

THE
INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION
of ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH



1999 Annual Report

CONTENTS

Principal Office-Bearers	1
President's Report	2
Honorary Vice-Presidents	3
Chairman's Report	4
Honorary Treasurer's Report	6
Income and Expenditure Account	7
Honorary Secretary's Report	8
Associate Members	9
Member Organisations	10
Honorary Education Liaison Officer & Magazine Co-ordinator's Report	11
Academic Associate Members	12
Policy Statement 7	IBC

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

President – Kia Regner

Honorary Secretary – Michael Halls, FREHIS FRSH MINSTWM

Chairman of Council – Vic Andrich

Honorary Treasurer – J. Graham Slee, FCIEH

Honorary Education Liaison Officer – John R. Stirling, MSc FREHIS MCIEH

Honorary Public Relations Officer – Richard A. Sprenger, BSc FCIEH MREHIS FSOFTHT

Honorary Regional Editor/Honorary Librarian
Dr Kenneth Stewart, MPH PhD MREHIS

Company Secretary – Michael Cooke, DMA FCIEH

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT

The year 1999 was a very busy one with many activities in which the Federation was involved. Some of these come to my mind as especially interesting or important for the future of IFEH and for environmental health professionals and their work.

The Ministerial Conference London'99 where Ministers for the Environment and Ministers for Health met and jointly signed the London Declaration on Environment and Health, a Charter on Transport and a Protocol on Water was a major event. Even if this involved only the countries in Europe it reflects the global pursuit of sustainable development.

IFEH was much involved in the preparatory work leading up to the London conference and as a consequence was one of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that were invited to participate in the actual negotiations outlining the decisions to be taken in London. Our main activities have been in the areas of National Environmental Health Action Plans (NEHAPs) and local implementation and also Public Participation and Access to Information.

Many NGOs co-operated in the so-called Healthy Planet Forum a parallel event to the Ministerial Conference where different topics were debated. IFEH had the lead in a session on Genetically Modified Organisms and another on NEHAP.

It was a special treat to be invited to give a keynote speech at the Ministerial Conference and thus represent not only IFEH but environment and health professionals at large.

A European Environment and Health Committee, EEHC, has been set up after London to implement the London'99 decisions, comprising governments, intergovernmental organisations and some NGOs. I am honoured to be a member of EEHC as a representative for IFEH and environment and health professionals.

There is a demand for professional expertise and experience in developing and implementing NEHAPs e.g. in many of the Eastern European Countries with the support of WHO. I have had the pleasure of attending some of these meetings. The professional network is growing. IFEH has also been invited to participate in a WHO-EU project on developing national electronic networks for environment and health professionals. Our own web-site was established during 1999 and this is a major step forward for IFEH.

I also feel satisfied with the work of preparing the IFEH Declaration on Environment and Health which was adopted first by the IFEH European Group and then by the IFEH Council as its 7th Policy Paper. This paper emphasises the need to work to integrate environment and health issues and is a commitment to follow up London '99.

During the year IFEH has gained new members and extended its contacts considerably which makes our network stronger and more powerful. However much work is still to be done. With the combined strength of the approx. 60,000 individual environment and health professionals that IFEH represents we can and should achieve a lot more in the years to come. The IFEH regional and local work is a vital factor towards further progress.

Kia Regner



HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Kenneth Collins, MSc (1987) – *Nominated by REHIS*

Roy Emerson, FCIEH FRSH FCIH (1988) – *Nominated by CIEH*

Eric W. Foskett, OBE BSc(Econ) DPA FCIEH FRSH (1994) – *Nominated by the Council*

Michael Halls, FREHIS FRSH MINSTWM (1998) – *Nominated by the Council*

Terence Moody, MA FNZIEH MRSH (1989) – *Nominated by the NZIEH*

Frederick P. O'Brien, BA MBA MEHOA (1992) – *Nominated by the EHOA*

Haji Ugku Abu Bakar bin Abdul Rahman, AMN FRSH (1996)
– *Nominated by the Past Presidents*

Ronald G. Spratt, JP FAIEH (1991) – *Nominated by the AIEH*

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

A number of issues have been raised during 1999. Below are some of the more significant that have been on the agenda of the IFEH meetings.

