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NEWSLETTER

International Federation of Environmental Health

March 2017

Briefing from Peter Archer, IFEH President

Update March 2017

Hello IFEH Colleagues– there is so much going on in IFEH and there will be many items of news in this latest Newsletter which is edited by Jesper Christensen from EnviNa in Denmark.

At the end of January in my role of IFEH President, I had the privilege of attending the 20th Anniversary Conference of the South African Institute of Environmental Health (SAIEH) in Cape Town.

On the morning of the opening of the conference there were more than 200 delegates in their seats from South Africa's 52 municipalities, central government, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the private sector. Most delegates were EHPs or local politicians. I was enormously impressed by the organisation of the conference which was all done by the volunteer EHP team under the leadership of IFEH President Elect and SAIEH President Selva Mudaly. The conference hall was comfortable with many excellent refreshment breaks; on the last day there was some additional excitement a delegate's Galaxy phone burst into flame, thankfully the sprinklers were not activated! The conference was heavily sponsored by SALGA and there was a small exhibition. The City of Cape Town played a big part in helping with the logistics and providing staff.

Our Honorary Secretary, Rod House, has recently sent out a reminder about this year's Roy Emerson Award for undergraduate EHP students. Full details are available on the IFEH website www.ifeh.org and I would encourage all eligible students to enter the competition. The prize for the winner includes an all expenses paid trip to the World Academic Conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica in October 2017! Applications from eligible undergraduates must be with our Hon. Secretary, Rod House, no later than 30th April 2017; late submissions will not be considered. Two years ago the winner was from Western Scotland and was rewarded with a trip to Coimbra in Portugal.

This brings me to the next major event, the 2nd World Academic Conference, 'One Health; One Global Environment' in Montego Bay this coming October. This conference is being organised by the Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors in collaboration with the IFEH and support from NEHA. Full details of the conference are on the IFEH website or by going to <http://www.onehealthconference.com/>. The deadline for 'the call for abstracts' has been extended to 3rd April 2017; so please get submitting! The venue is the Hilton Rose Hall Resort and Spa, Montego Bay and the organisers have arranged terms on a fully inclusive basis.

The theme for 2017 World Environmental Health Day on 26th September is to be 'indoor and outdoor air quality'. This is a global issue and the theme is designed for member organisations to choose issues which are key to their region. In the UK, the latest estimates indicate that each year 40,000 people die prematurely from air pollution. Further information will be posted on the IFEH website shortly.

The next World Congress is in Auckland, New Zealand in March 2018, no more than a year away! We understand from colleagues in NZ that arrangements are well advanced and further information will be available at www.ifeh.org shortly.



Alderman JP Smith – Mayoral Committee
Dr. Andile A Zimba, Manager Health, Northern subdistrict City of Cape Town & Peter Archer, IFEH President – 31st January 2017

Update from the National Conference on Environmental Health in South Africa January 2017

Dr. Selva Mudaly
President Elect and Chair,
IFEH Region of the Africa



The South African Institute of Environmental Health held its 20th Anniversary National Conference on Environmental Health, its Awards Banquet and the Municipal Health Services Summit (Environmental Health) on the 30/31 January and the 1 February 2017 at the Lord Charles Hotel and Conference Centre in Somerset West, Cape Town, South Africa.

The Conference was attended by 220 delegates from Municipalities, Central Government, Provincial Government, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), business, industry and Politicians. There were 40 presentations in this tightly packed programme, including a very exciting "Open Forum", which drew a lot of discussion and debate. The IFEH President was part of this forum and presented on an international perspective, issues around Environmental Health.

The presentations were of a very high standard and it is worth mentioning that delegates were committed and remained even though some of the sessions ran past 18h00, very few delegates left early.

The SAIEH had carried out an audit of MHS (Environmental Health) for the country in all the Municipalities and this was presented on the 3rd day at the MHS Summit by the President of the SAIEH.

There were 12 exhibition stands and this also drew a lot of interest from the delegates.

The Minister of Health for the Western Cape delivered the keynote address, the delegates were welcomed by the City of Cape Town, the IFEH President delivered his message of support and there was also a message from Academia. At the end of the Conference a set of resolutions were drafted and when it is finalized, it will be forwarded to all the Municipalities and the National Department of Health of the Republic of South Africa.

The Conference was partly sponsored by the City of Cape Town and the South African Local Government Association.

I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the SAIEH to the IFEH for agreeing to send the IFEH President, Mr. Peter Archer to our Conference as this did add value and support to our members.



