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President Elect – Jerry Chaka
Honorary Secretary – Michael Halls, FREHIS FRSH MI NSTWM
Honorary Treasurer – Stephen Cooper
Honorary Editor – John R. Stirling, MSc FREHIS MCI EH
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Webmasters – Henning I. Hansen & Jan Jørgensen
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ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT

While the years in which World Congresses are held are important ones for the Federation, the years in between Congresses are also busy and significant, as was 2003. Membership in the Federation grew by the addition of two new full members, bringing the number of national associations involved in IFEH to 36. The new members are: Liberian Association of Public Health Inspectors and the Public Health Inspectors Association of Uganda. Joining as an academic associate member was the University of Groningen (Netherlands). The continuing growth of the Federation is especially notable in the African continent, which now has 10 national associations in IFEH membership.

The Council met in Paisley, Scotland in May, where the Renfrewshire Council and the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland hosted the members. The Board of Directors held two meetings during the year; the first in Durban, South Africa, an occasion that was also used to review the planning for the 2004 World Congress; and the second in Belfast, Northern Ireland. In between meetings, the Board communicated extensively via electronic means to conduct the day-to-day business of the Federation. In terms of the organization of IFEH, Stephen Cooper became Honorary Treasurer of the Federation, replacing Bryn Jones, who had held the position for two years. Mike Halls continued in his role as Honorary Secretary and saw to the accomplishment of the majority of the Federation’s routine business in his usual stellar fashion.

For the first time, an open nomination and election process was held for the position of incoming President Elect. Colm Smyth of the Environmental Health Officers Association of Ireland was elected to assume the President Elect post during the 2004 World Congress in Durban.

Additionally, the Council agreed to change the name of the Sustaining Subscribers scheme to Individual Associate Member, and launched an effort to attract more individuals into the program. Environment & Health International, the Federation’s magazine, was issued twice in 2003, thanks largely to the dedication of its editor, John Stirling.

The Federation was represented in several venues during the year. The German association (Bundesverband der Lebensmittel Kontrolleure) took the lead role of speaking for the IFEH to the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Henning Hansen, one of the Federation’s Webmasters and the principal officer involved in the Federation’s Sustainability Indicators project, made a presentation on the project at the International Conference on Sustainability Indicators in Vilnius, Lithuania.

A continuing goal of the Federation is to obtain a stable source of funding, other than from members’ dues, which would enable the hiring of permanent staff to represent the views of the IFEH at important meetings and conferences, as well as to see to routine functions and activities. With this goal in mind, a second application for funding was submitted to the European Commission, using the experience of the Federation’s unsuccessful 2002 application to prepare the new one. This application was also denied. However, the Council is determined to continue the effort and agreed to allow the Europe Regional Group to form a separate legal entity (with strong and unbreakable ties to the IFEH) to submit a third application.

The year 2003 ended with the Federation looking forward to its first World Congress to be held in Africa, the 8th World Congress on Environmental Health in Durban, South Africa, during February 2004.

Diane Evans, President

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Kenneth Collins, MSc (1987) – Nominated by REHIS
Roy Emerson, FCIEH FRSH FCIH (1988) – Nominated by CIEH
Michael Halls, FREHIS FRSH MiinstWM (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 Ab Bakar bin Abdul Rahman, AMN FRSH (1996) – Nominated by the Past Presidents
Kia Regner (2000) – Nominated by the Council
Ronald G. Spratt, OAM JP FAIEH (1991) – Nominated by the AIEH
Lars Olsen (2002) – Nominated by the Council

REPORT BY EUROPE GROUP

Meetings
During 2003, the Europe Group met three times: in Amsterdam, Holland, in Renfrewshire, Scotland and in Vilnius, Lithuania. Learning from each other is an important benefit of IFEH membership. On each occasion, the host delegation made a presentation on environmental health in their country.

The European Federation of Environmental Health
For the Europe Group to progress, it was decided that there was a need for paid professional staffing and office facilities to be available. With this in mind, the group agreed to establish itself as a legal entity in Europe. It will be called the “European Federation of Environmental Health”.

The European Federation of Environmental Health (EFEH) however will maintain the closest relationship with IFEH. It will be IFEH that decides membership of the EFEH. Like many other non-governmental organisations in Europe, EFEH will seek financial support for its projects from European Union programmes.
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Diane Evans, President
Professional Exchange
The aim of this project is to build bridges between Environmental Health professionals and educational structures, in particular to facilitate mobility in Europe in the field of environmental health and to share a common educational background. It has been agreed to provide a section on the IFEH website which will provide contact details for persons seeking a period of professional exchange in other countries.

European Environment and Health Committee.
The EEHC is a coalition of countries and organizations in the WHO European Region, which brings together representatives from health ministries, environment ministries, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations. Its role is to provide a forum for the discussion of environment and health policy, and it also serves as the steering committee for a series of ministerial conferences on environment and health, the next one of which is to be held in Budapest in June 2004. Kia Regner represents the IFEH on the European Environment and Health Committee.

