



ISE Newsletter

Quarterly newsletter of the INDIAN SOCIETY OF ERGONOMICS (ISE)

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Editorial Board Members

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Mr. K. N. Sen and Mr. D. Ghosh Thakur

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Forthcoming International events

- International Conference on Slips, Trips and Falls 2007, August 23-24, 2007, Massachusetts, USA
- NES2007, October 1-3, 2007, Lysekil, Sweden
- IranErgo 2007, November 20-21, 2007, Tehran, Iran
- AEDec2007 (Agriculture Ergonomics in Developing Countries), November 26-29, 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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ISE is online at : <http://www.ise.org.in/>

Editorial

At the outset, the editors would like to extend a warm welcome to the fifteen new members who have joined recently. The IEA site has been re-vamped, and members are invited to visit the new-look site (which includes the ISE newsletter). In this issue we report on the recently concluded ICFRIP 2007 and also share with our members a very instructive letter from Pierre Falzon. There are a large number of ergonomics conferences in the near future. Should that have been “ergonomic” conferences? See Knowledge Base.

Welcome new members!

ISE Newsletter welcomes the following new Life Members:



- L131: Sri Soudeep Kumar Sau, Midnapore, WB
- L132: Sri Sumanta Banerjee, Midnapore, WB
- L133: Sri H. Sridhar, Bangalore
- L134: Dr. M.V.Reddy, Hyderabad
- L135: Sri M. Aravendan, Chennai
- L136: Sri S. Vijayakumar, Pattukottai, TN
- L137: Sri Saurabh Kumar Gupta, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- L138: Ms. Vijay Shree Dhyani. U.S.Nagar, Uttarkhand
- L139: Lt. Col. K. K. Tripathi, Bangalore
- L140: Sri Alaric A. S. Lyngdoh, Bangalore
- L141: Sri V. Jayakumar, Vellore, TN
- L142: Mr. K. K. Dhande, Jalgaon, Maharastra
- L143: Mr. R. A. Khan, Srinagar, Kashmir
- L144: Mr. G. M. Kakandikar, Baramati, Dt.Pune, Maharashtra
- L145: Mr. G. Madhan Mohan, Coimbatore, TN

IEA News

Foundation for Professional Ergonomics

The Foundation for Professional Ergonomics (FPE) is joining with the IEA in offering professional consultant services to ergonomics societies and groups in industrially developing nations. The IEA will use its various means of communications to ensure that ergonomists in IDC's are aware of this service and how to avail themselves of it. The FPE plans to offer its service through two means.

First, if a request for information or advice is requested from an ergonomist or ergonomics group in an IDC, the FPE will identify one or more experts in the area of the request and put that expert(s) in contact with the requesting party. The expert then will provide the information or advice at no cost to the requester. The request can range from resource information or advice on a technical or professional issue to ways of making their ergonomics society more effective.

Second, if the request is for an expert to conduct a seminar or workshop on some particular ergonomics topic, the FPE will assist in identifying an expert in the area who would be willing to come to the IDC and provide the seminar or workshop at no cost other than coverage of the expert's expenses.

The purpose of this independent foundation is to promote professionalism in ergonomics. The Foundation would welcome additional participants from around the world who are senior members of the profession (i.e., 10 or more years of teaching and/or practice as ergonomists). If you feel you would like to volunteer your time, you can contact Hal Hendrick at hhendrick@aol.com.

Launch of the new IEA website

The new IEA website was launched this month, as part of the IEA Communications Strategy. You may contribute any updates and new information to the Secretary General (email: carayon@engr.wisc.edu)

* Report

ICFRIP 2007

In continuation with the 150 years celebration of University of Calcutta a conference "International Conference on Frontier Researches in Integrative Physiology (ICFRIP 2007)" was held during January 8-10, 2007. The conference was organized by the Department of Physiology, University of Calcutta under the Chairmanship of Prof. A.M. Chandra. About 100 physiologists working in different fields participated in this conference. A number of ISE members delivered invited lectures and presented papers in varied topics of interest ranging from health hazards in IT industry, heat stress, ergonomics in consumer product design, etc.



