



# ISE Newsletter

Quarterly newsletter of the INDIAN SOCIETY OF ERGONOMICS (ISE)

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## Editorial Board Members

Dr. Asis Goswami, Sri N. Sadhu, Dr. A. K. Ganguli,  
Sri K. N. Sen and Sri D. Ghosh Thakur

## CONTENTS:

- \* In Memoriam: Alain Wisner
- \* Welcome new members
- \* Ergonomics Laboratory – Calcutta University
- \* Job Opportunity
- \* RSI Survey
- \* Announcement – HWWE 2004
- \* Forthcoming Conferences
- \* Knowledge base

### Forthcoming National events

- ☞ "Humanizing Work and Work Environment" (HWWE 2004)  
April 22-24, 2004 at NITIE, Mumbai.  
[hwwe2004@nitie.edu](mailto:hwwe2004@nitie.edu)

### Forthcoming International events

- ☞ 1<sup>ST</sup> International "Health and Safety in Transport" to be held in Paris, France  
email: [laa@biomedicale.univ-paris5.fr](mailto:laa@biomedicale.univ-paris5.fr)
- ☞ 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion  
Vienna, Austria, June 6-9, 2004,  
<http://www.safety2004.info/>

More conference details inside

## You may send your communications to:

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## \* From the Editor

*Prof. A. Wisner is no more with us. With his passing, the world has lost one its great scientists, educators and humanists of the 20th century. This issue focuses on the Ergonomics Laboratory at the Department of Physiology, Calcutta University. We are thankful for the contribution received from Dr. S. Gangopadhyay, and hope that all other institutes will start sending details about their facilities and activities soon (with photographs).*

## \* In Memoriam: Alain Wisner

Prof. Alain Wisner, a man of outstanding contributions to participatory and community ergonomics, passed away recently. His professional knowledge and expertise were enormous. And yet when talking to him, one could not sense any pretense or hints of superiority. He was a true gentleman who was an outstanding scientist, a teacher and an educator, willing to share freely his knowledge, as well as his strong opinions, with others.

Prof. Alain Wisner had been to many of us, and will forever remain, a true champion of "ergonomics for the people" everywhere. It is through ergonomics, that Prof. Wisner fought for the ideas of improving the social and economic conditions in many developing countries. His conviction about the idea of international cooperation in the field of ergonomics through IEA, as well as outside of any formal organizations, had made him so distinctively unique and his worldwide contributions so valuable.

We will greatly miss him.

*Waldemar Karwowski, Past President, IEA (2000-2003)*

## \* Welcome new members!

ISE Newsletter welcomes the following new Life Member:



RAM KISHORE PRASAD SINGH  
SCIENTIST, ICAR RESEARCH COMPLEX FOR NEH REGION  
UMIAM (BARAPANI), MEGHALAYA – 79301

## \* Academic & Research Institutions

### **Ergonomics Laboratory at Calcutta University**

Department of Physiology, University of Calcutta took the first step towards the beginning of Ergonomics as an academic course in the year 1971, when it launched the subject as a special paper in its Post Graduate curriculum under the guidance of Prof. Rabindra Nath Sen. This marked the birth of Ergonomics teaching in India. Since its inception, the subject ergonomics has been able to generate a lot of interest among the students. The students believed that by studying a new subject, they would definitely enrich themselves and broaden their knowledge horizon. At present, five students are selected to study ergonomics every year. Till date this department has produced more than 100 ergonomics specialists.

Most of the past students have been successful in building their careers and are attached as faculty with some of the premier institutions of the country. As such, the department has served the country by grooming students and contributed greatly to the spread of Ergonomics in a large number of industries and institutes.

Starting from the seventies, a number of symposiums and workshops have been organized in this field. The 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Work Physiology and Ergonomics was held in Calcutta from 1-3 November, 1974, when eminent scientists like Dr.O.G.Edholm, Dr.E.J.Hamley, Dr.K.Kogi, Prof.H.Monod, and many others actively participated. This event generated great interest regarding study and research in the field of Ergonomics. The interest was sustained by the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Applied Physiology and Ergonomics was held in Calcutta during August 17- 19, 1983.



Studies on jute mill operations



Manual material handling



Bus driver's cabin

Collaborative work with different sectoral industries, including railways, jute, heavy engineering, construction, cotton, tea, foundry, and food processing industries has been successfully carried out over the years. Apart from the organized sector, great importance has been given to studies on the unorganized sector, such as porters, mud workers, weavers, the agricultural workers and the brick kiln workers.

Extensive research work is being carried out in this laboratory in the field of musculoskeletal disorders primarily affecting meat cutters, tailors, weavers, typists and VDT operators.

The projects have resulted in innovative design proposals for protective shoes, shovel, harness for hand-cart pullers, hand gloves for jute mill workers, chopper for meat cutters, railway track maintenance tools, and many more. The results published regularly in national and international scientific journals.

For further details, please contact:

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## \* Job Opportunity

**Human Factors International, Inc.**, an international consulting company headquartered in the U.S., is seeking 7 **Human Factors Engineers** for their India office. Job profile as a Human Factors Specialist will involve:

- Working with HFI's sales team to close projects
- Diagnosing clients' and users' needs
- Identifying insightful solutions to interface issues
- Conducting usability tests and expert reviews
- Possibly delivering HFI's corporate training courses

Requirements: Minimum 1-year full time hands-on experience designing HCI. This experience must be in a commercial setting.

Minimum Educational Requirements: Masters Degree or equivalent.

