



International Ergonomics Association

President's Newsletter No. 4 5 May 2010

President

Andrew S. Imada
A. S. Imada & Associates
4910 Phelps Court
Carmichael, CA 95608 USA
Tel: +1-916-486-1635
Email: asimada@gmail.com

Secretary General

Eric Min-yang Wang
Department of Industrial Engineering and
Engineering Management
National Tsing Hua University
101, Sec. 2, Guang Fu Road
Hsinchu 30013
Taiwan, ROC
Tel: +886-3-574-2649
Email: mwyangotric1@gmail.com

Treasurer

Klaus J. Zink
Chair of Industrial Management and Human
Factors
Research Institute for Technology and Work
e.V.
University of Kaiserslautern
P.O. Box 30 49
67653 Kaiserslautern
GERMANY
Tel: +49 631 205 2027
Email: kzink@iea-kl.de

Development and Promotion

Ralph Bruder
Institute of Ergonomics
Darmstadt University of Technology
Petersenstrasse 30
64287 Darmstadt
GERMANY
Tel: +49-6151-162987
Email: rbruder@iad.tu-darmstadt.de

International Development

Barbara Silverstein
SHARP, Washington State Department of
Labor and Industries
PO Box 44330
Olympia, WA 98504-4330 USA
Email: silb235@lni.wa.gov

Professional Standards and Education

Yushi Fujita
Technova Inc.
1-1 Uchisaiwai-cho 1, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-0011
JAPAN
TEL: +81-3-3508-2280
Email: y.fujita@technova.co.jp

Science, Technology & Practice

Verna Blewett
Associate Professor (OHS)
University of South Australia
GPO Box 2471 Adelaide SA 5001
AUSTRALIA
Email: verna.blewett@unisa.edu.au

Past President - Awards

David C. Caple
David C. Caple & Associates Pty Ltd
PO Box 2135
East Ivanhoe, Victoria 3079
AUSTRALIA Tel: +61-3-9499-9011
Email: davidcaple@pacific.net.au

2012 Congress Chair

Marcelo Soares
University of Central Florida
Industrial Engineering and Management
Systems
P.O. Box 162993
Orlando, FL USA 32816-2993 0020
Tel: +407-823-5218
Email: marcelo2@nlink.com.br

Dear IEA Council Members:

We send our greetings to you and ergonomists around the world. It is our sincere wish that you are enjoying a productive and healthy time. We have certainly been productive in many parts of the ergonomics world. Here is the latest news that we think you will find useful.

Ergonomic Guidelines Published

In the last newsletter we announced that the publication "Ergonomic Guidelines" would be published soon. It has indeed been published! This is a joint effort between the IEA and the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and is designed to help persons in the field of occupational safety and health implement ergonomic solutions. This tool will provide assistance in planning basic intervention strategies based on sound ergonomic principles. Once again, we are deeply grateful to the many people who contributed to this publication to make it a reality. This was truly a team effort.

To order a copy you can contact *ergonomia Verlag* (info@ergonomia.de).

IEA/Liberty Mutual Award Nominations Deadline Approaching!

Applications are being accepted for the 2010 Liberty Mutual Award. Instituted in 1998, this international competition recognizes 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. This award comes with a cash prize of \$10,000 USD. To be considered for the 2010 prize you need to submit an application, which includes a cover letter and the paper, to IEA Awards Committee Chair, David C. Caple, davidcaple@pacific.net.au, by **31 May 2010**. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Applicants will be notified of the results by mid-July. See the IEA website: <http://www.iea.cc/browse.php?contID=awards>. I encourage you to submit a paper for this very important award.

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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



Financial Support for Coffee Bean Harvesting Lighthouse Project

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, an important focus for us will be spreading ergonomics in Industrially Developing Countries (IDCs). One mechanism is to feature “lighthouse projects” in IDCs. The coffee bean harvesting project that Barbara Silverstein and Kate Stewart head up in Nicaragua will be the first of such efforts. Treasurer Klaus Zink reports that he has found support for our concept by the 4C Coffee-Association and their members in Nicaragua, which includes the two largest coffee exporters and a group of producers. With the financial support of the 4C Coffee-Association we will soon start the development of a new bag for coffee harvesting. This is a real ergonomics project, because we will improve working conditions and productivity. The design will involve a local university in cooperation with the University of Washington. The goal is to test this new bag at the next coffee harvest in August or September and report first results at a regional meeting, where all 4C members of this region are present. After a successful evaluation, this solution can be transferred to other coffee producing countries such as Brazil. Final results will be featured during the IEA conference in Brazil in 2012.