Meetings were held in conjunction with other significant environmental health happenings to enable attendees to take advantage of travel arrangements already in place. At the Hong Kong meeting, the Finance and Administration Group (FAG) was established. Its purpose is to meet on a regular basis between Council meetings in order to deal with IFEH business and to make recommendations to the IFEH Council on policy and future directions.

Meetings were arranged for when most, if not all members could be present. On occasions where I was not able to attend, a telephone link to the meeting was established.

The following meetings have been held:

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF MEETING
April 8 – 9, 1999	Hong Kong, China	IFEH Council, Pacific Rim Group Meeting
June 17 – 18, 1999	London, England	*Finance & Administration Group Meeting
August 2, 1999	London, England	Finance & Administration Group Meeting
September 5–7, 1999	Bonn, Germany	IFEH Council, Europe Group Meeting
December 20, 1999	London, England	*Finance & Administration Group Meeting
		(* – Telephone link)

The IFEH was involved in the development of the “London 99 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health” and the IFEH President Kia Regner addressed Ministers for Health and the Environment from many European Nations, from WHO and others attending from all over the world.

The IFEH has been reviewing its financial base and its reliance on members’ subscriptions. One of the significant financial issues raised is the level of subscriptions for member organisations. The Finance & Administration Group is addressing this very important issue and hopes to have a report on their findings for the next meeting of the Council.

Currently all full financial members of the IFEH are members of the “Council”. The IFEH was originally established to be a Federation of national environmental

health associations from around the world – the assumption being, there is only one national EH association for each country.

In reality many countries do not have just one national EH association but bodies exist which deal with specific EH issues eg: Food, Sanitation, Air Quality etc.

Another issue for the IFEH is the size of the Council, should all of its members attend a meeting. The chances of obtaining a consensus in such a situation could prove difficult.

The roles of Chairman and President have become interconnected to the point where there is some confusion about responsibilities. Clarification of roles is vital and it may be that the posts are combined in the future.

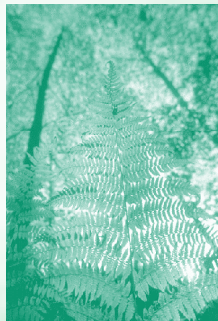
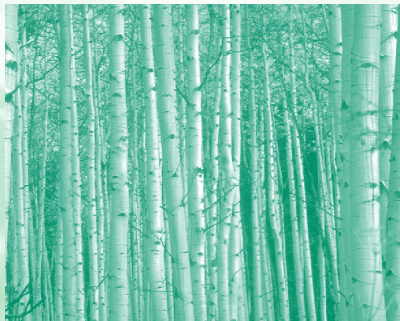
Consideration is being given to placing greater emphasis on the role of the Regional Groups in regard to such issues as the recruitment of new members, developing regional protocols and becoming signatories to regional strategies dealing with environmental health issues.

There is still much work to be done. The role of the IFEH in the future will depend upon the continuing efforts of those professional officers who devote their time to the Federation. I personally would like to record my appreciation for the tireless effort and hours of their time to keep this organisation running. Of particular note, Kia Regner, Mike Halls and Graham Slee have done an outstanding job and are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Appreciation is also extended to the member organisations which have made facilities and staff available to assist the IFEH in its deliberations.

I would also like to mark the retirement of one of our founding fathers, Eric Foskett whose vision and tenacity are an inspiration to us all. Thank you Eric. You will never be forgotten.

Vic Andrich



REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

Before starting this report I thought that, on the eve of a new millennium, it would be appropriate to first look through the accounts of years gone by.

The earliest record in my possession is that of the accounts for 1990 and I feel that by giving some of the figures for earlier years Members will get a feel for what we have achieved since then.

At that time we had fourteen Member Organisations and fifteen Associated Bodies.

Our income in 1990 was £3279 sterling, our expenditure £2468 – result for the year a surplus of £811. The following year we had a deficit of £753 on the income and expenditure account.

In the Capital Account/Development Fund we had £4295.

Compare that with our position now.

We have twenty-eight Member Organisations and thirty nine Associates.

Our income in 1999 was £11051 sterling, and our expenditure £9508, resulting in a surplus of £1501. We also met our medium term strategy by putting £2000 into the Development Fund.

Our total cash assets now amount to about £27000, a huge leap forward since 1990.

Whilst it is only natural for a Treasurer to resist spending money, if it is not used then, in an organisation such as ours, there is little point in collecting it.

