



International Ergonomics Association

## President's Newsletter No. 8 December 28, 2010

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Dear IEA Council Members:

As we finish this year and look forward to the next one, it is a good time to reflect on our accomplishments, challenges, lessons and gifts. I am grateful for having so many talented and motivated people to work with in the IEA and our profession. Your efforts to promote and advance ergonomics are truly laudable. Most of all, we are fortunate to be able to do what we do for a living to improve human well-being and system effectiveness. It is a privilege for all of us.

This edition of the newsletter has clear examples of people and programs around the world that are working to advance the profession and humankind. All of these are opportunities for the rest of us. I hope you are as inspired as I am.

### IEA2012 Call for Papers Now Open!

Marcelo Soares (IEA2012 Congress Chair), Karen Jacobs (Science Technology and Practice Chair) and the IEA2012 Organizing Committee invited Technical Committee Chairs and the worldwide ergonomic community in the Call for Papers for our next IEA Congress. The call for submissions is now open! You can find the information at [www.iea2012.org](http://www.iea2012.org)

Deadline for paper submission

(scientific research and technical case study paper)

Deadline to submit abstract(s) April 15, 2011

Notification of acceptance June 30, 2011

Deadline for full paper(s) submission August 31, 2011

Deadline for poster submission

(scientific research and technical case study poster)

Deadline to submit poster(s) June 30, 2011

Notification of acceptance August 31, 2011

Deadline for Special Sessions, Symposia and Company case studies

Deadline June 30, 2011

Notification of acceptance August 31, 2011

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## 2011 IEA/Liberty Mutual Medal Nominations

Nominations for the IEA/Liberty Mutual Medal in Occupational Safety and Ergonomics are now open. The award recognizes 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. This medal comes with a \$10,000 USD award and is the most coveted award in our profession. You can find more details at: [http://www.iea.cc/05\\_awards/Current IEA Awards.html](http://www.iea.cc/05_awards/Current IEA Awards.html) Nominations will close on May 31, 2011 and the winner will be announced in September 2011. Contact David Caple if you have any questions. [davidcaple@pacific.net.au](mailto:davidcaple@pacific.net.au)

Our Council discussion in Bruges uncovered several issues in promoting this award and we are instituting changes for 2011. First, the criteria for research papers have been expanded to include published papers. We will be working more closely with editors to get their nominations for articles published in prestigious journals. Second, federated societies are encouraged to nominate their members. Third, we will be identifying ways to promote the winning papers through different venues, publications, and the website.

## IEA Future of Ergonomics Committee

The IEA Governance Committee report that we heard in Bruges raised several important questions and discussions. As a direct result of this committee's work, we have commissioned a special Future of Ergonomics Committee (FEC) to examine the broader question about the future of our profession. This will be done under Ralph Bruder's Promotion and Development Standing Committee. The goal of FEC is to formulate a proposed strategy (or some alternative strategies) for the ergonomics discipline in general and for the IEA in particular to safeguard the success of ergonomics in the future. They have established an ambitious schedule and will report back to Council at our meeting in South Africa and plan to have an IEA Position Paper on the "Future of Ergonomics" at IEA 2012 in Brazil.

This will be one of the most important strategic efforts. We have asked members first from our mature societies to participate in an initial discussion and will expand this as we move further in the assessment process. Jan Dul (Chair, Netherlands) ably leads the FEC and the committee members include: Ralph Bruder (Germany), Peter Buckle (UK), Pascale Carayon (USA), Pierre Falzon (France), Bill Marras (USA), John Wilson (UK), and Bas van der Doelen (Secretary, Netherlands). We are fortunate to have such a skilled group of willing professionals to take on this task. Their ideas will serve as impetus for participation from all of us.

## Lighthouse Project in Nicaragua

Barbara Silverstein has just returned from Nicaragua where they tested the ergonomic coffee bean harvesting bag. Kate Stewart, Stephen Bao, Steve Russell, and Barbara Silverstein from Washington State worked with harvest workers from two coffee co-ops to test the impact of an old versus a prototype bag on muscle load, comfort, acceptance and productivity. The initial sense is that this is an improvement but all the data (questionnaire and electromyography) have yet to be analyzed. As with most participatory approaches, the workers had lots of suggestions about how the bags could be improved further. This project is being sponsored by the IEA, the special fund set up by the Japanese Ergonomics Society and 4C. Depending on results, 4C will be in a position to spread the word throughout the region and IEA throughout the coffee producing world. A full

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report will be forthcoming after Barbara and Kate recover from their trip. We will learn about it at our next Council meeting.

