



ISE Newsletter

Quarterly newsletter of the INDIAN SOCIETY OF ERGONOMICS (ISE)

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Special Issue

2004
HWWE

Humanizing Work and Work Environment 2004

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Forthcoming International events

- ☞ International Conference on Emerging Technologies in Agricultural and Food Engineering 2004 during December 14-17, 2004 at I.I.T. Kharagpur, India.
<http://www.agri.iitkgp.ernet.in/etae2004/index.html>

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The Humanizing Work and Work Environment 2004 (HWWE 2004) Conference was organized by NITIE TIFAC CORE, along with the Indian Society of Ergonomics (ISE) and the Indian Association of Occupational Health (IAOH) during 22nd – 24th April 2004 at NITIE, Mumbai. The Conference was inaugurated in NITIE Auditorium and Dr.S.M.Shanbhag, Medical Advisor, Reliance Industries Ltd., delivered the inaugural address. Professor Tapan P. Bagchi, Dr.L.P.Gite, Dr.P.K.Nag, Prof. N.Sambandam and Prof. (Mrs.) N.S. Naik, spoke on the occasion.



Prof.T.P.Bagchi, Director, NITE, addresses the gathering



Dr.L.P.Gite, conference president, inaugurates



On the dias (L-R) : Dr.L.P.Gite, Prof.T.P.Bagchi, Dr.P.K.Nag and Prof.N.Sambandam



Eighty-three delegates from various parts of India including a few from abroad attended the conference and 65 papers were presented. The papers were presented in 21 sessions covering various fields ranging from Agricultural Ergonomics, Industrial and Occupational Health, Environmental Health, Women at Work, Work Physiology, Work Posture & Biomechanics, Manual Material Handling, Job Design, Product Design and Anthropometry.



Shri. Girish Nalavade

Special lectures were delivered on Ergonomics Research in India (Dr.P.K.Nag), Ergonomics of Indian Office Furniture: Manufacturers' Perspective (Shri. Girish Nalavade), Ergonomics in Indian Agriculture (Dr.L.P.Gite), Manufacturing Ergonomics (Prof. Anil Mital - University of Cincinnati), Design Ergonomics: Need and Role (Prof.G.G.Ray), Physiological Ergonomics: Indian Scenario (Shri P.C.Ghosh, Central Labour Institute) and Occupational Health & Safety (Dr.Ralf Steinberg - Sri Ramchandra Medical College & Research Institute).

Dr. P. K. Banerjee, Director DIPAS, DRDO and Chairman REACH Monitoring Committee, NITIE TIFAC CORE, delivered the valedictory address.

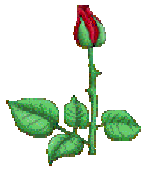


The Next conference (HWWE2005) is planned in IIT Guwahati. Dr. Debkumar Chakraborti, Associate Professor IIT Guwahati and the Organizing Secretary received the plaque for HWWE'2005 from the Organizing Secretary and the President of HWWE'2004.



* Welcome new members!

ISE Newsletter welcomes the following new Life Members:



L101: **Dr. Ruplekha Borah**, College of Home Science, AAU, Jorhat, Assam

L102: **Ms. Nandita Bhattacharyya**, College of Home Science, AAU, Jorhat, Assam

L103: **Dr. Manjit Kaur Chauhan**, SVT College of Home Science, SNDT Women's University, Santacruz, Mumbai

* Job opportunity

The National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) has invited applications for the following temporary positions for the TIFAC-CORE NITIE and the Physical Ergonomics Lab (CEEHFE):

Consultants: Qualifications: First class M.Tech/M.Sc/MD/MBA with Ph.D and research publications. Remuneration: Rs.15,000/= to 20,000/= per month (consolidated). On campus accommodation possible.

Research Fellows: Qualifications: First class M.Tech/M.Sc/MBBS/B.Tech/B.Des. Remuneration: M.Tech/MBBS: Rs.9,500/=, M.Sc/B.Tech/B.Des Rs. 7,500/= (without NET/GATE) Rs. 8,000/= (with NET/GATE) per month. 30% HRA or campus accommodation.

Areas of specialization (Consultants & Research Fellows): Ergonomics, Industrial Design, Sports Science, Biochemistry (Medical/Non-medical), Health Care Management & Administration, Occupational & Community Health, Physical Rehabilitation, Biomedical Engineering/Instrumentation.

Field-cum-Laboratory Assistants: Qualifications: B.Sc (Human Biology / Physiology / Biochemistry). Remuneration: Rs.5,000/= to 7,000/= per month (consolidated).

