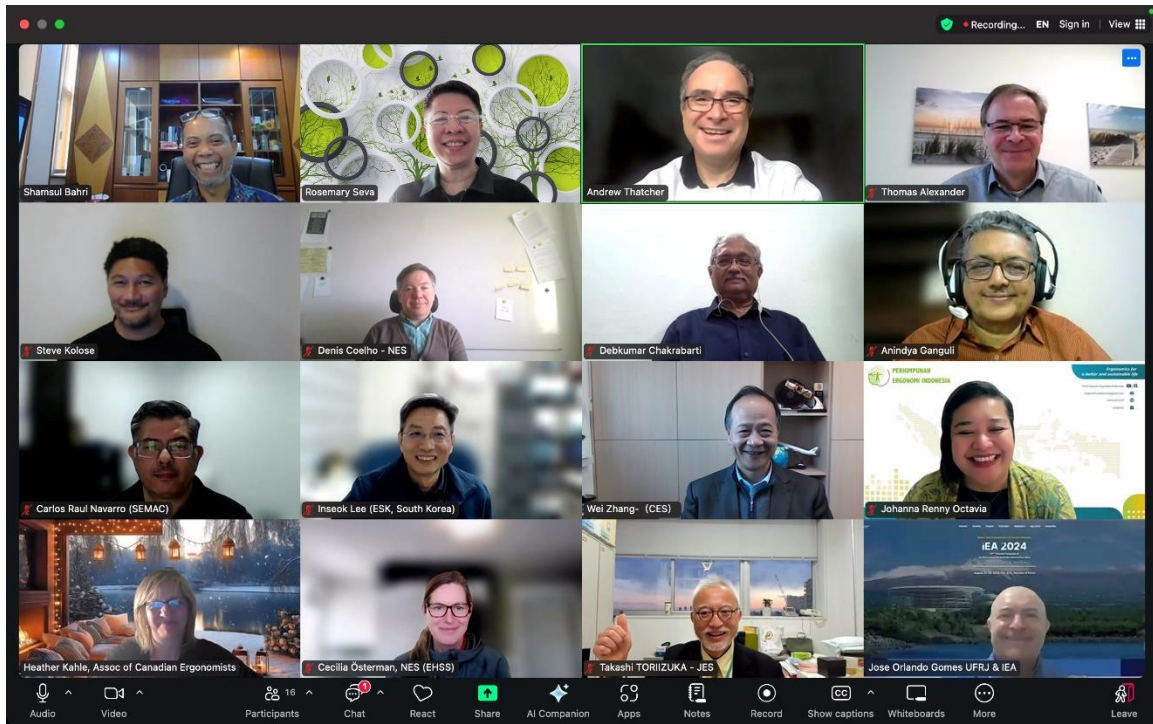


Figure 1. Screenshot of 16 of the attendees of the 0700 IEA Virtual Council Gathering.