

INTERNATIONAL ERGONOMICS ASSOCIATION

Ergonomics International

News and Information--August 1999



International Ergonomics Association

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IEA President's Report to Council

This is an abbreviated version of Ian Noy's report to the IEA council. The full text together with definitions and the strategic plan can be found on the IEA web pages. The President's report is under 'Background'.

Liaisons

Ergonomics Delegation to the People's Republic of China

I had the privilege of leading an Ergonomics Delegation to China, October 19 to 31, 1998. Under the auspices of the US-based People to People Ambassador Programs, the purpose of the ergonomics delegation was to foster a greater mutual understanding of ergonomic trends, issues, and priorities through open exchange of views and ideas.

The ten delegates found the trip to be professionally and culturally rewarding beyond conceivable expectation. We truly gained important insight, opened new channels of communication and developed new friendships both within the group and with our Chinese counterparts.

The professional highlight of the trip was joining the quarterly conference of the China Ergonomic Society. We were received warmly by Dr. Zhang Kan, the President of CES, and the more than 70 delegates. The meeting underscored the value of international dialogue.

EXPO 2000

The IEA is represented by Prof. Heiner Bubb on the Advisory Board for the World Engineers Convention at the World Exposition EXPO 2000, Hannover, Germany. We believe that IEA participation in the Advisory Board offers an exciting opportunity to promote ergonomics within the engineering community. Five Professional Congresses are being organised under the following themes: information and communication; environment, climate and health; mobility; energy; and future of work. Further information about these events can be found on www.expo2000.de.

Activities

The various standing and technical committees of the IEA have been busy on a variety of activities, which are described in more detail in the reports of the officers and committee chairs. In this report, I highlight what I believe to be some of the current priorities.

Liberty Mutual Prize

Last year, we inaugurated the Liberty Mutual Prize in Ergonomics and Occupational Safety. The award of US \$ 5,000 seeks to recognise outstanding 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. In addition, every three years, the Liberty Mutual Medal in Ergonomics and Occupational Safety, is given to the best of the three awardees during the last three years. This award consists of a medal and US\$ 15,000 and will be handed out for the first time at the congress in San Diego year 2000.

The prize was awarded during the banquet of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society to Andrew S. Imada, Ph.D., of A.S. Imada Associates for his paper entitled "A Macroergonomic Approach to Reducing Work-Related Injuries".

KU Smith Student Award

The IEA K.U. Smith Student Award, which was launched in 1997, is now firmly established. The award provides a tangible means by which the IEA can further its objectives to encourage the development of the discipline, to foster scholarship and to recognise worthy achievements.

IEA Journal of Ergonomics

The IEA has undertaken to publish an electronic journal. The first issue is in preparation and will be available on the IEA web site soon. This will become a widely accessible forum for exchanging scientific and technical information in the field of ergonomics.

ODAM

The IEA conference on Organisational Design and Management, ODAM VI, held August 19-22, 1998 was very successful. Overviews by Peter Vink, Steven Dhondt, Marc Peters and Ernst Koningsveld were titled: Balancing Organisational, Technical and Human Factors. The IEA is deeply indebted to the organisers for their hard work in continuing this excellent series of conferences.

Global Ergonomics Conference

The Global Conference held in Cape Town, September 1998, was a resounding success, thanks to the work of Pat Scott and conference organisers. A large part of the program was devoted to ergonomics issues in industrially developing countries, primarily in Africa. A forum was held to explore ways in which the IEA could help promote ergonomics in Industrially Developing Countries (IDCs). The result was the creation of a network of people interested in ergonomics in IDCs.



Ian Noy in Cape Town

IEA/ILO Checkpoints in Agriculture

Negotiations with ILO on the publication of the Checkpoints is proceeding and we expect to have an agreement before the Council meeting. Dr. Kogi has invited potential authors to contribute to this project.

IEA 2000

Plans for the 14th IEA triennial Congress are proceeding exceedingly well, under the leadership of Hal Hendrick. This will undoubtedly be the largest Congress for many years to come since it will also be the annual meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Organisers anticipate 430 technical sessions and over 2500 participants.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan was revised to reflect many of the ideas generated during the focus groups held during the Cape Town Council meeting. The revised Strategic Plan is available on the website. Specific elements of the strategic plan were assigned to chairs of standing committees who are to develop action plans. Some strategies are already underway and others will be initiated over the next year.