### PPCOE in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

The 9<sup>th</sup> Pan-Pacific Conference on Ergonomics was held from November 7-10 in Taiwan. This marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for a group of leaders with a clear vision and an appreciation for regional research in ergonomic issues. Congratulations to Conference Chairs Chiuhsiang Joe Lin and Eric Min-yang Wang and Honorary Chair Masaharu Kumashiro for a successful conference. Together, with the Ergonomics Society of Taiwan and the Pan-Pacific Council on Ergonomics, they put on a great event. I was lucky enough to attend the conference and witness the celebration of this landmark year. I am grateful for receiving Professor Rungtai Lin's award-winning Eternity Cup, which was a subject of his keynote address, as a gift from this event.

The conference theme – Ergonomics for All – coincides with an important milestone in the evolution of this society. The focus of the conference shifted from occupational ergonomics (Pan-Pacific Conference on Occupational Ergonomics) to a more global theme (Pan-Pacific Conference on Ergonomics). While the acronym (PPCOE) remains the same, the pervasive influence of ergonomics in everyday life is reflected in this subtle, but important change. Congratulations for bringing together ergonomists from around the world to share in these advances and fusing the work in the pan-pacific region with the rest of the world.



Organizers, some special guests, keynote speakers of the 9<sup>th</sup> Pan-Pacific Conference on Ergonomics held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan: After opening ceremony

Back (Left to right): Dyi-Yih Michael Lin, Yung-Hui Terrence Lee, Andrew S. Imada, Bernard C. Jiang, Kamiel Vanwonderghem, Cheng-Pin Chang. Front (Left to right): Kwan Suk Lee, Chiuhsiang Joe Lin, Masaharu Kumashiro, Zinta Podniece, Chi-Yuang Yu, Jung-Yong Kim, Eric Min-yang Wang

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## Ergonomics Society of Nigeria Workshop

Samson Adaramola, President of the ESN, reported on the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ergonomics National Strategic Workshop in Port Harcourt, Nigeria 9-10 December. The theme of the workshop – ergonomic solutions to workplace challenges in Nigeria – was well received by the 36 attendees. Twenty-two of those attending are new inductees to the ESN. In addition to creating an awareness of ergonomics and its potential contribution to Nigerian economic development, the workshop called for legislation and national policies on ergonomics, provisions for the physically challenged, and ergonomic criteria for goods imported into the country. To advance ergonomics professionalism and improve productivity and quality, the workshop addressed the need for criteria for determining National Productivity Order Merit Awards for the country. The event was covered in a local newspaper in Port Harcourt. Though we tried, we were unable to send an IEA representative to this landmark event. I did, however, send a video greeting and congratulations to the participants of the workshop. Congratulations to the Ergonomics Society of Nigeria on a successful event!

## First SEANES Conference

The Southeast Asian Network of Ergonomics Societies (SEANES) and the Philippine Ergonomics Society (PHILERGO) hosted the first SEANES conference on December 14 – 17 in Cebu City, Philippines. The theme of the conference – linking ergonomics and organizational strategy – was appropriate for the economic and contemporary issues facing many of the countries in the region. I was impressed how rapidly industrial development was spreading through the region and how these developments accelerated the need for ergonomics in improving human well-being and system performance. Many of the papers presented at the meeting address problems in a way that is relevant to the social context. For example, the strong emphasis for designing public spaces for the elderly was an important variable; one that has much more meaning in a regional context and is highly relevant to system success. Congratulations to Rose Seva, SEANES President, and conference Co-chairs Alma Maria Jenifer Gutierrez and Aura Matias, both from the Philippine Ergonomics Society, for a successful and delightful conference. It was a great pleasure to be with you and witness the first SEANES conference. It was a lot of work and their pioneering spirit led to the success.

At the council meeting, it was decided that the 2<sup>nd</sup> SEANES Conference will be held in Langkawi, Malaysia, November 14-17 2011. The theme of the conference is Ergonomics: Connecting People and Innovations for Sustainability. Halimahtun Khalid, the new SEANES President, will be organizing this conference and has already begun forming the International Scientific Committee. This promises to be another successful event.

## New Journal

SH@W is a new journal developed in Korea under the leadership of their Occupational Health and Safety Research Institute. Director General Seong-Kyu Kang has been interested in promoting ergonomics in the journal. Past Resident David Caple, Laura Punnett (USA) and Hee Sok Park (Korea) represent ergonomics on the journal's editorial board. You can find out more about the journal by contacting them at [shaw@e-shaw.org](mailto:shaw@e-shaw.org)

## Next Council Meeting in South Africa

Our next IEA Council meeting is coming up soon in Grahamstown, South Africa on April 2 and 3. This Council meeting will be held in conjunction with and hosted by the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Human Factors in

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Organisational Design and Management (ODAM) April 4-6. To get more information and register go to: <http://www.ODAM2011.net>. This event brings together experts from around the world who share a macroergonomic approach to addressing problems and is always provocative and practical.

### Final Thoughts

As you can see, it has been a busy end of the year with many people doing great work to promote ergonomics around the world. It is always impressive to see the work that people put forth for our profession. It gives me great pleasure to be part of this organization and this profession.

Best wishes for a healthy and productive 2011!

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Imada  
President

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