Planning for Global Ergonomic Month

I would encourage the Federated Societies to begin planning activities for October to create a greater awareness of our profession. Council agreed at the meeting in Iceland that all Federated Societies consider one or more activities during October to do outreach and promote ergonomics to their communities. How can you do this?

When Jan Dul served as Chair of the Development Committee he gathered a number of practices used by Federated Societies. These include:

Support researchers and practitioners

1. Work with local science museums and other business related professional organizations. (HFES)
2. Develop school visitation packages. (HFES)
3. Support members in writing articles on ergonomic success stories, particularly for specialist press. (ES)
4. Organize seminars with invited speakers and try to get media attention. (NES)
5. Create relationships with the mass media, e.g. by establishing an outreach committee focusing on media and press writers and producers. (HFES, SIE)

Receive recognition by national authorities or national pressure groups

1. Be involved in actions that have public appeal such as reducing MSD and other concerns that are very popular in the country. (ABERGO)
2. Develop media statements and processes to quickly respond to HFE related at the national level driven by lobbyists and others. (HFES)
3. Be active in standardization work, e.g. establish a standards committee, answer enquiries regarding proposed standards. (NES)

The public has a limited view of what the field of ergonomics is about. This can be improved by enlarging public visibility and recognition. I hope you will consider taking this opportunity to promote ergonomics in October. If we all did one or two things, we can have a larger effect.

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GfA Holds Spring Congress 2010 to Design New Environments of Working and Living

More than 370 participants attended the 56th spring congress of Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft (GfA) in Darmstadt, Germany from 24-26 March 2010. This year's theme focused on the Designing New Environments for Working and Living, and the congress was hosted by the Institute of Ergonomics of TU Darmstadt. There were more than 180 contributions to the key topics on health, individualization, innovative design concepts, and sustainability. Contributions included a wide range of subjects such as occupational medicine and industrial psychology, human resource management, engineering sciences, product design, and usability. Additionally, representatives from science and industry presented current topics on ergonomics in their keynote and plenary addresses. The confluence of musculoskeletal diseases and age were presented as well as innovative forms of interaction in vehicles, aircrafts, and air traffic control. The topic of work-life-balance was discussed in a paper on the compatibility of professional and private life demands of hospital staff members. Two young researchers, Dr.-Ing. Nicole Jochems and Dr.-Ing. Ulrich Bergmeier, were awarded the Walter-Rohmert Research Award, which was presented for the first time at the Congress evening event.



Walter Rohmert Research Award 2010

From left to right: Ralph Bruder, Ulrich Bergmeier, Nicole Jochems, Christopher Schlick, Heiner Bubb, Gert Zülch

UN DPI conference in Melbourne

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Past President David Caple will be coordinating our participation with the 63rd Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference in Melbourne in September 2010. David will be working with Verna Blewett, Wendy McDonald and Andrea Shaw to represent IEA at this conference titled “Advance Global Health – Achieve the MDGs”. This conference is being organized as a partnership between the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and the Government of Australia. This event will highlight partnerships that can contribute to fostering global health, not just managing disease. This could involve many disciplines beyond health science and ergonomics and clearly has a role to play. We are delighted to participate and equally delighted that we have such great ambassadors to represent us.

Efforts such as this reinforce our strategy to intensify our international collaborations and solidify the relationships that have been built up over the past few years. This will expand our scope of influence in practical ways by addressing real problems.

Memorandum of Understanding with EWB

We have made progress in formalizing our relationship with Ergonomics Without Borders (EWB) through the Foundation for Professional Ergonomics (FPE). The Executive Committee has just seen a draft of the document and we will be sending it out to FPE. We will have a document ready for your approval at our Council meeting in October. In the interim, we would encourage you to think of projects or people who may want to work on EWB projects. It is a great way to get involved and put our skills and knowledge to practical use through a recognizable international cooperation model.

