



ISE Newsletter

Quarterly newsletter of the INDIAN SOCIETY OF ERGONOMICS (ISE)

Vol. 8

July - September 2004

No. 3

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CONTENTS:

- * Laurels won
- * Job opportunity
- * News
- * Member activities
- * Ergonomics, Health & Safety Training Programme
- * Forthcoming conferences
- * Knowledge base

Forthcoming National events

- ☞ Seminar on Occ. Safety and Health
- ☞ INDIA HCI 2004
- ☞ ETAE 2004
- ☞ 92nd INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS
- ☞ HWWE'2005

Forthcoming International events

- ☞ XVIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work
- ☞ IEA 2006

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* From the Editor

IEA has taken steps to promote Ergonomics in Industrially Developing Countries. A number of action plans have been formulated. A committee of 18 members are presently co-operating in executing the action plans spread over six points. It is important that we as federated members of the international body wake up and extend our full support to these initiatives. Members are requested to visit the IEA web site regularly to gain access to these opportunities and provide suggestions for further improvement in the IEA effort.

* Laurels won



Gaur G. Ray won the Best Application Paper Award at the 7th International Conference on Work with Computing Systems (WWCS) 29th June to 2nd July 2004, at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for his paper on "Development of a PC based communicator for children with special needs".



Shrawan Kumar was elected a Fellow of The Academy of Sciences of The Royal Society of Canada in April 2004. With over 420 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Shrawan Kumar has made an outstanding contribution to science at the interface of life sciences and engineering. His research contributions have led to development of the new sub-discipline of rehabilitation ergonomics. He has developed novel theories regarding causation of occupational musculoskeletal injuries and their treatments, which are revolutionizing our understanding of the field. Additionally, he has developed new methodologies for quantitative assessment of occupational biomechanical hazards and their management. Dr. Kumar



has been recognized nationally and internationally with numerous awards, including the Sir Frederick Bartlett Medal from The Ergonomics Society, UK for significant and outstanding contribution to original research and development of methodology; Distinguished International Colleague Award from Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, USA for outstanding contribution to original research in Human Factors and Ergonomics; Ergonomics Development Award from International Ergonomics Association for conceptualizing and developing the field of rehabilitation ergonomics; Jack Kraft Innovator Award from HF&ES, USA; and, Annual Society Lecturer from The Ergonomics Society, UK.



* Job Opportunity

Dr. Deepak Sharan, an orthopaedic surgeon and rehabilitation specialist, based at Bangalore. with a special interest in the prevention and treatment of work related musculoskeletal disorders, especially in computer professionals and school children, is in need of a trained and certified ergonomist with experience of workstation assessment in IT organizations to join his team.

Dr. Sharan can be reached at 3C (8), Nandi Gardens, J.P. Nagar, 9th Phase, Anjanapura Post, Bangalore-560062, India, Phone: +91-80-28436736, 56646106, email: deepak@deepaksharan.com, Website: <http://www.deepaksharan.com>

* News

Are Ergonomists Really Consulted in Mobile Phone Design?

Smaller keypads, tiny screens. . . do designers really take ergonomics into consideration when creating new mobile phones?

Ergonomics Society of Australia president Margaret Head says, that the phone is more suited to a young child rather than a fully grown adult. "Our preliminary studies of the latest phones suggest the buttons are only appropriately sized for five-year olds".

A recent British report of cell phone use in eight large metropolitan areas found that thumbs are becoming bigger and more muscular possibly due to cell phone use and text messaging. And just this month, the American Society of Hand Therapists issued a national alert regarding "Nintendo Thumb" – a swelling at the base of the thumb, linked to the dependence on the digit when playing video games

Read the full story at <http://www.ergoweb.com/target.cfm?id=730>

* Member Activities

Occupational Health Day was observed at HPL Cogeneration Limited on 9th July 2004 with the support of SWL (Society for Working Life, New Delhi) and Center for Working Life and Environment, Kolkata. Dr. Prakash Dhara, Dr. Somnath Ganguly and Mr. K. N. Sen made presentations in the Workshop.