Dr. R. Iqbal, CLI



Prof. D. Chakraborti, IITG



Dr. P. C. Ghosh, CLI



Prof. A. De, NITIE

* HWWE 2005 – Feedback

The letter received by the HWWE organizers from the past president of the IEA is reproduced below:

Dear Debkumar,

I just received the proceedings of HWWE'2005. This is an impressive piece of work, that you can be proud of. Congratulations indeed, and congratulations also for a very well organized event. I was happy of this opportunity to meet with Indian colleagues and to get some understanding of ergonomics in India.

I was struck by the importance given to women in the papers that were presented at the conference: specificity of the female population, specificity of women work in various contexts, interest for activities inside and outside work (like educating children). This is a very strong point. Since I came to Guwahati, I have very often referred to this Congress as an example other ergonomics societies should follow. Inspired by this experience, I encouraged the formation of a Technical Committee on "Gender and Work" within the IEA. Its first meeting was held during the Maastricht Congress in 2006.

The papers show a balance between product design and work situations which is also very positive. If I compare for instance ergonomics in India to ergonomics in my country, I note that product design has nearly disappeared from our national congresses, which is not good. Similarly, the conference showed a good balance between HCI papers and non-HCI ones. This is also very good and should be preserved. In many countries, the two communities tend to separate from one another.

The congress of a national society is also an opportunity to have keynote speakers giving focused presentations of issues relevant for the discipline. That was not always the case. I have found that some of the speakers were too "institutional", talked more about their organizations than about scientific issues, and provided little actual content. I understand that it may be difficult to avoid, but in the end this may discourage people to attend conferences.

I believe papers dealing with the actual practice of ergonomics "in the field" should be encouraged. I see ergonomics both as an engineering science and a social science. As an engineering science, its methods should be rigorous and its results should be based on appropriate data. Being a social science, it deals with change in organizations : this means involving people, negotiating with various actors, looking for collective trade-offs, managing interventions, etc. This important aspect of our activities of ergonomists is an object of research in itself. Presentations addressing this topic should be encouraged.

Lastly, if I understood well what was discussed in the meeting of the board of the ISE, the intent is to hold the Congress more regularly than was the case in past years. I absolutely agree. People need to meet and discuss scientific and professional issues. This is a key aspect for the future of the discipline in your country.

*Best regards,
Pierre Falzon*

*** M.Sc. in Applied Ergonomics by Distance Learning**

The University of Nottingham, England is launching a new M.Sc. course in Applied Ergonomics by Distance Learning. The programme is designed to give honours graduates the human factors/ ergonomics experience required in a wide range of manufacturing, service and process industries, enforcement agencies such as Local Authorities and the health service, as well as a grounding for a career in research. Distance learning students from all over the world are welcome.

Course website <http://www.virart.nott.ac.uk/apperg/> The main web site for University of Nottingham is <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/>

*** Forthcoming conferences**



International Conference on Slips, Trips and Falls 2007

International Conference on Slips, Trips and Falls 2007: From Research to Practice, organized by the recently formed IEA Technical Committee on Slips, Trips and Falls, August 23-24, 2007, held at Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety, Hopkinton, Massachusetts, USA

The goals of the conference are to provide a technical forum on slip, trip and fall accidents for the safety researchers and consultants around the world to present their latest findings and to exchange research ideas.

This conference will cover all aspects related to the problem from both the research perspective to practical experience such as biomechanics, slip resistance measurements, standardization, pedestrian fall prevention, flooring and stairway design and development, design of footwear, anti-skid devices, and housekeeping. Details on the conference can be found at <http://www.slipstripsfalls.org>



Nordic Ergonomics Society's annual conference, NES2007, October 1-3, 2007 in Lysekil, Sweden. The conference aims to be a stimulating forum for researchers, practitioners, product developers and students from all parts of the world. The main theme for the Conference is Ergonomics for a Future with special focus on Design for all senses.

