



International Ergonomics Association

## President's Newsletter No. 3

28 February 2010

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Dear IEA Colleagues:

The year has gotten off to a productive start for the IEA Executive Committee. We hope that yours has begun with good health and a bright outlook for the coming year. I want to bring you up to date with our latest developments, news and opportunities from the IEA.

### First Executive Committee meeting

In mid January our Executive Committee met for the first time in San Francisco in the U.S. It provided a valuable opportunity to bring together an energetic and talented team who represent the many interests of the IEA. Attendees included: Secretary General Eric Wang (Taiwan), Treasurer Klaus Zink (Germany), Standing Committee Chairs for Development and Promotion Ralph Bruder (Germany), Industrial Development Barbara Silverstein (US), Professional Standards and Education Yushi Fujita (Japan), Past President David Caple (Australia), 2012 Congress Chair Marcelo Soares (Brazil) and myself. Verna Blewett (Australia), who chairs our Science Technology and Practice Standing Committee, participated via Skype during her return trip from India.

In addition to learning about the roles and scope of the EC functions, we agreed upon the priorities for our strategic goals. We agreed that the strategic goals defined by the IEA are indeed still relevant and that we believe the focus for this Executive includes:

- A. Contribute to the development of federated societies
- B. Advance the science and practice of ergonomics at an international level
- C. Enhance the contribution of the ergonomic discipline to global society

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The IEA is registered as an association at the Commercial Register of Kanton Zurich, Switzerland: Company-Nr. CH020.6.001.285-4



Your IEA Executive Committee

Ralph Bruder, David Caple, Barbara Silverstein, Yushi Fujita, Marcelo Soares  
Klaus Zink, Andy Imada, Eric Wang

### IEA Governance Committee

The IEA Governance Committee continues its important work under the leadership of David Caple. The group raised a range of noteworthy considerations for the future as this work lays an important foundation for future work that will determine the form and functioning of the IEA. This committee is served by a talented group of members: Jan Dul, The Netherlands (Past Development); Pierre Falzon, France (Past President); Kentaro Kotani, Japan; Yair Lifshitz, Israel; Bill Marras, USA; Pieter Rookmaaker, The Netherlands (FEES Chair); Torunn Sveinsdottir, Iceland; and Kan Zhang, China. We look forward to this committee's recommendations.

### IEA/Liberty Mutual Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2010 Liberty Mutual Award. This is an international competition that honors original research leading to the reduction or mitigation of work-related injuries and/or to the advancement of theory, understanding, and development of occupational safety research. It is, in my opinion, the most prestigious award in our field.

The IEA/Liberty Mutual Award in Occupational Safety and Ergonomics comes with a cash prize of US\$10,000. The deadline for submitting applications for this award is 31 May 2010. I encourage you to seriously consider nominating deserving candidates. See the IEA website: <http://www.iea.cc/browse.php?contID=awards>.

### Ergonomic Guidelines to be Published Soon

After many years of work from many dedicated individuals, the IEA and the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) is jointly publishing "Ergonomic Guidelines". These guidelines are designed to assist personnel in the field of occupational health who have a limited knowledge of ergonomics. They outline the process of identifying, assessing and controlling problems related to health and safety in the workplace. The ultimate aim is that they can provide assistance in planning basic intervention strategies based on sound ergonomics principles.

We are deeply indebted to then IEA and ICOH presidents Ian Noy and Jean-Francois Caillard for their leadership

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to begin this process with a Memorandum of Understanding between our two organizations. Work began at the IEA Triennial Congress in San Diego in 2000 with a small group who discussed how to implement this project. Kazutaka Kogi, Barbara McPhee and Pat Scott made up the core group responsible for the majority of the development work. After many years of hard work and persistence and with the financial support from ICOH, IEA, Institute for the Science of Labour in Japan and the Jim Knowles Group in Australia. The printing of these Guidelines was supported by Ergonomia and the IAD Institute for Ergonomics from the University of Technology Darmstadt in Germany. Thanks to the efforts of so many over the years, we are pleased to announce that these Ergonomic Guidelines will be available at 19 € or 25 USD. Check the IEA website for details. <http://www.iea.cc>