Contact: Mishmi Majumdar, [mishmi@humanfactors.com](mailto:mishmi@humanfactors.com) 91-22-257-084-64 / 65 / 66

## \* RSI Survey

### **Survey on strategies for minimising discomfort in the wrist and lower arm due to prolonged mouse work**

If you suffer discomfort pain in the wrist or hand or lower arm or in the shoulder or upper arm when you use the mouse for long periods of time, you might be able to help David McFarlane who has created this survey. [Click here to go to the survey](#)

If you have any questions please contact [David McFarlane](#) from the Health and Community Services Industry Team, WorkCover Authority of New South Wales.

## \* Forthcoming conferences:



TIFAC-CORE NITIE in collaboration with the **Indian Society of Ergonomics (ISE)** is organizing the **HWWE 2004** conference at NITIE, Mumbai, India. The objective is to provide a platform for scientists, research workers, practitioners and decision makers (business, industry and government) to exchange views towards humanizing the work environment. The focus of this conference will be on evolving strategies and action plans to deal with the **HWWE** challenges that are being encountered in business, industry, agriculture, public utilities and in every sphere of our lives.

**HWWE2004** will cover Agricultural ergonomics, Automobile and vehicular ergonomics, Environmental pollution and health hazards, Human factors engineering, Industrial ergonomics and technology transfer, Job design, cognitive ergonomics and office systems, Manufacturing workplace ergonomics, Military ergonomics, Occupational health and safety, Product design, and product liability, Physiological and sports ergonomics, Rehabilitation ergonomics, women at workplace and home.

**GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS:** The abstract should be within 300 words, using A4 size paper with Arial -font type, 11 point-font size and headings in corresponding font size as appropriate. The abstract should clearly state objectives, methods and summary of the results achieved. Key words should be restricted to five words only. Softcopy of the manuscript should be **typed using MS Word**. The full paper should not exceed five pages. The full paper for the poster session should have same specifications as those for oral presentation. A soft copy of the formatted guideline is available on request.

**Papers may be sent to any one of the following**

Dr. P. K. Nag  
Secretary, Scientific  
Committee,  
Deputy Director,  
National Institute of  
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Meghani Nagar,  
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Dr. A. K. Ganguli  
Secretary, Scientific Committee,  
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Prof. Amitabha De  
Secretary General, Organizing  
Committee,  
Co-ordinator,  
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National Institute of Industrial  
Engineering (NITIE),  
Vihar Lake, Powai,  
Mumbai -400 087.  
[hww2004@nitie.edu](mailto:hww2004@nitie.edu)

**2nd Asian Regional Conference on Safe Communities  
1st Bangladesh National Conference on Injury Prevention**

The conference will be held during February 15-17, 2004, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Conference Theme: Prevent Accidents and Injuries: Promote Quality of Life

Organised by:

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh,  
Institute of Child and Mother Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh,  
WHO, Dhaka Bangladesh,  
Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
[www.safebangladesh.com](http://www.safebangladesh.com)

**7<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion**

**Where:** Vienna, Austria, Europe

**When:** June 6-9, 2004

This Conference is intended for professionals and organisations involved in all aspects of the prevention, control and research related to violence, suicide, unintentional injury and safety, security. A special invitation is extended to participants from developing countries.

**Conference sessions:**

The conference will include plenary sessions on topics of concern to all professions (e.g., the influence of the media on the safety of populations; the role of policies and laws) and state-of-the-art presentations focusing on their respective fields. Additionally, parallel sessions which will be organized around the following conference themes: Violence Prevention, Suicide Prevention, Road Safety, Work Safety and Health, Child and Elder Safety, Safety in the Home and Institutions, Sports, Leisure Time Safety, Product Safety, Trauma Management, Disaster and Terrorism Preparedness, Civil Protection Safe Communities

A call for abstracts and fees is provided on the website: <http://www.safety2004.info/>  
Conference Team Vienna: Kuratorium für Schutz und Sicherheit/Institut Sicher Leben  
Ölzeltgasse 3 / Postfach 190, A-1031 Vienna, Austria, Europe  
Tel: +43 1 715 66 44 0 /Fax: +43 1 715 66 44 30  
Email: [safety2004@sicherleben.at](mailto:safety2004@sicherleben.at)

**The 7th International Scientific Conference on Work with Computing Systems, WWCS 2004** (formerly known as Work With Display Units, WWDU) will be held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, from 29 June to 2 July 2004. The theme of the conference is "Bridging Diversity at Work". Kuching (= cat) on the island of Borneo is an excellent escapade for your 2004 vacation.

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## \* Knowledge base

### **A MAJORITY OF U.S. BUSINESSES REPORT WORKPLACE SAFETY DELIVERS A RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

#### **Liberty Mutual survey shows 61 percent of executives say \$3 or more saved for each \$1 invested in workplace safety**

Ninety-five percent of business executives report that workplace safety has a positive impact on a company's financial performance, according to the findings of The Executive Survey of Workplace Safety by the Liberty Mutual Group [Safety survey](#). Of these executives, 61 percent believe their companies receive a return on investment of \$3 or more for each \$1 they invest in improving workplace safety.

Moreover, the survey findings reveal that business executives may be focusing attention on certain causes of workplace accidents at the expense of others, and may need to realign their workplace safety priorities. See [Appendix A: Employer Perception vs Reality](#).

For example, executives report "Repetitive Motion" is the most important cause of workplace accidents and that they will focus workplace safety resources on this accident cause. However, five other accident causes each produced greater direct costs for companies in 1998, according to the Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index. The Index reported that workplace injuries caused by "Repetitive Motion" produced \$2.3 billion in direct costs for employers in 1998, about a quarter of the \$9.8 billion of the leading accident cause - "Overexertion."

Survey results are based on interviews with 200 executives responsible for workers compensation and other commercial insurances at 125 mid-size firms (100 to 999 employees) and 75 large companies (over 1,000 employees) representing a range of geographic locations and industries. Results are presented in and industries. Results are presented in [Appendix B: Survey Highlights](#).

□