



# ISE Newsletter

Quarterly newsletter of the  
**INDIAN SOCIETY OF ERGONOMICS (ISE)**

Web Site: <http://www.ergs.com/india/>

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**No. 1**

## *Editorial Board Members*

**Dr. Asis Goswami, Dr. A. K. Ganguli, Sri. K. N. Sen**

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## **Forthcoming International events**

- ☞ **CybErg'2002** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Intl Cyberspace Conference on Ergonomics. A virtual web-based conference <http://cyberg.wits.ac.za/>  
**See Details Below**
- ☞ XVI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work. Vienna, Austria May 26-31, 2002.  
Theme: "Innovation and Prevention"
- ☞ 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Women, Work and Health  
Stockholm, June 2-5, 2002
- ☞ XVI International Annual Occupational Ergonomics and Safety Conference. June 9-12, 2002, Toronto Canada Theme: The New Workplace Visit <http://www.uwindsor.ca/isoes>  
email: [isoes@uwindsor.ca](mailto:isoes@uwindsor.ca) **See Details Below**
- ☞ 2003 IEA conference "Ergonomics in the Digital Age" to be held in Seoul, South Korea. Visit <http://www.iea2003.org/>

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## \* From the Editor

*To make the Newsletter easier to download, and also for security reason we are going to change the file format of the Newsletter from the next issue to make it readable through Acrobat Reader. See below for details of how to read such documents.*

*In the previous issue, the host institution for the HWWE congress should have been referred to as IIT Bombay, and not as printed.*

*- Asis Goswami*

## \* ISE meeting

A meeting of the members of the Indian Society of Ergonomics present at the HWWE Congress was held on December 13, 2001 under the chairpersonship of Dr P K Nag, Vice President to discuss the future programmes of the Society.



At the dias (from L to R)

Prof.B.N.Lahiri, Dr,C.K.Pradhan,  
Prof.G.G.Ray, Dr.P.K.Nag &  
Prof. P. Scott

Dr P K Nag, welcomed Dr Pat Scott, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Industrially Developing Countries, International Ergonomics Association, to the meeting. In response, Dr Scott thanked the members and expressed her happiness over the status of ergonomics practice in India. She informed she would give a very positive report to the IEA.

A number of delegates of HWWE, who were interested in joining the Society, were also present at the meeting with the permission of the chair.

Dr Nag informed about the participation of a good number of ergonomists who came from different parts of the country and abroad at HWWE Congress. He mentioned about the activities and programmes that are being taken up by ISE. He invited the members for greater participation in fulfilling the objectives and goal of the society. Dr G. G. Ray, the Secretary of the Society emphasized the need for a time-bound action plan for the fulfillment of the above.

Dr Pat Scott expressed her views that it might be difficult to hold conference every year and suggested that a general meeting should be arranged every year. She also suggested that every second general meeting be converted into a conference at the national level and every fourth general meeting (i.e. – every second national conference) be converted into an International conference. Citing the example of other national and international bodies, she suggested that membership should be increased by giving benefits to members, such as reduced registration fees for workshops and conferences sponsored by the Society, reduced rates for publications, etc. She offered the support of the International Ergonomics Association in the activities of the Society.

Dr L P Gite said that he would look into the possibility of arranging the General meeting at CIAE, Bhopal in the year 2002. Dr A De offered to hold the meeting with a conference in NITIE in December 2003.

A suggestion came from the floor that every meeting/conference should have a special area focus as symposium, however topics related to other areas can also be discussed. As this may be instrumental in obtaining funding and support for such meetings, it was agreed to accept the suggestion.

The current issue of the ISE newsletter was circulated. There was a discussion about the frequency and content of the newsletter. Dr Anjali Nag and Prof Scott were of the opinion that initially for first few years, the newsletter might be published as bi-annual issues. Dr P K Nag mentioned that let the society publish the newsletter on a regular basis quarterly with the contributions from the members. The newsletter could be sent electronically to the members with email facility and to the rest through postal service. Dr A Goswami, Dr A K Ganguli and Sri K.N. Sen would continue the process of publication of newsletter. Reacting to the suggestion that the newsletter should be in printed form, Dr G G Ray promised that he would look into the possibility of getting help from IDC.

There was also a discussion regarding the promotion of Ergonomics at various levels through workshops, seminars and awareness programmes. Dr T Pachal opined that such programmes might be organized with the involvement of the Society. Dr P K Nag welcomed the suggestions and requested the members to arrange such programmes under the banner of Indian Society of Ergonomics. He also requested the members to provide the details of the programme to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

## \* **CybErg'2002**

**CybErg'2002**, the third international cyberspace conference on ergonomics with the theme "Ergonomics for Human & Community Development" will be held during 1-30 September 2002.

### **THE CYBERG CONCEPT**

The Cyberg'2002 conference is one of a series of "virtual" international ergonomics conferences first conceptualized by Dr Leon Straker of Curtin University of Technology in Australia, and successfully held for the first time in 1996 and again in 1999. The Cyberg'2002 conference is the next International conference in that series.