### Opportunities with IEA

Historian. Over the past six months I have had the pleasure of communicating with eight IEA Past Presidents who have provided invaluable advice and support. In one of my exchanges with Ilkka Kourinka, he suggested that we consider re-establishing the role of the IEA Historian. He provided the background of his role as the last Historian and the great fortune we have of the archival work that CNAM is doing in Paris to serve as the repository of our records. A Historian could add to this valuable archive by recording the context for Council’s deliberations and decisions. I am willing to consider reinstating the Historian role as a regular observer of the Council’s and Executive Committee activities. If any one is interested in taking on this position, please feel free to contact me.

Representing IEA at Federated Society Events. Federated societies and networks have events that IEA supports or encourages indirectly. We receive requests for a representative to be present at these events. We will make every effort to be involved in these events. Recent examples include David Caple’s visit to Indonesia, Verna Blewett and Eric Wang both made separate presentation in India and Klaus Zink’s involvement with the WHO and ILO. Our presence at events is consistent with our strategic goals.

However, there may be times when another ergonomist may be a better representative because of their history with the region, their areas of research or relationships with others in the area. If you would like to serve as a representative for the IEA, and would be willing to travel to an event, we can match the request to the right person. If the match fits this could be an ideal opportunity for the host and the IEA representative. Unfortunately, IEA cannot pay for travel or other expenses. However, we could serve as a forum for bringing together external experts and federated society needs.

If you have a need for an IEA representative or if you are willing to represent the IEA, please contact Secretary General Eric Wang.

### Exciting Ergonomics Events

Coffee Bean Harvesting Baskets in Nicaragua. Barbara Silverstein, who chairs our Industrial Development Standing Committee, introduced the EC to a project that she is working on to redesign coffee harvesting baskets to reduce injury risks. Project Coordinator, Kate Stewart, visited many coffee farms, got input from harvesters

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and owners in Nicaragua, and came away with a consensus that these baskets could be improved. The aim of this project is to create a safer, more productive work environment by reducing the risk of back and shoulder injuries among coffee harvesters. The project will develop a prototype harvest bag and produce 50 units to be tested in Nicaragua. Next, productivity and reactions to the bag will be measured in a range of coffee growing operations. This feedback will be used to make final modifications of the prototype.

The IEA EC identified this project as a lighthouse project that can illustrate how ergonomics, participatory strategies and multinational cooperation can improve the lives of people around the world. Coffee is the world's second largest commodity and provides work for thousands of workers throughout Central America. It is a product many of us around the world consume regularly and enjoy the benefits of this work. We would like to create visibility for projects like this around the world and encourage this application of our discipline. Barbara and Kate are currently seeking funding for this project and we are following up on a number of alternatives to help fund this worthwhile project. If you would like to support this effort, please contact Barbara Silverstein at [bassilver@comcast.net](mailto:bassilver@comcast.net).

Schoolbags in Sri Lanka. Kapila Jayaratne organized a successful event promoting the healthy schoolbag at the Deyata Kirula Exhibition in Sri Lanka. This was a joint effort by the Education Publication Department, School Health Unity, Family Health Bureau, Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition. Dr. Jayaratne explained the ergonomic features of the healthy schoolbag to children, parents and teachers. Raising ergonomic awareness to such a large group of everyday users can improve usability and comfort. The event was covered in the Sunday Times and Daily Mirror.

### Upcoming Events

- [KEER 2010](#)  
2-4 March 2010, Paris, France
- [APCHI & Ergofuture 2010](#)  
3-5 August 2010, Bali, Indonesia
- [2010 International Conference on Control Room Design](#)  
25-26 October 2010, Paris, France
- [PPCOE 2010 Pan-Pacific Conference on Occupational Ergonomics](#)  
7-10 November 2010, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, ROC
- [SEANES](#)  
December 2010, Cebu, Philippines

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Imada  
President

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