New Chairman for the Asia Pacific Regional Group

Stephen Bell
Chairman
Asia Pacific Regional Group
International Federation of
Environmental Health



Immediate Past President
[New Zealand Institute of
Environmental Health](#)

Response Manager
Operations Branch
[Ministry for Primary Industries](#)
Wellington New Zealand

Stephen has over 40 years' experience in environmental health. He has been a member of the New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health for that whole time, holding many positions, including that of National President from 2011-2016.

Qualified in the 1970's he worked across the full range of Environmental Health functions. By the end of the 1980's he had progressed to the position of Principal Health Protection Officer, Workforce Development; New Zealand Ministry of Health. This was followed by eighteen years teaching Environmental Health at Wellington Polytechnic and Massey University in NZ and Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK.

On his return to New Zealand in late 2006 he was employed by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) that became part of the Ministry for Primary Industries, where he currently works.

As President of NZIEH he updated their website and constitution and progressed their relationship with both Environmental Health Australia and the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH).

The International Federation of Environmental Health awarded the International Congress to New Zealand and it will be held here in March 2018. This Congress is a must for every Environmental Health Professional to attend as it's unlikely to be in New Zealand again for many years, so please visit our congress site

<http://www.nzieh.org.nz/2018-ifeh-congress/> for more information and start planning your trip.



Stephen was also instrumental in obtaining and running the very successful IFEH/US-CDC Course Environmental Health in Disaster and Humanitarian Settings in Christchurch in 2014 and in Wellington in July 2016 and is working towards offering the course to our Asia Pacific neighbours.

As an active member Stephen has represented IFEH at the Dubai International Food Safety Conference in 2016 and has attended a number of IFEH Congress' including Brighton, UK; Durban, South Africa; Vilnius, Lithuania; Las Vegas, USA and Coimbra, Portugal.

Passionate about Environmental Health he intends, that as Chairman of the Asia Pacific Regional Group, to encourage the growth of professional linkages between member associations in the area. Despite different languages, different countries and different cultures the problems we all face as Environmental Health professionals are surprisingly familiar – so we should all work together for better solutions and the IFEH is a great way to do that.

New Chairman for the American Regional Group

Henroy P. Scarlett, DrPH,
MPH, BHSc (Hons),
REHS/RS



Chair, IFEH Region of the
Americas

I feel very honoured to be elected by my colleagues as the Chair, IFEH Region of the Americas. I would like to acknowledge the strong leadership of the Region provided by my predecessor, Mr. Mel Knight. The Americas is comprised of over 50 countries and territories and has a population of approximately one billion. Currently, the regional grouping is served by member organizations (4), associated member organizations (5) and academic associate members (3), in four countries – USA, Canada, Jamaica and Haiti. One of the imperatives facing us is to increase membership in the region and already efforts are being made to get more members from the Caribbean. There are many environmental health challenges facing the Region including climate change, air pollution, hazardous waste management, food safety and security and vector-borne diseases. We can and should do more to sensitize governments at all levels, policy makers, health professionals/workers, academia, corporations,

professional organizations, community groups, and NGOs, about these problems and advocate for actions for solutions – education and training, policies, legislation and enforcement, financing, partnerships, and leadership.

This year is very special in the life of the Region as for the first time the Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors (JAPHI) in collaboration with the IFEH will host the IFEH World Congress and One Health Conference and Faculty Forum, October 22-26, 2017, at the all-inclusive Hilton Rose Hall Resort and Spa, Montego Bay, Jamaica. The theme of the conference is “One Health, One Global Environment”. We subscribe fully to the One Health Concept, in which the environment plays a pivotal and indispensable role. As Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, we look forward to welcoming delegates and presenters from every corner of the globe and we promise everyone attending a great experience filled with Jamaican love and hospitality. For more information, visit <http://www.onehealthconference.com>

Update from the European Regional Group

Chairman
Europe Regional Group
European Federation of
Environmental Health -
(EFEH)
Bernard Forteath



Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
REHIS

The most recent meeting of the EFEH took place in Opatija, Croatia on Saturday 5 November 2016. The meeting was hosted by the Croatian Chamber of Health Professionals (CCHP) as part of their annual conference.

The main topic for discussion at this meeting was the European Migration crisis. Two presentations were made, one from Croatia and the other from Germany. Croatia's experience was with dealing with migration on the front line and this large-scale movement of people throughout Europe presented the Croatian authorities with the need for an efficient and quick response in the provision of shelter and basic sanitation. Emergency medical screening, assessment and, where necessary, treatment was a priority to prevent disease transfer and in particular to assist children who had endured most from the situation. Sanitation measures were under the control of environmental health and the Red Cross were the only authorised providers and distributors of food.