The Finance and Administration Group, at one of its meetings, agreed a figure below which it would not be prudent to let our reserves fall. In effect it would allow us to function for two years assuming a total loss of income.

An indication of our financial confidence and maturity is the setting up of our own web-site. This is projected to cost £2000 a year to run and we are on the lookout for contributors to it in both financial and editorial terms.

We now have our own magazine, which is also totally financed by the Federation.

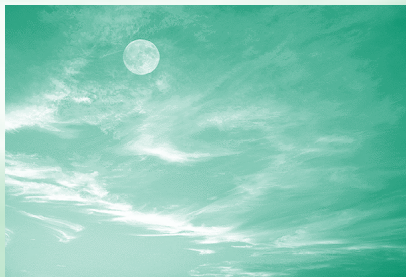
Graham Slee

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(for the year ended 31 December 1999)

	Note	1999	1998
Income		£	£
Subscriptions and donations		8,980	7,127
Sundry income		1,346	1,570
Interest receivable		725	1,087
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
		11,051	9,784
Expenditure			
Administrative expenses	6	(7,508)	(6,093)
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
Surplus before taxation		3,543	3,691
Taxation	7	(42)	(417)
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
Surplus after taxation		3,501	3,274
Transfer to Development Fund		(2,000)	(1,500)
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
Surplus for the Financial Year		1,501	1,774
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Graham Slee
Treasurer



REPORT BY HONORARY SECRETARY

As usual my role in the preparation of this document is to ensure the mention of matters dealt with by the Federation, which are not covered by other contributors but I also have to ensure that repetition is kept to a minimum. Because of the very comprehensive reports for the current year from other officers, my job has been made much more stress-free this year.

It is always pleasing to report an increase in membership and during 1999 the Federation grew by the admission of two further national associations – Austria & France – to full membership. The ranks of associates increased by the admission of Technikon North Gauteng from South Africa, Griffith University for Australia, the University of the West of England and the Greater London Centre of the CIEH.

At the end of the year an application was outstanding from College van Keurmeesters from Netherlands and this body will be elected with effect from 1 January 2000. Signs are encouraging that further applications will be forthcoming and application forms have been supplied during the year to Belgium, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Liberia.

It is not so pleasing to note that Vaal Triangle Technikon from South Africa resigned from associate membership, as did the Russian American Center from Philadelphia – the latter having dissolved.

An application for full membership was received during the year from Albania, the application was approved and an offer made but the organisation has not responded to the offer.

Reference is made elsewhere in this document to the London '99 conference and there is reproduced on the inside back page the Policy Statement Number 7, which emanated from IFEH during the course of that event.

I can report that the educational role of IFEH continues to develop and in addition to the work reported on by John Stirling it is worthy of note that during 1999 a consignment of text books was sent to Zimbabwe to assist students on the environmental health course there. There was also progress made in the appeal to assist the development of the course in Tanzania, thanks to colleagues in Northern Ireland. At the end of the year consideration is still being given to whether or not IFEH should become involved in the accreditation of courses and in the endorsement of training certificates. Watch this space!!

A very successful, co-operative venture was arranged by the University of Ulster and the Federation in mid-1999, when a conference for researchers in various aspects of environmental health was organised. Although entries were restricted to researchers based in Europe it is hoped that the scope can be widened and another similar event organised in the future.

Attendance at Council meetings usually varies, depending on the location but the two meetings held during 1999 were remarkably similar in that 22 persons were at the Hong Kong event and 20 at that in Bonn. Perfect attendance for the year was achieved by Vic Andrich, Walter Balensiefer, Jerry Chaka, Ray Ellard, Steen Fogde, Hans Hohenleitner, Bryn Jones and Kia Regner!!

In conclusion I would express my thanks to all colleagues in all corners of the world who respond to my requests and assure them that their help is very much appreciated. I would give particular thanks to the Tidy Britain Group for their support of the Federation in the field of Information Technology.



