



International Ergonomics Association

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25 January 2011

**IEA President's Report  
Council Meeting  
2-3 April 2011  
Grahamstown, South Africa**

This is perhaps the shortest interval between IEA Council meetings in our history. It was just over three months ago that we were together in Brugge for our 2010 meeting. Nevertheless, there have been important developments. We are pleased to be in South Africa to support the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Organizational Design and Management (ODAM) and promote ergonomics on the African continent. We thank Matthias Göbel, Rhodes University and the organizing committee for hosting the IEA Council meeting and for their hospitality.

This report has two sections. The first section is a summary of activities in leadership and infrastructure. The second is a recap of activities aligned with our strategic goals.

**Leadership and Infrastructure**

**Future of Ergonomics**

As a result of our discussions at our last council meeting, I have commissioned an able team to look at the future of our profession so that we can position ourselves to respond strategically. This has been a high priority for this executive team as we confront the changes that lie before us. I asked Jan Dul to chair this important work, which is a continuation of his work over the past six years. Jan's conceptual orientation and leadership experience make him the ideal leader. This work will coincide with a paper he will present at a plenary talk at the ODA conference and will culminate with a white paper at the 2012 council in Brazil. This work product will be invaluable in guiding our profession, as well as our governance.

Jan's keen observations have distinguished two cycles between mature and developing ergonomic environments. He will begin by getting input from an initial team from the first cycle. This committee includes Ralph Bruder, Peter Buckle, Pascale Carayon, Pierre Falzon, Bill Marras, John Wilson and Bas van der Doelen. Ralph Bruder will play a key role in this team because of his expertise and role as Chair of Development and Promotion. We look forward to hearing the findings of this experienced group at our council meeting. I thank them for their willingness to serve.

All-Ukrainian Ergonomics Association ASEAN-ES Asociación de Ergonomia Argentina Associação Brasileira de Ergonomia Asociación Ecuatoriana de Ergonomia Associação Portuguesa de Ergonomia Association of Canadian Ergonomists Belgian Ergonomics Society	Chilean Ergonomics Society Chinese Ergonomics Society Croatian Ergonomics Society Czech Ergonomic Society Ergonomics Society of Korea Ergonomics Society of Nigeria Ergonomics Society of Serbia Ergonomics Society of Singapore Ergonomics Society of South Africa Ergonomics Society of Taiwan Ergonomics Society of Thailand FEES	Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft Hellenic Ergonomics Society Hong Kong Ergonomics Society Human Ergology Society Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (U.S.A.) Hungarian Ergonomics Society Indian Society of Ergonomics	Inter-Regional Ergonomics Association Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (U.K.) Iranian Ergonomics Society Irish Ergonomics Society Israel Ergonomics Society Japan Ergonomics Society Latvijas Ergonomikas Biedriba Nederlandse Vereniging Voor Ergonomie	New Zealand Ergonomics Society Nordic Ergonomics Society Österreichische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Ergonomie Perhimpunan Ergonomi Indonesia Philippines Ergonomics Society Polish Ergonomics Society Slovak Ergonomics Association Sociedad Colombiana de Ergonomia Sociedad de Ergonomistas de Mexico	Società Italiana di Ergonomia Société d'Ergonomie de Langue Française Société Tunisienne d'Ergonomie Spanish Association of Ergonomics Swiss Ergonomics Society Turkish Ergonomics Society ULAERGO
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The IEA is registered as an association at the Commercial Registry of the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland: Company-Nr. CH020.6.001.285-4

## Registration in Zurich

We have learned that our registration in Zurich comes with requirements for maintaining our tax status. I am extremely grateful to Klaus Zink for his work in identifying these requirements and getting legal advice on how we can comply with these standards. We are working on maintaining our exemption from taxes as a non-profit by meeting these standards. Among these requirements are changes in our rules (e.g., distribution of funds in the event of dissolution) that we will need to discuss in council. Klaus has summarized these changes and we will recommend them for your approval. We are working to consolidate these changes with previous discussions about officers and making the changes as efficiently as possible to avoid multiple submissions.

## Activities Related to Strategy A: Contribute to the development of federated societies

### PPCOE

It was a pleasure attending the 9<sup>th</sup> Pan-Pacific Conference on Ergonomics in November in Kaohsiung, Taiwan to help mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for this ergonomics body. This is a landmark event for the leaders who had a clear vision for an ergonomics conference to meet the needs of regional ergonomists. While the acronym for the event remains the same, there is an important shift in emphasis from occupational to more general ergonomics. This reflects the use of ergonomics that extends beyond occupational ergonomics and safety. Congratulations to Conference Chairs Chiuhsiang Joe Lin, Eric Min-yang Wang, and Honorary Chair Masaharu Kumashiro for a successful event. The IEA and the many international delegates who attended the conference support your efforts.

