



International Ergonomics Association

President's Newsletter No. 5 5 July 2010

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Dear IEA Council Members:

The past few months have been exciting and productive for the IEA.

Karen Jacobs Accepts Role as the STP Chair

We are delighted to announce that Karen Jacobs has agreed to accept the Chair of the Science Technology and Practice Committee. When I introduced her to the Technical Committee Chairs, I expressed my confidence that her experience as a TC chair will serve her well in this liaison role with the 2012 Congress Organizing Committee and the Executive Committee. Karen is at Boston University and has extensive experience with the Technical Committee on Education and Children. Please join me in welcoming her to the IEA Executive Committee as our new STP Chair.

Occupational Ergonomics Workshop in Burapha, Thailand

In cooperation with the University of Washington, the IEA-IDC co-sponsored an occupational ergonomics workshop at Burapha University. Participants from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam presented their work to colleagues and engaged in problem-solving activities. Barbara Silverstein and Kate Stewart, from the University of Washington, visited each of the groups in their countries to help prepare for the workshop. Ergonomics in the garment industries was a common theme across countries. Increased concern about mining activities leading to degradation of water supplies for farmers is becoming an important issue looking for ergonomics involvement in solutions. Good work is also being conducted in agriculture and construction. Participation in national safety days has been identified as a way to disseminate knowledge to employers and employees in all four countries. Presentations from the workshop participants will be on the IDC website.

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ILO Publishes Ergonomic Checkpoints (2nd Edition)

We received notice from Dr. Shengli, from the International Labour Office (ILO), that the Second Edition of Ergonomic Checkpoints has just been published. This is a joint IEA and ILO project that updates on the highly successful first edition that ILO published in 1999. Like the first edition, these checkpoints use sound ergonomic principles and seek to identify simple, practical and inexpensive solutions to 132 problem areas. These workplace situations include: materials storage and handling, hand tools, machine safety, workstation design, lighting, premises, hazard control, welfare facilities and work organization. This is the work product of many dedicated ergonomists from IEA contributing their time and talents. IEA is proud to be a part of this publication, which we believe can reduce work, related accidents and diseases and improve safety health and working conditions. For more information on the manual and how to order please go to:
http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/Publications/ILOBookstore/Forthcomingpublications/lang--en/docName--WCMS_120133/index.htm

Ergonomic Guidelines Available

In the last newsletter we announced that the publication “Ergonomic Guidelines” has been published. This publication is a result of 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. We have received good feedback about this practical book. To order a copy please contact [ergonomia Verlag \(info@ergonomia.de\)](mailto:ergonomia@ergonomia.de).

Memorandum of Understanding with FPE on EWB

The Board of the Foundation for Professional Ergonomics (FPE) has approved the latest version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning the Ergonomists Without Borders (EWB) program. We will have this MOU available for your review and vote at our Council meeting in October. Between now and October, 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. This will be a good opportunity for IEA to spread ergonomics around the world using a recognized and successful international paradigm from Medecins sans Frontieres – Doctors Without Borders.

IEA Contributes Statement to the 127th Meeting of World Health Assembly Executive Board

On 22 May, Professor Michel Guillermo presented a joint statement from the IEA, IOHA, and ICOH regarding child injury prevention to the WHO Executive Board Meeting. The statement raises attention to the 215 million children under the age of 18 who are engaged in child labor worldwide. This includes the 115 million children subjected to the worst forms of child labor including slavery, sexual exploitation and illicit activities. Large

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numbers of children work in agriculture in family settings. Policies and enforcement are needed for those less than 18 years of age. Good practices from ILO, ICOH, IEA, and IOHA are available for specific kinds of workplaces, schools, educating parents, and for engaging the public health sector to address risks to working children. The statement goes on to offer assistance to develop guidance and to share, implement and evaluate practices to reduce injuries for working children. The presentation and discussion took about one hour and according to ICOH President Kogi, was well received by the WHO board members. Our participation is important on a topic as vital as child safety around the world.

Continuing to Build IEA-ICOH Relationship

Following the footsteps of the previous Executive, we are keenly interested in continuing to build our relationships with other allied organizations. ICOH invited me to participate on the ICOH 2012 International Scientific Committee and I have accepted the invitation. This is in keeping with our MOU to mutually support efforts of two organizations. Several others will no doubt be involved as our organizational interests overlap a great deal.

Kapila Jayaratne Recognized for Ergonomic Schoolbag Design

On 31 May, the Sri Lanka Medical Association 2009/10 oration was awarded to Kapila Jayaratne for his project on "Ergonomic Factors of Educational Environments and Influence on School-going Early Adolescents". Jayaratne also conducted a successful awareness program for bag manufacturers from all over Sri Lanka on ergonomic features of schoolbags with more than 400 participants. He described the research focusing on the burden of the problem, why the ergonomic features are essential to safeguard the health of children and what is expected from local manufacturers. Problems faced by manufacturers when implementing the Healthy Schoolbag Campaign were also discussed. Manufacturers were shown sample bags with acceptable quality so that they can have the same expectations. Schoolbag manufacturers who had produced a sample schoolbag for evaluation were given an opportunity to discuss deficiencies and good aspects of their bags with national evaluators. At the same time a massive media campaign has been launched to mobilize the general public.

Successful Ergonomic Meetings

Sociedad de Ergonomistas de Mexico. SEMAC held their XII Ergonomics International Congress from 5-8 May in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. This meeting drew attendees from universities and industries from several countries to discuss their research and the latest ergonomic news. Though attendance may have been affected by the recent publicity about events in Juarez, attendees were enthusiastic and lively. It was my great pleasure to participate in this XII Congress and to see old friends and to meet new friends and colleagues. The warmth of their welcome and friendship are good souvenirs from my trip.