Definitions

I believe there is a need for the IEA to define the discipline of ergonomics and its branches in a way that is concise, succinct, and unambiguous. All of us are asked to explain ergonomics or human factors, its unique knowledge content, how the discipline is bound and differentiated from related disciplines.

There is widespread, though not necessarily unanimous, support for the IEA's role in addressing this need. However, we believe that there is a compelling need to promulgate an authoritative definition that can be widely referenced and that will help project a message and image that is professional and informative to the outside world.

The draft definitions of ergonomics and certain domains of specialisation are given on the web pages.

The task of the IEA Executive Committee (EC) is not to impose definitions - the task of the EC is to manage a process that engages the international community in defining the field. The EC discussion draft is intended to initiate the process - a process that must involve all federated societies.

The 1999 IEA Council will divide into focus groups to discuss these draft definitions. I anticipate the subject will generate controversy, but I believe this is healthy and that it is overdue. Discussions about the fundamental nature and scope of our discipline reinforce the foundation that will facilitate the maturation of the discipline in the new millennium. Based on Council input and subsequent deliberations we hope to present a set of definitions for approval at the San Diego Council meeting.

IAN NOY July 1999

Occupational Ergonomics And Safety

The International Society for Occupational Ergonomics and Safety has elected new officers:

Dr. Gene (Chin) Lee: President Elect

Dr. Ram Bishu: Secretary

Ms. Cheryl Bennett: Treasurer

Dr. Robert Yearout: Newsletter Editor

For information, contact Steve Morrisey at:

steve.morrisey@state.or.us or see the ISOES web site:

isoes.org

Canadian Certification

The Association of Canadian Ergonomists (ACE) has begun certification. It is at two levels: Candidate in Training (EIT) and Professional Ergonomist (CCPE). For information, email them at: ace-ergocanada@sympatico.ca. The ACE web site is: www.ace-ergocanada.ca.

Part-time workers

(from The Economist, June 26)

Part-time workers (less than 30 h/week) in the OCED countries have increased slightly this decade--from 13.4% in 1990 to 14.3% in 1998. Spain is low with 6% and the Netherlands is high with 28%. The USA is 13%, the EU is 15%, Japan is 21% and Australia is 28%. The female share of the part-time workforce typically is about 80% with a low of 63% in Finland and a high of 97% in Sweden.

STEPHAN KONZ

Sociedad de Ergonomía y Factores Humanos de México A.C.

The meetings for the organization of the Sociedad de Ergonomía y Factores Humanos were begun in 1990.

In October 14,1994 the society was legally constituted, the legal papers were taken to the public notary, and the name was legally recognised. In this association it has been legally stated that foreign partners can be accepted.

In May 1997 the Society held its first International Ergonomics Congress, with the participation of speakers from the Human Factors & Ergonomics Society.

Current Council Officers are:

President:	Dr. Jesus Virchez Alanís
Vice-president:	Dr. Enrique Buzo Cordoba
Secretary:	Dr. Carlos Ramos
Executive Director:	Dr. Enrique Bonilla Rodríguez (Founding President)
Treasurer:	D.I. Juvenal Flores Pérez
Public Relations:	Arq. Luz María Hernández Enciso

There are currently 50 active members in the association, although many are very enthusiastic and they are waiting to complete their training so they can join the society. A number of courses have been offered in different universities in Mexico by several members of the society.

We have requested for our registration in the International Ergonomics Association.

Dr. Enrique Bonilla Rodríguez.

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Web: alebrije.uam.mx/ergonomia/ergouam

Bad design

(from Communique, May 1999)

One of the virtues of the web is that anyone can have their own web site. Michael Darnell (from Canada) has collected about 75 examples of bad ergonomic design. Each example has a photo, a short problem description, and recommended solution. And he requests contributions of bad designs from others. You will want to bookmark www.baddesigns.com

STEPHAN KONZ

New Zealand Ergonomics Society

The objects of the society are threefold: to promote the application of ergonomics knowledge, to advance ergonomics research and education, and to increase public awareness of ergonomics.

Carol Slappendel has been honoured with the first "President's Award" for her outstanding contribution to the advancement of ergonomics in New Zealand. She proposed the formation of the NZES, initiated the Certification Scheme, developed and taught papers in the Massey Ergonomics Certificate and has been active in the Society in every year (13) of the New Zealand Ergonomics Society.

In a short moment of panic regarding the apparent enormity of the tasks falling to the president, a learned committee member, Sue Alexander, reminded me "that the only way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time". I hope I like elephant.