### SEANES

I had the pleasure of attending the first Southeast Asian Network of Ergonomic Societies (SEANES) conference hosted by the Philippine Ergonomics Society (PHILERGO) in December. I was impressed with the organization of the meeting, the quality of the papers and the enthusiasm of the many attendees. The SEANES board decided to proceed with a second SEANES conference in Malaysia by Halimahtun Khalid, who is the new president and conference organizer. This event will be held in July 2012. Congratulations to Rose Seva, Alma Maria Jennifer Gutierrez and Aura Matias for a successful pioneering event in Cebu.

### Virtual Visit to Ergonomics Society of Nigeria

In December 2010 I sent a video greeting and congratulations to the Ergonomics Society of Nigeria's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ergonomics National Strategic Workshop in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. President Samson Adaramola reported on the success of the event with growing interest in the country. Importantly, the event ties ergonomics to the nation's economic development, which includes legislation and national policies on ergonomics, provisions for the physically challenged and ergonomic criteria for goods imported into the country. They also addressed the need for determining national Productivity Order Merit Awards for the country. Unfortunately, we were unable to send an IEA delegate to the event, but we wanted to show our support for developing ergonomics in Nigeria by sending the video message.

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## Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Malaysia

Halimahtun Khalid and her entire team continue to work tirelessly to get approval from the Malaysian government to recognize an ergonomics society in the country. I wrote a letter of support to the minister expressing IEA's support for their formation and participation in the world community. The latest report on the matter is that it is in appeal and we are awaiting a response. We look forward to HFEM becoming a member of the IEA family.

### Activities Related to Strategy B:

#### Advance the science and practice of ergonomics at an international level

##### IEA 2012

Congress Chair Marcelo Soares and the Congress Organizing Committee have been working hard on the IEA Triennial Congress for 2012. Karen Jacobs, the Science Technology and Practice Chair, has been working as the Scientific Chair. The conference now has a web presence [www.iea2012.org/home](http://www.iea2012.org/home) and the call for papers has been sent out to the technical committee chairs and delegates. In February, Karen Jacobs, Klaus Zink, and I will visit the site at about the same time that the conference will take place next year. We are looking forward to working with the Organizing Committee, ABERGO and ULAERGO to put on a successful IEA event.

##### EQUID

Ralph Bruder is working on finalizing and publishing the EQUID document that Council approved in principle into a user-friendly version that council requested. He is working with a designer and publisher to produce a document comparable to the Ergonomic Guidelines. The positive feedback we received on the Guidelines led us to create a similar product for EQUID. Expect delivery in 2012.

##### IEA/Liberty Mutual Award

As a result of the input from Council at our last meeting, we have instituted several changes in consultation with Ian Noy from Liberty Mutual to increase the visibility of this prestigious award. First, we will now consider papers published within the past year and will solicit the opinions from editors from the top journals in the field and allied publications. Second, we will contact the presidents of each of the federated societies to encourage them and the federated societies to submit nominations. Each of the council members will receive similar information to disseminate through their societies and their personal contacts. We believe these changes will attract the attention and distinction that this award deserves.

### Activities Related to Strategy C:

#### Enhance the contribution of the ergonomic discipline to global society

##### IEA Lighthouse Project in Nicaragua

Barbara Silvestein, Chair of the International Development Subcommittee, returned from Nicaragua in December after completing the first phase of the participatory redesign of the coffee bean harvesting baskets. This project, which was funded by 4C, the IEA and a special IDC fund from the Japanese Ergonomics Society, has potential implications for improving worker health, enterprise competitiveness and ergonomic profession visibility. We look forward to hearing Barbara's report at the council meeting.

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## WHO Resolution on Child Injury Prevention

We just received news from Marilyn Fingerhut on 24 January that the Who Executive Board passed the Child Injury Prevention Resolution, which included a joint ICOH/IEA/IOHA statement from May 2010. This will be presented to the World Health assembly this coming May for passage. This provides a good foundation for continued WHO/ILO activities on behalf of young workers and all countries in the WHO Collaboration Centers Network. The final resolution has not yet been posted on the web. I will let you know when it becomes available. We are pleased to be able to work jointly with ICOH and IOHA in contributing to the successful passage of Resolution EB 128/19.

## Memorandum of Understanding with FPE

Unfortunately, because of scheduling difficulties I have not been able to contact the Foundation for Professional Ergonomics President Valerie Rice to provide feedback from the last council meeting. I will continue to work on council's guidance regarding requirements to approve this MOU.

## Plans for the Coming Year

We will continue working on the initiatives described above as they align with our strategic goals. Obviously our highest priority will be to ensure the success of our Triennial Congress in 2012. This will commence with our site visit in February and continue throughout the year.

I continue to believe that we should work on the outcomes outlined in last year's meeting.

1. Realize success and growth of lighthouse projects to demonstrate IEA's support for IDCs.
2. Improve relationships and visibility with: international associations, NGOs, governmental and certification agencies, enterprises and industries.
3. Establish a scalable organizational infrastructure that will allow IEA to grow beyond its current size.

I thank you for your support, welcome your feedback and appreciate the opportunity to serve in this capacity as your president.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Imada  
President

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