Dr.P.K.Nag has authored an article entitled "A National Priority on Occupational Health and Safety Management System", which has been published in the ICMR Bulletin. The article can be read at <http://icmr.nic.in/BUNOV-DEC03.pdf>

* Ergonomics, Health & Safety Training programme

ISE and Academic Staff College, Calcutta University are jointly organising a Five Evening Training Programme on **Ergonomics, Occupational Health and Safety at Work** from 6th to 10th December 2004 at Academic Staff College, Calcutta University, Calcutta. Interested persons please make contact for brochure and other details with Dr.S. Gangopadhyay. Email: ganguly1961@yahoo.com

* Forthcoming conferences:

Announcement - Two - day Seminar on Occupational Safety and Health 22-23 November, 2004 Kolkata

Centre for Working Life and Environment in collaboration with National Institute for Working Life Sweden. Faculty: Kaj Elgstrand, Nils F Petersson, Christina and experts from Indian Industry. Topics: World-class OSH practices & integrating Occupational Health and Safety with business. For registration and other details please contact:

Mr.Biswarup Bagchi, Centre for Working Life and Environment, 47 Jhowtala Road, Kolkata 700 019, INDIA. Email: cwleindia@yahoo.co.in

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION - INDIA HCI 2004

The Indo European Systems Usability Partnership will be holding the first all India HCI conference in association with the Computer Society of India between **26 and 27 November 2004** (final date to be confirmed) in **Bangalore, India**.

IHCI THEMES: IHCI2004 welcomes submissions of academic papers, industrial case studies, and institutional reviews in all relevant areas, but has identified the following themes in which submissions are particularly welcomed:

- HCI in the Indian industry
- Culture, context and society
- Institutionalizing HCI
- Global products, local development
- Interaction design
- User centred design
- HCI Education
- Areas of Application

For any further enquires contact either of the Programme Committee Co-Chairs Anirudha Joshi - anirudha@iitb.ac.in or Andy Smith - andy.smith@tvu.ac.uk



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 vktfeb@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.

92nd INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS



The congress will be held at Nirma University, Ahmedabad, from January 3-7, 2005. Focal theme of the congress is "Health Technology as a fulcrum of national development". For details, visit the website www.isc05.org

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](#).

HWWE'2005

Key dates:

Venue: IIT, Guwahati, Assam

Main conference: (3 days) 10 – 12th December 2005

Pre-conference workshop: (3 days) 7 – 9th December 2005

Theme of the Conference: Ergonomics Methodology for Appropriate Applications.

IEA 2006



The IEA Triennial Congress is to be held from **10-14 July 2006** in Maastricht, the Netherlands. IEA has invited suggestions that will help to make IEA2006 the best place for new knowledge, reflection and contacts and also the innovative ideas for sessions “**Ergonomics Congress really ergonomical?**” Major theme of the congress is: **Meeting diversity in ergonomics.** The broad scope of our field of interest and the variety in ergonomics and ergonomists and the global differences will be emphasized.

Topics to be addressed: physical workload, mental workload, environmental factors, organizational design and management (ODAM), etc.

areas of application, such as: manufacturing, process industry, office, rehabilitation, hospital, agriculture, the built environment; methodology: research methodology, engineering practices, project ergonomics; cultural differences worldwide: modern industrial countries versus industrially developing countries.

Several different congress formats will be expected, such as: traditional keynotes and oral presentations, a speakers corner on a market place, interactive sessions, hands-on workshops, professional visits, and interactive poster sessions.

Important dates:

Proposals workshops, symposia	1 September 2003 - 1 September 2005
Abstracts deadline	15 October 2005
Abstracts reviewed	15 December 2005
Full papers submission deadline	1 March 2006

Visit the website : www.iea2006.org for detailed information.

* Knowledge base

The IEA Council (www.iea.cc) has adopted the definition of **ergonomics** in August 2000:

Ergonomics (or human factors) is the scientific discipline concerned with the understanding of interactions among humans and other elements of a system, and the profession that applies theory, principles, data and methods to design in order to optimize human well-being and overall system performance.

Ergonomists contribute to the design and evaluation of tasks, jobs, products, environments and systems in order to make them compatible with the needs, abilities and limitations of people.