The dead-line for abstract submissions (papers, posters, workshops and session proposals): March 15, Full paper dead-line (2-6 pages): May 15.

Detailed information could be found on the web-page: <http://www.nes2007.se/>



IranErgo 2007

Tehran, 20-21 Nov. 2007

The Iranian Ergonomics Society (IES) is preparing to conduct First International Conference on Ergonomics (IranErgo 2007) in Tehran from 20-21 Nov. 2007 as an IEA endorsed conference.

The conference areas are:

Ergonomics Perspective in Developed and Developing Countries, Ergonomics and Productivity, Ergonomics in Organizational Design and Management, Ergonomics and Quality, Ergonomics and Risk Management, Ergonomics and HSE (Health, Safety and Environment), Ergonomics and Safe Utilization of Peaceful Nuclear Technology, Ergonomics and Prevention of Work-Related Musculo-Skeletal Disorders, Ergonomics and Prevention of Work-Related Psychosocial Disorders, Ergonomics and Design Issues, Ergonomics in Medicine, Ergonomics and Rehabilitation, Industrial Ergonomics, Ergonomics Education and Training

The main purpose of this conference is to promote ergonomics in Iran, the Industrially Developing Countries and provide a scientific forum for researchers, educators, students and consultants around the world to present their findings and to exchange ideas.

- Abstract deadline: July 1, 2007
- Abstract feedback from reviewers: August 1, 2007
- Paper deadline: September 1, 2007
- Paper feedback from reviewers: October 1, 2007

Website: <http://www.iranergo2007.org/>

Contact: Dr. Majid Motamedzade, Secretary of the Iranian Ergonomics Society, Department of Occupational Health, Hamedan University of Medical Sciences, chair@iranergo2007.org

International Conference on Agriculture Ergonomics in Developing Countries on the theme "Ergonomics, Agricultural Health and Design Innovations towards Leveraging Productivity, Safety and Competitiveness in Agriculture."

In conjunction with the conference, a special IEA/ILO Workshop on Agriculture Ergonomics Checkpoints will be held on 26-27 November.

AEDeC 2007 is organized and hosted by Damai Sciences, in cooperation with Universiti Putra Malaysia, and supported by the Technical Committees of the International Ergonomics Association, ILO/Safework, ICOH, WHO and CDC/NIOSH USA.

The deadline for proposal is July 1, 2007.

Website: <http://www.aedec2007.org/>

Conference Secretariat: Damai Sciences Sdn Bhd, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Phone +603 2282 9005, Fax +603 2282 9004, Email contact@aedec2007.org

* Knowledge base

Ergonomic vs Ergonomics

'Ergonomics' and 'ergonomic' are not able to be used interchangeably.

'Ergonomics' is a noun and refers to the practice of ergonomics. Therefore, for example, an 'ergonomics checklist' is a checklist concerning the relevant ergonomics of any particular system, task, object or environment, but the checklist in itself may not have been ergonomically designed.

'Ergonomic' however is an adjective and refers to the inherent attributes of a task, object or environment, therefore an 'ergonomic checklist' is a checklist that has been designed using the principles of ergonomics, but the target of the checklist may have nothing to do with ergonomics.

Another example is an 'ergonomics consultancy' which is a consultancy where the people employed within are Ergonomists (and support staff) ready to assist you with your requirements. An 'ergonomic consultancy' would be operating with the principles of ergonomics in mind (and would be interesting to see - are all of the ergonomics consultancies, ergonomic consultancies!!??). Likewise are people who identify themselves 'Ergonomic Consultants' put together using the principles of ergonomics..... or do they mean they are 'Ergonomics Consultants'?

Posted on the Ergoweb Discussion forum on Jan 22, 2007, by Lorraine Gardner Wood, Wellington, New Zealand

* Next issue

Coverage of Ergonomics Laboratory, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Zakir Husain College of Engineering & Technology, Aligarh Muslim University.