Working Groups:
The Sustainability Indicators Project continues its success. A second call for action was prepared. A promotional leaflet will be distributed at the World Congress in 2004 and is available from the website. Henning Hansen presented the project at a UN sponsored conference in Vilnius on 10th October 2003. In Food Safety, BVLK (Germany) leads the project and peruses the agenda and papers submitted to the Codex Allimentarius Committee meetings on Food Hygiene (CCFH) and Food Import & Export Inspection & Certification Systems (CCFICS). Hans Höhenleitner has now passed on his role in this process to Kati Gruenwald (BVLK) and Gary Coleman from Underwriters Laboratories also represents the IFEH in person.

Translation of IFEH Web Pages
The text relating to the Sustainability Indicators Project is now available in German. Policy Papers numbered 1 to 4 and the tri-fold publicity brochure have been translated into French.

Conference
On 10th October the Lithuanian Public Health Association held a conference in Kaunas, Lithuania. A number of IFEH delegates participated in the conference and Gerry McDermott presented a paper.

Officers
For 2003, Ray Ellard and Gerry McDermott from the Environmental Health Officers Association of Ireland acted as Secretary and Chairman respectively, of the Europe Group.

Gerard McDermott, Chairman

REPORT BY THE AMERICAS GROUP
For the year 2003 membership of the Group remained at three full Members (the national associations covering Canada, Jamaica, and the USA) and a similar number of Academic Associate Members (two in Canada and one in the USA). The Group was represented at the Annual General Meeting and Council Meeting in Paisley, Scotland in May. A position paper entitled “West Nile Disease a Global Threat” was submitted by the Region for debate at the 2004 World Congress in South Africa. There was a change in the leadership of the Group with Don Lewis of the Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors (JAPHI) assuming the Chairmanship in September 2003.

Don Lewis, Regional Chairman

REPORT BY HONORARY TREASURER
I am pleased to present to you my first report as Honorary Treasurer. The accounts for 2003 have been audited and I can report that the Federation’s finances are in a reasonable state. The large items of expenditure reported to you last year have been met, which has resulted in a lowered surplus for 2003. We continue to monitor expenditure closely and we are encouraging the increasing use of electronic communication in the hope that it will assist in minimising some administrative expenses.

With regard to income, a drive in the latter part of 2003 has resulted in a significant amount of the membership arrears being paid but many members are still slow in paying their subscriptions. Subscriptions make up the bulk of the Federation’s income and members are urged to ensure payment at the earliest opportunity. At the time of writing reminder invoices are going out to over 50% of the total membership.

Expenditure is rising all the time whereas subscription rates have remained fairly static. The Board of Directors will be considering, early next year, proposals for increases in subscription rates, which, although relatively small, will nevertheless provide support for the administration of the organisation. I hope that members will respond positively.

The Federation continues to explore ways of raising financial support from external organisations and whilst we have had little success so far, we remain optimistic. An office location with support staff would be our hope and such support would assist the work of the organisation greatly. It would enable a raising of our profile and influence, and full time staff would be able to devote their efforts to the Federation, lifting some of the burden from the dedicated volunteers.

I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Bryn Jones. I have known Bryn for some years now and his commitment to the position of Treasurer was evident in the ease with which we achieved the transfer of responsibilities. Thanks Bryn.

With that, I look forward to 2004 in the hope that the Federation will move from strength to strength and continue to make its influence felt in global environmental health.

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The year 2003 will be the last full year in which Diane Evans (President until February 2004) plays a leading role in IFEH. As Honorary Secretary, I probably had more dealings with Diane than anyone else and she was always available to give good advice, sound guidance and eminently sage comments when called upon to do so. Diane and I have known and worked with each other for 18 years and her enthusiasm for the Federation and its objectives have never wavered in all that time. Well done, thou good and faithful servant!

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For some time the Council has been searching for ways to involve Associate Members more in the work of the Federation so that they have a better sense of ownership. Last year we set up a small working group to come up with ideas as to how we could achieve this wish but pressure of work has prevented the conclusion of the exercise. We hope to have something “to get our teeth into” early in 2004.

IFEH hopes to attract more interest and support from individuals by a change in what used to be the Sustaining Subscribers Scheme. Persons supporting us in this way are now entitled to call themselves Individual Associate Members and at present there are 30 enthusiasts in that group. We hope for more to come in and will be mounting a recruitment campaign early next year. Any one reading this and who is not already subscribing should get in touch with me and I will set the ball rolling to get you in.

IFEH is also investigating producing a Mission Statement and an Environment Policy and is also keen to bring forward more policies or position papers on matters affecting global environmental health. By the time of the 2004 World Congress in Durban, work to produce these statements should be nearing completion.