Apply with biodata and copies of testimonials to: The Registrar, NITIE, Vihar Lake, Mumbai-400087. Phone: 022-28573371, FAX: 022-28573251, website: www.nitie.edu

* Meeting highlights

Meeting of the Indian Society of Ergonomics (ISE) held at NITIE, Mumbai, on Thursday, 22nd April 2004.

■ Prof.G.G.Ray proposed that Dr.L.P.Gite chair the meeting, and Dr.P.C.Dhara seconded the motion. Dr.L.P.Gite assumed the chair.

■ Dr.L.P.Gite suggested that some thrust areas could be formulated, from which the Local Organising Secretary of each future conference would select a focal theme in association with the ISE.

■ Dr.L.P.Gite informed that Ergonomics (or Human Factors) is now a compulsory part of the post-graduate syllabus (M.Tech programme) in all agricultural colleges in all state agricultural universities.

■ Dr.P.K.Nag and Dr.L.P.Gite stressed the importance of Methodology in Ergonomics. Dr.P.C.Dhara suggested that in the next conference, there could be a separate symposium on Methodology in Ergonomics.

■ The urgent need to increase the membership strength of ISE was discussed. Dr.L.P.Gite proposed that each member get one new member.

■ Dr.D.Chakrabarti raised the issue of ergonomics inputs in engineering education. The need for a refresher course in ergonomics was discussed. Prof.G.G.Ray felt that these should be regional in nature to ensure better participation, with experts from outside.

- The possible venues for the next conference were discussed. Dr.D.Chakrabarti and Dr.L.P.Gite proposed Guwahati and Bhopal, respectively. Accordingly, it was decided to host the next conference in IIT, Guwahati in end-2005, and the next one (2006) in Bhopal, tentatively.
- The publication of the journal was discussed. All members felt that it was a priority, but the financial aspects need to be revisited.
- It was agreed to issue a membership certificate to all members.
- It was agreed to activate the student membership option, which would be annual in nature. The subscription amount for a student membership was fixed at Rs.100.

* **Forthcoming conferences:**



Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering, I.I.T. Kharagpur, India is organizing an **International Conference on Emerging Technologies in Agricultural and Food Engineering 2004** during **December 14-17, 2004**. Please email: the Organising Secretary Dr. V.K.Tewari yktfeb@agfe.iitkgp.ernet.in or visit the website for details of conference: <http://www.agri.iitkgp.ernet.in/etae2004/index.html>. Sessions on Ergonomics, Safety and Health include: Anthropometry and Biomechanics, Musculoskeletal Disorders, Accident and Injury Prevention, Manual Material Handling, Ergonomics interventions for occupational safety in farm and industrial works, Women workers and equipment design.

XVIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work. 18-22 September 2005. Orlando, Florida, USA. The World Congress on Safety and Health at Work is an international forum of 3000+ professionals who gather every 3 years to exchange ideas, research and best practices on highly topical issues in the area of Occupational Safety and Health. [click here for more information](#) or [email](#).

* **Knowledge base**

The Chair of the Future?

If part of deserving the label *ergonomic* means offering a device that fits the user, then German designers Vogt + Weizenegger (V+W) may have created the ultimate in ergonomic chairs. Called the **Sinterchair**,” V+W’s seating solution is more than just a chair. Taking customer sizing and the chair’s potential use to an extreme, the Sinterchair is designed from a combination of laser technology and a detailed personality questionnaire.

According to V+W, obtaining one of the ultra-custom designed chairs is fast and simple. The customer goes into a V+W shop, fills out a questionnaire, gets measured by a laser system so the chair can match the customer’s individual contours, and the customer picks up his or her one-of-a-kind sized and styled chair less than 24 hours later.

Aside from offering a space-aged approach to chair design and look — *the chairs are based on a honeycomb structure that the designers say mimic nature by producing only one-of-a-kind pieces* — the Sinterchair incorporates another custom-fit as well: the customer’s personal preference. Not in chair styles but in perceptibly unrelated concepts like favorite movie, song, animal and landscape. Buyers divulge their likes and also rate concepts including “hard” or “soft,” “reduced” or “opulent,” “chaotic” or “regular,” and “opened” or “closed” on the questionnaire. Ultimately, these individual tastes are combined to determine the look of the chair itself.

Absolute ergonomics? Or, as the designers call it, “**the chair of the future.**”

<http://www.vogtweizenegger.de/sinterchair.html>