Marion Edwin

President

Web site: ergonomics.org.nz

Ergonomics Australia: focus on musculoskeletal disorders

Ergonomics Australia On Line is available on the Internet, and can be found at: www.uq.edu.au/eaol/. A 32-page item by Sharonne Phillips reviewing recent occupational overuse syndrome literature is also available in full from the same site.

Keying trauma

Two web sites concerning keying trauma are:

www.tifaq.org

www.ctdrn.org/rsinet

Tifaq is frequently asked questions for keying injuries. Ctdrn is for people concerned about tendonitis, carpal tunnel syndrome and other repetitive strain injuries.

STEPHAN KONZ

The history of the IEA: From EPA to IEA; ergonomics in the post war turmoil

The ERS and the IEA

The foundation of the IEA is closely associated with the earlier establishment of another international body, the Ergonomics Research Society in the UK, (renamed the Ergonomics Society in 1976) which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The ERS had from its foundation drawn members not only from the UK but from many other countries. By 1954 the ERS planned to have its annual meeting outside the UK, in Dortmund, West Germany. Although these plans were not realised, the contacts between ERS and the other European colleagues were intensified. The ERS also had a close relationship with the European Productivity Agency (see below) which further enhanced its international contacts and activities.

EPA, another dimension

The end of the second world war left many countries on both the winning and losing sides in bad shape. The ruins of industrial, economical and social structures had to be reconstructed. The Organisation for European Co-operation (OEEC, predecessor of the OECD) was one the actors in European reconstruction, closely related to the so called

Marshall-aid. In 1952 the OEEC started a new body, the European Productivity Agency, EPA, which came to play an important role in the founding process of the IEA.

Efficiency of industrial production was a key concern for post-war reconstruction and rapid recovery. The essential task of the EPA was to improve the productivity in the industries. The point of reference for productivity at that time was the United States which largely financed the EPA. Thus, it is quite natural that in the beginning the central concern of ergonomics was industrial efficiency.

Scientific travelling in 1956

Quite interestingly, the EPA had recognised relatively early in 1953 the importance of the human factors. Mme Denise Lecoulre was one of the driving forces on the part of the OEEC that organised in 1956 a fact finding mission to the USA. A group of nine people representing seven OEEC countries visited various companies, government agencies and universities, meeting colleagues in the United States in Autumn 1956. (Incidentally the Human Factors Society was founded 1957.) The results of this mission were discussed in two meetings, 1957 in Leyden, Holland, and in 1959 in Zürich, Switzerland. It was in the seminar in Leyden where the decision to start the founding process of an international ergonomics body was formally taken. Professor K. U. Smith from the USA has been mentioned as one of those who strongly promoted the idea.

Converging and mutual interests

In the nascent field of international ergonomics there were two trends of different origins: the international dimension of the ERS and the EPA activities. These interests progressively converged not least because the same people were involved in both projects including R. G. Stansfield and H. Murrel. In 1957 the ERS Council noted the large international interest in ergonomics and the importance of the EPA project on the European scene. After some debate the ERS Council agreed that “The Society is willing to co-operate fully in development and running of any international body formed to co-ordinate similar schemes”. This was an important decision because it strengthened collaboration and made a coherent development of ergonomics on the international scene possible.

Meanwhile the activities around the EPA project had led to the establishment of an informal committee to prepare the foundation of an international ergonomics' body. Members of the committee were: H.S. Belding, G.C.E. Burger, S. Forssman, E. Grandjean, G. Lehman, B.Metz, K.U. Smith and R.G. Stansfield.

Thus, the necessary and sufficient elements were assembled to proceed for concrete decisions.

Founding of the IEA

The founding of the IEA was not a straightforward process but the result of much debate and energetic promotion of the idea. Many opinions had to be conciliated and *de facto* mutual interests to be demonstrated before Professor Etienne Grandjean, the corresponding secretary of the informal committee, could solemnly declare "the International Ergonomics Association is founded". This happened on Monday 6th April 1959 6.50 p.m. in Oxford, England.

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Bibliography

History of the Ergonomics Research Society. Prepared by O.G. Edholm and K.F.H. Murrell, December 1973, (An Ergonomics Research Society publication), 39 pp.

OECD's origins, Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, 1948 - 1961.
www.oecd.org/about/origins/oeeec December 1998.

Stansfield, R.G., 1979, The origins of the International Ergonomics Association. Paper presented to the 7th IEA Congress, held in Warsaw, Poland, of the International Ergonomics Association 27th August 1979.