ICOH 2012 Congress

The International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) Congress will hold its triennial Congress in Monterrey, Mexico from 18-23 March 2012. Though this date is very close to our own Triennial Congress in Recife, Brazil, we support this effort and hope that people will be able to take advantage of the opportunity to attend both of these events in the Americas. I have agreed to serve on the International Scientific Committee for this Congress and encourage anyone to get involved in this event as well as the IEA 2012 Congress. Once again, we see this as an opportunity to intensify our relationships with organizations that share mutual interests.

Ergofuture 2010 Meeting in Bali

Several members of the Executive Committee have accepted invitations from Dr. Adnyana Manuaba to participate in the Ergofuture 2010 and APCHI2010 (Asia Pacific Computer Human Interaction) meetings in Bali from 3 - 5 August 2010. We want to support these regional meetings in IDCs and encourage you to do the same. We will use the opportunity for several of the EC members to meet again and finalize actions that were started in our first meeting in San Francisco. You can learn more about this event by downloading the flyer on the link [APCHI & Ergofuture 2010](#) or contacting Adnyana Manuaba (adnyana_manuaba@yahoo.com). The deadline for submitting an abstract has been extended to 20 May. Submit your ideas now and your full papers will be due on 20 June.

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Change in Executive Committee

Verna Blewett, who chaired our Science Technology and Practice Standing Committee, has decided to step down from this responsibility. Though she is very motivated and willing to take on this challenge, personal and professional circumstances do not make this an ideal time for her to take on these responsibilities. This is true for all of us at one time or another and these are important personal choices that we have to make. We thank Verna for her willingness to serve and will miss her energy and many talents as an ergonomist and leader. We will be looking to fill this position relatively soon.

Upcoming Events

- [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

Notes on dear friends

Nicola Wright, who is a member of the PIE Technical Committee, sent a notice from Wolfram Boucsein, former PIE President, on the passing of Professor John A. Stern on April 3, 2010. Professor Stern was a prolific researcher, gifted teacher and mentor to countless students. After receiving his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, Urbana (USA) in 1953, he spent his academic life at the Washington University in St. Louis (USA), both in the School of Medicine and in the Department of Psychology. After becoming a Professor Emeritus in 2000, he continued to actively take part in the Behavioral Research Laboratories at Washington University, where he was director for 20 years. John Stern was one of the founding members of the PIE (Psychophysiology in Ergonomics) Organization in 1993, which has been a Technical Committee of the IEA since 1995, and became its first president. Since then, he played a major role in promoting psychophysiology in ergonomics. We all owe him a lot, and gratefully acknowledge his unselfish efforts to help many of us begin successful research careers, and help build a community of researchers in a new field of study.

We received news from the Japan Ergonomics Society (JES) of the death of Professor Masamitsu Ohshima, M.D., its beloved Honorary President, at the age of 95. Professor Ohshima is the founding father of JES, and an IEA fellow. The funeral service was held on Monday, May 3 at Engaku-ji Zen-temple in a famous ancient city, Kamakura. Professor Ohshima started his research career at the Institute for Science of Labour after enlisting as a naval surgeon. His many experiences include being the leader in the Aero-medical Laboratory in JASDF, Professor at the Department of Bio Medical Engineering in the University of Tokyo, President of the Medical

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Information System Development Center, and the President of the Institute for Health Sciences on the active list. He was an outstanding leader as a president of JES from 1973 to 1995, and he organized the 8th IEA congress in 1982, which was held in Tokyo.

Many of you may already know that Past IEA President, Hal Hendrick, is going through cancer treatment in the US. Though you may not have known about his current situation, you probably have heard about or know about his many contributions as President and Secretary General of IEA and his contributions in pioneering macroergonomics. He is a very dear friend to many of us and he wanted to let you know that he is dutifully going through the treatments and looks forward to seeing all of you soon. His optimism, courage and continued interest in our profession have been inspiring to me. Please keep him in your thoughts as we await his return to the next IEA meeting where he can grace us with his presence.

Wishing you good health and happiness as you continue your valuable work in ergonomics!

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Imada
President

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