



# ISE Newsletter

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

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## *Editorial Board Members*

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

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## **Forthcoming International events**

- ☞ 2003 IEA conference "Ergonomics in the Digital Age" to be held in Seoul, South Korea.  
Visit <http://www.iea2003.org/>  
**See Details Below**
- ☞ 10th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction and 2nd International Conference on Universal Access in Human-Computer Interaction, Crete, Greece, 2003 **See Details Below**
- ☞ The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Cyberspace Conference on Ergonomics. Visit: <http://cyberg.wits.ac.za/>
- ☞ 27<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Occupational Health ICOH 2003 Visit:  
<http://www.icoh2003.com.br>

## **You may send your communications to:**

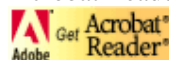
**Dr. A. Goswami**  
Block no. 350/2,  
Type – D, Sector 13,  
Gandhinagar 382016,  
Gujarat.  
Email: [krisasis@ad.growthnet.net](mailto:krisasis@ad.growthnet.net)

**Dr. A. K. Ganguli**  
Manager  
Occupational Health Service  
Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.  
Tiruchirappalli – 620 014 (TN)  
Email: [akg@bheltry.co.in](mailto:akg@bheltry.co.in)

**Mr. K. N. Sen** (Jt. Sec.)  
C/o Larsen & Toubro Limited  
ECC Construction Group,  
Park Plaza,  
71, Park Street,  
Calcutta – 700 016  
Email: [isoe\\_hq@yahoo.com](mailto:isoe_hq@yahoo.com) [knsen@Intecc.com](mailto:knsen@Intecc.com)

**OR**  
**Sri Devashis Sen**  
Dept. of Physiology,  
Presidency College  
86/1 College Street  
Calcutta 700 073  
Email: [devashish\\_1231@rediffmail.com](mailto:devashish_1231@rediffmail.com)

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## \* **From the Editor**

As mentioned in the previous issue, to make the Newsletter easier to download, and also for security reasons we have changed the file format of the Newsletter to make it readable through Acrobat Reader.

- Asis Goswami

## \* **Annual General Meeting**

The fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Indian Society of Ergonomics (ISE) for the year 2001 will be held at the Dept. of Physiology, Presidency College, 86/1 College Street, Kolkata – 700 073 on **Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2002** at 3:00 pm. All members are requested to be present

### **Agenda**

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the last Annual General Meeting
2. Present situation and problems faced by the society
3. Consideration and adoption of the annual report
4. Consideration and adoption of the Audited Statement of Accounts
5. Consideration and adoption of the Budget Statements
6. Appointment of auditors and fixation of honorarium
7. Miscellaneous – any other matter with the permission of the chair

## \* **Your Opinion**

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

From the previous issue, we have moved to the single column layout (from the earlier two column layout). This is because, 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. This both reduces reading time and eye fatigue. Let us have your valuable opinion on this.

## \* **e-ergonomics**

### **Web-based Ergonomics discussion group**

A web based discussion group on ergonomics [ind\\_ergonomics@yahoogroups.co](mailto:ind_ergonomics@yahoogroups.co) has been formed and will be launched shortly. Any body interested in ergonomics can be a member of it. The forum will be used for sharing information absolutely for academic and research interest. The members can put forward their views, query or any information related to ergonomics.

For further information contact Mr. N.Sadhu [sadhu@idc.iitb.ac.in](mailto:sadhu@idc.iitb.ac.in).

## \* **Members' news**

Gaur G. Ray, Industrial Design Centre, IIT Bombay, has been selected as a member of the IEA- IDDC subcommittee <http://www.ergonomics-sa.org.za/idccomm.html>. Pat Scott (South Africa) is heading the committee and the other members are David Caple (Australia), Kazutaka Kogi (Japan), Houshang Shahnavaz (Sweden), Mario Cesar Vidal (Brazil).

As a member of the IDDC subcommittee Gaur G.Ray sends his warm welcome to all those working in the area of ergonomics and expresses his all possible support to make the Indian ergonomics program a success.. Any query related to IEA Seoul conference may be addressed to him or Pat Scott [p.a.scott@ru.ac.za](mailto:p.a.scott@ru.ac.za).

## \* **New Initiatives**



NITIE, the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, located at Mumbai, is starting CEEHFE, a Centre Of Relevance and Excellence in Ergonomic and Human Factors Engineering in association with TIFAC

### **Vision**

To provide high quality ergonomic solutions of right fit to relevant organisations to win competitive battles and improve the quality of life.