Death of Prof. Dr. Herbert Scholz

At the age of 86 Herbert Scholz, the former treasurer of IEA (1977-83) and for nearly 30 years Secretary General of Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft (GfA) died after years of a serious illness.

For decades Herbert Scholz has been the soul of GfA and since 1984 its Honorary Member. His personality and his pleasant humour led to a great number of national and international friendships. Besides his scientific work he was a well appreciated member of many institutions like IEA.

All who knew him personally will miss him deeply.

Klaus J. Zink, Past-President of GfA

CoDesigning 2000 - conference announcement

In recent years, the view of design as an essentially individual, creative activity has come under increasing question. Instead, for a variety of reasons, design is being viewed, studied and developed as a group process.

The CoDesigning 2000 conference aims to report the current concerns, issues and perspectives driving the research and practice of design as a group process. If you are engaged in exploring design as a collective, collaborative, or even community process then your work is of interest to CoDesigning 2000.

For further information visit the CoDesigning 2000 web site at:

dougal.derby.ac.uk/drc/co-design.

Direct enquiries/abstract submissions to CoDesigning@colour.derby.ac.uk

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The Fourth International Conference on Fatigue and Transportation: Coping With The 24 Hour Society

March 19 - 22, 2000

Fremantle

Western Australia

THEME The Conference on non-prescriptive approaches to managing fatigue, follows from the Third Conference on Fatigue in Transportation held in Fremantle in 1998. Recommendations from that meeting concluded that prescriptive work hours were not the appropriate solution to fatigue management. Other causes of fatigue needed to be addressed in effective fatigue management systems.

Transport environments considered will cover road, shipping, railways, flight and mining. Half of the Conference will be devoted to papers on these topics, the remainder to workshops tackling solutions to problems in fatigue management.

Please submit 250 word Abstracts to the Convenor below no later than 31 December 1999. These should contain all mail and email details for correspondence and maybe in hard or electronic copy.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Laurence Hartley, Conference Convenor

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Email: hartley@socs.murdoch.edu.au

IEA 2000

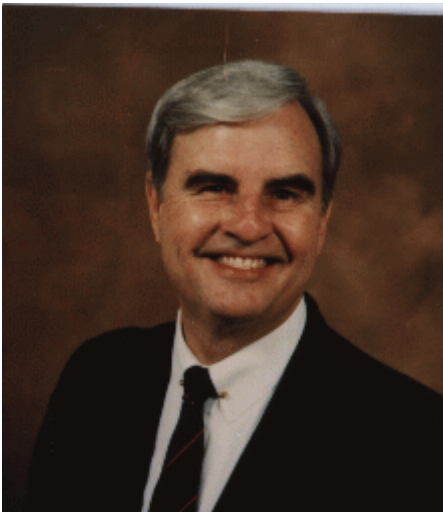
The 14th IEA Congress, 30 July to 4 August 2000, will be held in San Diego, CA, USA in conjunction with the 44th Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society . Key dates are:

5 Nov 1999	Acceptances and registration materials mailed
Dec 1999	Preliminary program published on the web site
15 Jan 2000	Camera-ready papers due
1 May 2000	Early registration deadline
30 Jul 2000	Congress begins

Represented this time will be 37 IEA federated and affiliated societies representing more than 50 countries. In combination with the HFES, we anticipate that more than 2,500 people will attend, which will make IEA 2000/HFES 2000 the largest human factors/ergonomics professional meeting ever held anywhere in the world!

Each of the 21 HFES Technical Committees will hold a meeting on either Tuesday or Wednesday of the conference; international colleagues with similar interests are invited. Following most of these meetings, there will be a social hour with refreshments.

Plan to bring your family and enjoy Disneyland, Sea World, Hollywood and the other California attractions. The Conference hotel, the Marriott, is on the beach. Mexico is just 30 minutes away. There will be an extensive technical visit program. The IEA 2000 web site is iea2000.hfes.org.



Hal Hendrick, Chair of IEA 2000

The HFES will help subsidise the travel expenses and registration fees for a limited number of qualified attendees from industrially developing countries. If you would like to apply for such assistance, please contact Lynn Strother.

The IEA Secretariat is headed by Lynn Strother, HFES, PO Box 1369, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1369, USA; fax: +1 310 394 2410; Email: Lynn_Strother@compuserve.com; Web: hfes.org

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IEA 2000 logo