The Cyberg conference series is based on the principle of internationalising ergonomics' knowledge and increasing the quality of ergonomics discussion by making conference attendance easier, quicker and far cheaper than face-to-face conferences. It is quite easy to see how an International conference based on the World Wide Web can drastically reduce travel-related costs. Such a virtual conference also enables discussions and knowledge to be immediately accessible all around the world at the click of a mouse.

### **HOW**

The idea behind the conference is similar to other face-to-face conferences. Quality papers are selected from a pool of abstracts based on referee reports, and the selected abstracts are then extended into full papers by their authors to be "presented" (to be found on the Cyberg website)

during the conference. The CD-Rom proceedings are mailed to all registered participants prior to the start of the conference. Registered participants are then able to read selected papers before the conference begins. During the conference (which lasts for a four week period) delegates are encouraged to read the papers and to make critical comments or ask critical questions in a bulletin board format. Paper presenters are required to visit the conference site regularly to respond to comments on their own paper and to make critical comments of other papers.

Best paper and best contributor prizes will be awarded for the best scientific paper and the best overall contributor to the conference.

The web page <http://cyberg.wits.ac.za/> will keep you updated on Cyberg'2002. To indicate your "expression of interest", please email the Cyberg'2002 Chair, Andrew Thatcher, at <mailto:20018ajt@muse.wits.ac.za>

## \* **ISOES**

### **XVI Annual International Occupational Ergonomics and Safety Conference '2002**

**June 9-12, 2002**, Toronto, ON, Canada (sponsored by the International Society for Occupational Ergonomics & Safety). Correspondence to: Dr. Jim Potvin, Conference Chair, XVth ISOES Annual Conference, email: [jpotvin@uwindsor.ca](mailto:jpotvin@uwindsor.ca), [isoes@uwindsor.ca](mailto:isoes@uwindsor.ca).

Complete paper submission and registration deadline: **15th April 2002**

Student papers are encouraged: awards and bursaries available. URL: [www.uwindsor.ca/isoes](http://www.uwindsor.ca/isoes)

## \* **Your Opinion**

### **Ergonomics of e-Publishing**

It has been pointed out that the two column layout used in the last few issues of the ISE Newsletter is not ergonomic. The two column (or multi column) layout is preferable in the case of printed documents. This is because it reduces the eye travel distance during scanning each line, and helps to regain the next line position at the end of each scan. This both increases reading time and reduces eye fatigue. In the case of electronic media, the benefit obtained by breaking down the text into columns is lost due to the additional problems created by scrolling up and down the pages at the end of each column. Hence this issue is presented in a single column format. Let us have your valuable opinion on this. Write (or mail) to any of the editors.

## \* **Announcement**

### **Change of Newsletter format**

*To make the Newsletter easier to download and for security reasons we are going to change the file format of the Newsletter from the next issue. This will make it smaller in size, which will be welcome to those who have to download it through dial-up connections using telephone lines.*

*From the next issue, the Newsletter will be sent in pdf format instead of the current Word Document (doc format). To read pdf files, the Acrobat Reader utility is required. For this purpose, those who do not have Acrobat Reader installed are requested to do so. Alternatively, it can be downloaded free from [www.adobe.com/acrobat](http://www.adobe.com/acrobat)*

## \* Obituaries

### Sourindra P. Dutta



Dr. Sourindra P. Dutta was born on 30<sup>st</sup> March, 1947 in India. He graduated from University of Burdwan in 1969 with a Masters degree in Design and Production Engineering. After graduation, he went to Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, to pursue his Ph.D. In 1975, he went on to join the Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) in Bombay, India, where he became Professor and Head of the Industrial Engineering group. Since 1982, he was chair and professor in Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. During his subsequent sabbatical at NITIE, he initiated an international research project on “portability of ergonomic norms from developed to developing countries” and was involved in preparing a proposal by NITIE for a National Center of Excellence in Human Factors and Ergonomics from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). His reports on anthropometric norms for Indian workers, which won a “best paper award” from the Institute of Engineers (India), has been widely used to design truck and automobile cab interiors for the Indian automotive industry. In the recently concluded International Congress on Humanizing Work and Work Environment (December 2001), he presented a paper on office ergonomics, and also chaired the session on consumer ergonomics.

Dr. Dutta passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2002 after a freak accident in front of his residence in Windsor, Ontario, Canada at the age of 49 years.

### Sunil Kumar Sensarma



Dr. Sunil Kumar Sensarma completed his post-graduation in Physiology in 1967 from Calcutta University. After obtaining his Ph.D. Degree also from Calcutta University, he joined Central Mining Research Station, Dhanbad in 1968 as a Research Scientist. In 1971 he came National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad and remained there till 1975, when he joined Central Labour Institute, Mumbai as Director (Physiology). He has left behind a distinguished research career of 33 years in Industrial Physiology and Ergonomics. He has published over 50 research articles / booklets. He had received three national awards for outstanding research in the fields of occupational health and safety. In the recently concluded International Congress on Humanizing Work and Work Environment (December 2001), he presented a paper on heat stress.

Dr Sensarma expired on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2002 at Mumbai.