Cultural issues became a problem particularly with regard to medical examination, recognition of authority and control of waste. The German experience was slightly different as this country was, in most cases, the final destination for migrants. There are now around 900,000 refugees having arrived in Germany presenting challenges for every level of community administration. Registrations for asylum are increasing and due to the backlog in processing and months of uncertainty, finding suitable accommodation is becoming a problem.

Other matters covered at this meeting included an update from World Environmental Health Day 2016. This allowed REHIS representatives to show the winning video submitted by Blacklands Primary School, Kilwinning.

There was also an update on the IFEH involvement in the UNISDR Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The next meeting of the European Group will take place on the 10/11 March in Tartu, Estonia.

Environmental Health awareness – A way of life - Update from the IFEH Middle East Region

Rasheed Ahmed, M.Ed., DAAS, FRSH, CPHI(C)
Coordinator - IFEH Middle East Region.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION FOR JUBAIL IN SAUDI ARABIA:

I. Introduction:

Jubail is now one of the largest industrial cities of its kind in the world. Early in the planning of the industrial city the Royal Commission ensured that industrial development proceeded with minimum environmental impact.

Equally important is the continuing "educational and promotional efforts" undertaken by the Royal Commission to ensure that industrialization with Public Health and Environmental Protection is a theme that is understood by the residents and working population of the city.

II Efforts to date:

One of the initial efforts made by the Royal Commission to provide information to residents and visitors alike regarding the city's industrial development, was the establishment of the Visitor's Center as part of the Royal Commission headquarters complex. The center provides a range of multimedia, interactive presentations regarding the planning and construction of the infrastructure necessary to support the current industrial city. Foreign dignitaries, commercial

representatives, local residents, students from schools and research scholars from local Universities have toured the center and gained insight into how development on such an immense scale can take place concurrent with environmental health protection.

In addition, the Royal Commission annually participates in World Environment Day, World Health Day, No Smoking Day and Women's Health Day through the creation of poster campaigns and activities directed at the local populace to continually maintain the visibility and importance of the environment and health in the daily lives of its citizens.

Royal Commission has participated in several United Nations sponsored exhibitions and conferences on successful industrial development coinciding with environmental protection and sustainability. Environmental Health professional at the Royal Commission are also involved in international organizations such as IFEH by seeking membership and partaking in World Congress held in Durban (2004), Dublin (2006) and in Brisbane (2008).

III. Youth awareness:

A concerted effort is always made to involve Jubail children in the Environmental Awareness exhibitions, Health and Nutrition programs. They are also encouraged to take pamphlets, stickers, and posters home. Separately, health education lectures have been delivered to the children to improve their knowledge of such issues as food sanitation, personal hygiene and water conservation.

IV. Summary:

The issue of environmental health awareness is one of coexistence. The Royal Commission for Jubail believes that industrialization and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. By employing advanced technology, proven methods and soliciting the ongoing direct involvement of the citizens of Jubail, the creation of environmentally safe and healthy living environment has become a reality for Jubail Industrial City.

In 2010 the Royal Commission Jubail Industrial City received the NSF International Food Safety Leadership Award for "System Improvement" and establishing the most successful Food Safety Program.

General information to members

The Federation works to disseminate knowledge concerning environmental health and promote co-

operation between countries and member organisations.

Sharing of information between members are important.

The IFEH website offers several options for knowledge sharing – one of the opportunities is to take part in the IFEH special interest groups. The groups covering 16 different professional fields – drinking water, food safety and security, waste, public health etc. Look at the website for more information <http://www.ifeh.org/sig/index.html>.

Social networking

Another way to share information is through the IFEH Facebook group ([facebook.com/ifeh.org](https://www.facebook.com/ifeh.org)) or LinkedIn group ([linkedin.com/company/ifeh](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ifeh)).

Twining arrangements

Exchange between members of IFEH

There is an agreement between the national associations within the IFEH, opening the possibility for members of the national associations to swap office and chair for a period of up to two or three weeks.

It is highly recommended by the IFEH Council, that members of a National Association within the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) take the chance to see how the environmental health work is carried out somewhere else in the World.

Look at the website for more information <http://www.ifeh.org/twining/index.html>.

IFEH Magazine/Journal and newsletter

Environment and Health International is the journal of the International Federation of Environmental Health. The magazine is published twice a year.

Members are invited to submit short articles or executive summary from longer articles that can be published in the Magazine.

Also small news items are welcome for both the Magazine and this newsletter.

Articles for coming issues of the magazine please send to Kathryn Young E-mail: kathy.young@dit.ie

Small news items for the newsletter please send to pro@ifeh.org.