### **Profile**

NITIE's activities presently cover two Post-Graduate Programmes, Management Development Programmes, In-company programmes and Doctoral Programmes, including special topics in Ergonomics. The academic programmes of the institute are reinforced by the industrial research and consultancy activities. The Industrial Safety and Environmental Management Group of NITIE has four laboratories. The CORE in Ergonomics and Human Factors Engineering (CEEHFE) is proposed to be an extension of the physical Ergonomic laboratory. Current research Projects are focussed on Ergonomic Evaluation of IT Systems, Furniture and Office System Design, Ergo Database for Work Standards, Design of Sedentary Work Stations and Executive Work Stress and Safety for a variety of beneficiaries.

### **Objectives**

- To offer an internationally acclaimed Masters & Doctoral programme in Ergonomics & Human Factors Engineering.
- To disseminate the knowledge of Ergonomics through short span and medium span training / certificate programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences and electronic media.
- To carry out fundamental and applied research.
- To develop Indian ergonomics database, guidelines & toolbox.
- To create facilities for testing of ergonomic products; Executive health & fitness.

### **The Focus**

- Workplace and Workstation Design
- Repetitive Jobs, RSI & MSD
- Manual Material Handling
- Modern Offices & Service Organizations
- Executive Health & Fitness
- Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) & Virtual Reality
- Product & Consumer Ergonomics
- Vehicular & Transport Ergonomics
- Cognitive Ergonomics & Human Reliability
- Human Factors, Technology Management & Occupational Risk

- Women Employees
- Home Ergonomics
- Sports Ergonomics
- Physically Challenged People

For details, contact:

**Prof. Amitabha De**

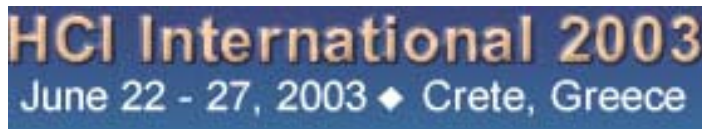
**Co-ordinator, TIFAC CORE**

CORE - Ergonomics and human Factors Engineering  
National Institute of Industrial Engg, National Institute of Industrial Engineering,  
Lake Vihar Road, NITIE P.O.  
Mumbai-400087, Maharashtra

Phone: (022) - 8573371 ext-288/381

Fax: (022) - 8573251

E-mail: [amitabhad@nitie.tifaccore.org.in](mailto:amitabhad@nitie.tifaccore.org.in)



**10th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction and  
2nd International Conference on Universal Access in Human-Computer Interaction,  
Crete, Greece, 2003**

The next year jubilee issue of the two-year 10th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction will be held on the island of Crete, Grece, June 22-27, 2003. You are invited cordially to participate this conference and sessions.

Five major thematic areas are in the focus of the program:

- [Human-Computer Interaction](#)
- [Ergonomics and Health Aspects of Work with Computers](#)
- [Human Interface and the Management of Information](#)
- [Universal Access in Human-Computer Interaction](#)
- [Engineering Psychology and Cognitive Ergonomics](#)

The topics listed under each thematic area are indicative of the broad spectrum of issues to be addressed, and are not intended to limit the range of submissions.

Jerzy Charytonowicz is organizing, chairing and reviewing the papers in one session in HCI'03 and one in UAHCI'03. Both conferences (and mentioned sessions) are jointly held under one management and and registration fee. It mean that one participant may present two papers under one registration. All accepted papers will be published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc. in multivolume edition in hard cover.

In connection with the above, please send the following **preliminary information by June 30, 2002** to: Jerzy Charytonowicz [georgech@arch.pwr.wroc.pl](mailto:georgech@arch.pwr.wroc.pl)

- name, affiliation, telrphone, FAX, e-mail;
- preliminary title of the paper;
- short abstract (approx. 5-10 lines);
- proposals for the compatibility with the thematic groups

For **further information** about the conference, please visit: <http://hcie2003.ics.forth.gr>.

Download the **conference announcement** from: [Call for Participation in \[pdf\] \(917 kb\)](#)



**15<sup>th</sup> Triennial Congress of the International Ergonomics Association**

**August 24 – 29, 2003 Seoul, Korea**

The theme of the IEA 2003 Congress is "Ergonomics in the Digital Age," recognizing the tremendous potential of ergonomics for improving the quality of life in this new paradigm of the digital age. Ergonomic disciplines that have been traditionally established need to be developed further to adopt recent technologies and systems in the new age such as virtual system design, e-business environment, and multi-lingual and multi-cultural management system.

**Specific symposium for countries, companies or individuals who are working to establish an Ergonomic ethos in their particular sector/country.**

While rigorous Ergonomic research and practical implementation of Ergonomic principles are well established in some regions, there are still vast areas where there is little or no knowledge of Ergonomics. In an attempt to address this void the IEA's sub committee for Ergonomics in Industrially Developing Countries has made a substantial effort to reach these areas and create an awareness of the benefits of Ergonomics. This has been achieved through the running of seminars and workshops in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, India and South America.