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Arizona Environmental Health Association – USA

California Environmental Health Association – USA

EHOverseas – UK

Gibraltar Association of Environmental Health Officers – Gibraltar

Greater London Centre, CIEH – UK

Minnesota Environmental Health Association – USA

Peruvian Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineers – Peru

The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health – Glasgow, Scotland, UK

The Tidy Britain Group – Wigan, UK

Underwriters Laboratories Inc – USA

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS 1999

- AUSTRIA** – Verband Der Osterreichischen Lebensmittelkontrollore
- AUSTRALIA** – The Australian Institute of Environmental Health
- BOTSWANA** – The Botswana Environmental Health Officers Association
- CANADA** – The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
- CYPRUS** – The Association of Public Health Inspectors
- DENMARK** – Foreningen Af Miljomedarbejde I Kommunerne
- ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN**
- IRELAND** – Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
- FINLAND** – The Finnish Communal Association of Environmental Health & Protection
- FRANCE** – Association Nationale des Ingenieurs du Genie Sanitaire
- GERMANY** – Bundesverband der Lebensmittel Kontrolleure
- GREECE** – The Association of Public Health Inspectors
- HONG KONG** – The Hong Kong Public Health Inspectors Association
- INDONESIA** – The Indonesian Association of Environmental Health
- IRELAND** – The Environmental Health Officers Association
- KENYA** – The Association of Public Health Officers
- LATVIA** – The Latvian Association of Preventive Medicine Functioners
- MALAYSIA** – The Malaysian Association of Environmental Health
- MALAWI** – The Environmental Health Officers Association of Malawi
- MAURITIUS** – Health Inspectors Cadre
- NEW ZEALAND** – The New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health Inc.
- NORWAY** – Forum for Miljo og Helse
- SCOTLAND** – The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
- SINGAPORE** – The Society of Environmental Health
- SOUTH AFRICA** – The South African Institute for Environmental Health Officers
- SWEDEN** – Miljo-och halsoskyddstjanstemannaforbundet
- TANZANIA** – The Tanzanian Association of Health Inspectors
- USA** – The National Association of Environmental Health
- ZIMBABWE** – The Zimbabwe Association of Environmental Health Practitioners

HONORARY EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICER & MAGAZINE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

MAGAZINE

The resurrection of the IFEH magazine entitled "Environment and Health International" has proved successful with the publication of two editions in its first publication year. Building on the success of the first edition the second edition showed a 33% increase in content coupled with an increase in circulation.

The original team of Richard Sprenger, Ken Stewart and myself, were joined by Robert Bradbury, Canada, with Mike Halls acting "ex officio". I am indebted for their assistance and support.

EDUCATION

The work of the Honorary Education Liaison Officer is less onerous than that of Magazine Co-ordinator but equally rewarding. The IFEH received two enquiries in 1999 from Further Education establishments seeking accreditation from the IFEH for their training courses for environmental health professionals.

The IFEH does not have an established procedure for such accreditation and accordingly contact on behalf of the Council was made with the International Faculty Forum. This was most rewarding as the IFEH had already agreed to have closer liaison with the Forum and this proved an ideal catalyst. Denise Rennie of the Faculty Forum has been most generous of her time and ability resulting in a report being submitted to the next IFEH Council Meeting outlining the way ahead.

John R Stirling



ACADEMIC ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- British Columbia Institute of Technology – Canada
- Cape Technikon – Cape Town, South Africa
- Curtin University of Technology – Perth, Western Australia, Australia
- Dublin Institute of Technology – Ireland
- University of Edinburgh – Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
- Flinders University – Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
- Hong Kong Technical College – Hong Kong
- King’s College, University of London – London, UK
- Leeds Metropolitan University – Leeds, UK
- Loma Linda University – California, USA
- Manchester Metropolitan University – Manchester, UK
- The City College, Norwich, UK
- Ngee Ann Polytechnic – Singapore
- Peninsula Technikon – Belleville, South Africa
- Queensland University of Technology – Brisbane, Australia
- Ryerson Polytechnic University – Toronto, Canada
- University of Salford – Salford, UK
- University of Strathclyde – Glasgow, Scotland, UK
- Stevenson College – Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
- M.L. Sultan Technikon – Durban, South Africa
- Technikon Natal – Durban, South Africa
- Technikon Pretoria – Pretoria, South Africa
- Technikon North Gauteng – Pretoria, South Africa
- University of Ulster – Jordanstown, Northern Ireland, UK
- Umea University – Umea, Sweden
- West Lothian College – Bathgate, Scotland, UK
- University of Wales Cardiff Institute – Cardiff, UK
- University of the West of England – Bristol UK