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Human Ergology Society. The HES celebrated its 40th Anniversary and their 45th Annual Meeting in Nagoya, Japan from 12-13 June. Professors Koya Kishida, Norihide Tachi and their team organized a wonderful event that had many interesting posters on a wide range of topics (as one would expect from an ergology meeting) and an informative session about using participatory strategies in a wide range of settings. Drs. Aphorn, Khai, Kawakami and Kumashiro presented applications of their work ranging from home workers, farmers, and waste management workers to apple farmers. I felt privileged to participate in this session and to be able to contribute. It was nice catching up with friends and my son, Mark, and I got a chance to meet many students and promising researchers.

Japan Ergonomics Society. At the invitation of Professor Susumu Saito and the JES, I attended the 51st annual conference of the JES in Sapporo from 19-20 June. Professor Shintaro Yokoyama and Hokkaido University hosted the conference on their beautiful campus. I was encouraged by the number of younger researchers who responded to the call to become more active in international ergonomics. The JES is one of the longest standing and largest IEA federated societies and their meeting reflected that maturity. I was lucky enough to hear Professor Ohkubo's presentation commemorating the contribution of the late Professor Ohshima and Dr. Kogi's presentation of his participatory action oriented training in the general assembly. The hospitality was magnificent and we even heard a popular recording artist who is now living in Beijing.



SEMAS President Miguel Balderrama, IEA's Andrew S. Imada, SEMAS Past President Victorio Martinez (Left to right) in Juarez, Mexico



Mika Morishima, Winner of the HES Best Poster Award, Andrew S. Imada, Yujiro Kawata, Winner of the HES Young Scientist Award (Left to right) in Nagoya, Japan

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Upcoming Events

APCHI & Ergofuture 2010. Professor Adnyana Manuaba is hosting a Joint International Conference of Asia Pacific Computer Human Interaction 2010 and Ergofuture 2010 from 3-5 August in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. The goals of this event are to provide guidance and direction for young ergonomists; to show the unfit, improper, inappropriate research and applications of ergonomics and occupational safety and health; and to convince people of a total and more strategic approach to research and application. The scientific program has a host of well-known international collaborators and promises to be a good meeting of many different perspectives. To show our support, the IEA Executive Committee will be holding a board meeting with the members who are attending that meeting. If you would like to join the meeting, please contact the secretariat at: ergofuture2010@yahoo.co.id.



PSE Chair Yushi Fujita, JES President Susumu Saito and IEA's Andrew Imada (Left to right) at the JES meeting in Sapporo, Japan

Nordic Ergonomic Society. NES 2010 is the 42nd conference held in Stavanger, Norway from 6-8 September 2010. The theme of this conference – Proactive Ergonomics – emphasizes how we can accommodate a person's needs, abilities and limitations through a thorough planning of workplaces and man-made environments with regard to health and safety. Particular emphasis is given to the design of school buildings, universal design and preventing accident/disaster scenarios. The conference program includes great scholarship in four tracks

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throughout the three-day conference. Among the keynote speakers are IEA's own David Caple and Karen Jacobs. This looks to be an exciting event in a beautiful venue put on by one of IEA's largest and most experienced federated societies. If you are interested, please go to:

http://www.nordicergonomics.org/NES2010/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1

Formation of Human Factors & Ergonomics Society Malaysia. Our past STP Chair and indefatigable Halimahtun Khalid informed us that on 5 June 2010 a meeting was held to form the Human Factors & Ergonomics Society of Malaysia (HFEM). There are 50 members to date and it is growing. Inaugural officers include:

- President: Dr. Halimahtun Khalid
- Vice President: Ashok Sivaji
- Secretary: Dr. Lim Tek Yong
- Treasurer: Norfarhatul Khalidah Abd Malek
- Members (also Chair of SIGs): Dr. Rosnah Mohd Yusuff (Workplace Ergonomics SIG), Dr. Alvin Yeo (HCI SIG), Dr. Wan Fatimah Wan Ahmad (Product Design SIG)

Dr. Rosnah Mohd Yusuff will represent Malaysia on the SEANES board as Chair of the Ergonomics SIG in the registered Malaysian Engineering & Technology Association. When the HFEM society is registered in accordance with the society constitution, SEANES will be represented by the President or a Special Representative to be appointed by the Executive Board.

We look forward to HFEM joining the IEA family when they are ready to apply. We will do whatever we can to help them become a part of IEA and promote ergonomics in the region. Congratulations and welcome to the international community. We look forward to your active presence on council.

ODAM 2011. The 10th International Symposium on Human Factors in Organisational Design and Management, ODA M 2011, is coming up soon and will be held in Grahamstown (South Africa) on 4-6 April 2011. The ODA M 2011, "Research for the missing link" is devoted to the management of the complex involvement of humans in their environment. Further information about the conference and the venue can be obtained from the ODA M X website at <http://www.odam2011.net>.

Website

As some of you may know, on or about 24 June ,our website came under attack by unauthorized users who altered content and redirected links to other websites. We are extremely grateful for the responsiveness of Professor Eric Wang's team at the National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan for their hard work and to Andreas

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Boehmer from Addictive Media in Australia for the great advice and support. We have not completely restored the website, but we are working on it. We also hope that no offense was taken by any unauthorized alterations of the original content. The website is IEA's portal to the world and we want it to represent us appropriately. We apologize for any inconvenience you may have experienced during this time.

Keep up your good work making this a better human-centered world!

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Imada
President

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