One of the Federation’s most successful undertakings is the concept of twinning and we hope that there will be increased activity in this matter over the next few years. The benefits of twinning are there for all to see; the facility to learn from others; the chance

The next World Congress on Environmental Health (the ninth) will be held in Trinity College, University of Dublin, Ireland, from 19th to 22nd June 2006.

Further details can be obtained from the host organisation – the Environmental Health Officers Association of Ireland – see www.ehoa.ie

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During the year under review the Federation was advised that the potential publisher of the proposed Annual Review no longer intended to proceed with the proposal, due to the global downturn in the advertising market. Given the Federation’s commitment to, and its development of, the project we did receive cash compensation from the company.

Our commitment to publish two editions of the magazine "Environment and Health International" (E&HI) each year was met, with Volume 5, Numbers 1 and 2 being published during 2003.

A logical but tremendously exciting development occurred this year with the publication of the Magazine on the Federation’s website, www.ifeh.org. The Federation is indebted to our webmasters, Henning Hansen and Jan Jorgensen, for ensuring the success of this project. I add my personal thanks for their assistance and advice they gave to me, thus ensuring that everything was supplied in the correct format.

The Magazine, now in its 6th year of continued publication, has developed into the principal means of communication with the membership. If it is to fulfil its true potential I will continue to require contributions to the high standards already set, from the very members it serves. I take this opportunity of thanking all the contributors who have ensured that E&HI presents the widely diversified field within which Environmental Health Practitioners work. If I can be allowed to single out one contributor, it has to be the President, who was always first with her contribution and provided much support.

The bibliography section continues to grow, and I have dealt with many enquiries throughout the year concerning articles displayed. It is, of course, founded on the excellent magazines published by some of our Member organisations.

Standard references for “Environment and Health International” are ISSN 1683-3805 and ISSN 1726-9210 (on the web)

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to help others; the opportunity to visit another country or even to work abroad. The cutting edge organisation in this sphere is undoubtedly the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, which has a number of geographical centres, which are twinned with IFEH member organisations, predominantly in Africa. Other member organisations are also active in this field but more could be done to try to assist in the achievement of one of IFEH’s basic goals – the exchange of expertise and knowledge.

On the regional front, all but one of the 4 Regional Groups have contributed to this report, the exception being the Africa Group, which has very real problems in meeting due to the relative poverty of the associations in membership and the vast distances that have to be travelled. The Board of Directors is looking into ways that financial and other support can be made available to members in Africa and it is hoped that the occasion of the Eighth World Congress on Environmental Health being held in South Africa in 2004 will have the effect of kick-starting the Group.

On the subject of World Congresses, it is anticipated that at least one bid to hold the Congress in 2010 will be submitted to the Council early in 2004.

I have decided that, by the time of the Ninth World Congress taking place in 2006 in Dublin, I will have been Honorary Secretary for 8 years, all of which I have enjoyed immensely. However, all good things have to come to an end and I have informed the Board of Directors that it should endeavour to appoint a successor to me to take over after Dublin 2006. More on this topic next year!

Michael Halls

IFEH acknowledges the support given by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health towards the production of this report and its assistance in other areas of our operations.

John Stirling, Honorary Editor
REPORT BY THE PACIFIC RIM GROUP

The year 2003 was a period of consolidation for the Pacific Rim Group but for one member organisation, the Australian Institute of Environmental Health (AIEH), it was the start of what could prove to be a busy period. The Institute’s Board of Directors and the Committee, which is organising the IFEH 2008 World Congress, met together for the first time to start preparations for that event which is to be held in Brisbane.

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At the end of the year a project is well underway to include a Pacific Rim page on the Federation’s web site – www.ifeh.org

Peter Davey, Chairman

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS 2003

AMERICAS REGION

USA
California Environmental Health Association, USA
Minnesota Environmental Health Association, USA
Underwriters Laboratories Inc, USA

EUROPE REGION

England, Wales & Northern Ireland
EHOverseas, England, UK
Greater London Centre – CIEH, England, UK
Water for Kids, England, UK

Scotland
Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health, Scotland, UK

AFRICAN REGION

Malawi
University of Malawi – The Polytechnic

South Africa
Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa
Durban Institute of Technology, South Africa
Technikon North Gauteng, South Africa
Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa

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University of the West of England, Bristol, England, UK
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University of Wales Cardiff Institute, Wales, UK

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Groningen University, Groningen, Netherlands

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University of Strathclyde, Scotland, UK

Sweden
Umea University, Sweden

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Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia
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AFRICAN REGION

Malawi: University of Malawi – The Polytechnic
South Africa
(at the end of 2003 it seems as if some Technikons will be the subject of mergers)
- Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa
- Durban Institute of Technology, South Africa
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- Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa

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