Over the years there has been an increasing involvement and commitment to Ergonomics and it is time to share these developments, the successes, problems and particularly the research that has been conducted within IDCs, so that others can benefit from the knowledge gained.

The IEA Congress being held in Seoul, Korea, offers us the opportunity to hold special sessions for Ergonomics in IDCs, and also to interact with colleagues to share the insights of Ergonomists operating under widely diverse conditions around the globe. The three main organizers of this special symposium are Pat Scott (South Africa), Kazu Kogi (Japan) and Houshang Shahnavaz (Sweden). Poster presentations are welcome. If you are keen to present your work in Seoul contact one of the following:

<b>Physical and mental workloads</b> (Assessments, problems and solutions)	<b>Ergonomics and Occupational</b> (The need for a symbiotic relationship)	<b>Ergonomics Interventions</b> (Implementation, and evaluation of benefits)
<b>Pat Scott</b>	<b>Kazu Kogi</b>	<b>Houshang Shahnavaz</b>
Department of Human Kinetics and Ergonomics Rhodes University Grahamstown 6140 <b>South Africa</b> Telephone: +27 46 603 846 Fax: +27 46 622 38038 E-mail: <a href="mailto:p.a.scott@ru.ac.za">p.a.scott@ru.ac.za</a>	Institute for Science of Labour  2-8-14, Sugas, Miyamae-ku Kawasaki 216 <b>Japan</b> Fax: +81 44 977 7504 E-mail: <a href="mailto:k.kogi@isl.or.jp">k.kogi@isl.or.jp</a>	Lulea University  971-87 Lulea <b>Sweden</b> Tel: +46 920 91473 Fax: +46 920 91502/91030 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hosa@arb.luth.se">hosa@arb.luth.se</a>

It is also planned to organize discussion groups with representatives from different IDC areas.

Any queries, comments or suggestions specific to the proposed IDC symposium should be addressed to: G.G.Ray or Pat Scott (contact details as above)

## \* **Human Error – the evidence**

(Based on a news item search for the term "human error" on www.ndtv.com)

### **Over 70 killed in mid-air collision over South Germany**

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Tuesday, July 2, 2002 (Frankfurt):

A Russian passenger jet and a two-pilot cargo plane collided early this morning over southern Germany in a fireball that scattered flaming wreckage over a wide area. Initial investigations point towards possible human error.

The German embassy in Moscow has reported that the passenger plane was carrying 70 people on board including the crew while the cargo plane had two pilots. All people on board both planes are feared dead. Latest reports indicate that at least 47 on board the Russian plane were children and teenagers. Initial investigations point towards a human error. "It seems that there is a human factor at work here," said the first deputy head of the transport ministry Alexander Neradko, without specifying which of the two aircrafts was responsible.

A German official said the collision happened when the pilot of the Russian plane did not change course despite warnings from air traffic controllers. Tragically the pilot of the Boeing DHL plane had the technology to actually see the Russian plane heading towards him.

### **Railway funds to be used to replace old systems**

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Tuesday, May 28, 2002 (New Delhi):

Concerned over frequent train accidents due to obsolete equipment and human error, Railway Minister Nitish Kumar today asserted that the Rs 17,000 crore special safety fund would be judiciously used for speedy replacement of age-old systems and skill upgradation. "Statistics show about two-thirds of rail accidents take place due to human failure and mistakes when laid down rules and procedures are flouted," Kumar said at a seminar on rail safety.

### **Train crash in Mozambique claims 192 lives**

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Sunday, May 26, 2002 (Maputo):

A train carrying weekend visitors heading to South Africa collided with a freight train parked at a station in southern Mozambique, killing 192 people and injuring 400 more. There were conflicting reports about what caused the crash, but Transport Minister Tomas Salomao has said that it appeared to be the result of human error.

### **Conflicting reports for Russian plane crash**

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Friday, July 6, 2001 (Moscow):

The plane crash in Siberia earlier this week that killed all 145 people on board was caused by "human error," media reports said today as conflicting explanations for the disaster continued to emerge. Russia's RTR public television station claimed that analysis of the Tu-154 airliner's "black box" flight data recorders showed that its three engines had cut out, sending it hurtling to the ground. But Interfax news agency, quoting an unidentified source close to the government commission into the crash, said human error was now investigators' main line of inquiry.

### **Pilot error led to Patna Alliance Air crash**

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Saturday, March 31, 2001 (New Delhi):

The Court of Inquiry looking into the reasons for the crash of Alliance Air flight CD 7412 at Patna last year today submitted its report. The report submitted to the civil aviation ministry clearly states that pilot error led to the crash.

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