

**The Newsletter of The International Federation of Environmental Health**

ISSUE NO 1

FUTURE EVENTS

IFEH Council Meeting: Manchester 31 March 1995

IFEH Council Meeting: Cyprus September/October 1995

National Conference of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health
30 October - 3 November 1995.

Venue: Burnswood Convention Centre, Perth, Western Australia.

Contact Adrian O'Loughlin. PO Box 26, Torrens Act 2607, Australia.

Fourth World Congress on Environmental Health 27-30 May 1996.

Venue : Aberdeen, Scotland.

Contact Michael Halls, REHIS, 3 Manor Place, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH3 7DH, UK.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Congress 11-14 September 1995.

Venue : Bournemouth International Centre.

Contact Helen Jones, CIEH, Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields, London, SE1 8DJ.

The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland 23-26 May 1995.

Venue : Aberdeen, Scotland.

Contact Michael Halls.

IFEH COUNCIL MEETING : MANCHESTER 31 MARCH 1995

I will be presenting a report on the image of the IFEH. Should the IFEH logo be changed or not? Once this has been agreed the logo should be used consistently on letterheads, stationery, business cards and display boards. If you have any views on this subject please let me know.

WHO WORLD HEALTH DAY : FRIDAY 7 APRIL 1995

Any ideas or topics to promote the above would be appreciated. I will also be pleased to include details of activities of Members organised to coincide with WHO Health Day in future editions of this Newsletter.

PAST EVENTS

Council Meeting 20/21 September 1994 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Countries Represented:-

Australia, Finland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Norway, Scotland, Singapore, Southern Africa, Sweden, USA.

First meeting to be held under the chairmanship of Kia Regner (Sweden).

Hong Kong, Southern Africa and Indonesia were unanimously admitted to membership. (An approach had also been made to Malta).

The financial position of the IFEH was satisfactory and it was agreed that subscription levels should remain the same.

The following appointments were confirmed:-

President: Haji Ungku Abu Bakar Bin Abd Rahman
Senior Vice-President/Archivist: Michael Halls
Junior Vice-President/Chairman: Kia Regner
Vice-Chairman/Secretary: Bryn Jones
Treasurer/Company Secretary: Fred Osbourne
Public Relations Officer: Richard Sprenger
Co-ordinating Officer: Eric Foskett
Editor/Librarian: Ken Stewart
Honorary Vice-Presidents: Fred O'Brien, Terence Moody, Ken Collins, Ron Spratt and Eric Foskett

It was agreed to adopt 'the Declaration of Kuala Lumpur' as IFEH Policy.

Ken Stewart agreed to progress the production of an IFEH newsletter, probably on a quarterly basis. A pilot copy will be circulated prior to the next Council Meeting so that the final format can be approved.

The future of the IFEH: Mike Halls and the Chairman tabled a report advocating centralised administration and specifying duties of officer holders. Decisions will be taken at the Council Meeting on 31 March 1995.

THE THIRD WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONGRESS
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA - 19-23 SEPTEMBER 1994

The Malaysian Association of Health Inspectors was host for the very successful Third World Environmental Health Congress. The Congress was held in the magnificent modern setting of the Putra World Trade Centre. The plenary sessions were held in the main hall which had perfect acoustics and seats 6000.

It is essential to understand that a Congress like this is much more than just listening to papers. Papers are important but the whole event weaves together many different activities.

The registration of delegates was at a reception at the Congress Centre on the evening before Congress convened. It was a warming experience to watch delegates arriving, meeting with friends from their own country and greeting friends from abroad whom they had not seen since Sidney or Brighton.

Our Malaysian friends succeeded in opening and closing Congress with an element of ceremonial, which, without being obtrusive, emphasised the importance of the whole event. The Congress was officially opened by the Minister of Health on the Tuesday, as he was unavailable on Monday, the first day of papers.

The delegates totalled about 700; 500 from Malaysia and 200 overseas delegates from 19 countries. At the opening session, the audience included delegates, partners and guests and numbered at least 1000. Sitting en bloc in the middle of the hall was a large number of Malaysian Health Inspectors resplendent in the white shirts of their uniform.

At both the opening and closing ceremonies the platform party arrived heralded by a band and that was something we had not experienced before. The opening ceremony started with the retiring President, Eric Foskett, inducting the incoming President, Haji Ungku Abu Bakar bin Abd Rahman, (then President of the Malaysian Association) as President of IFEH ... the Federation had become truly international with its first Asian President. The rest of the opening ceremony consisted of short addresses by the retiring and incoming Presidents and the Minister of Health who concluded by declaring the Congress open.

The closing event followed a similar pattern ... the band, bright lights and a large audience. A main feature was the ceremony of handing over the Federation Flag, Olympic Games style, to the Member Organisation hosting the next World Congress and so Ungku handed the flag, amidst much photography, to Mike Halls of REHIS. The flag will be carefully preserved until congress opens in Aberdeen in 1996.

There was a short speech from the President and one from the Secretary to the Cabinet (Malaysia's highest Civil Servant), who was to close the proceedings. The audience approved the Declaration of Kuala Lumpur, a policy statement noted below, proposed by the President and seconded by the immediate Past President.

These two accounts are of course, the bread in the sandwich, but what about the filling?

There were over fifty papers which the Malaysian Association has now published. The topic range was wide and the presentations were given by a number of different nationals from Canada, China, Russia, USA, Scotland, England, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Germany, Malaysia and Singapore. The topics were diverse; pollution issues from Russia and China, emergency responses from California, communicable diseases, water supply, animal health, and many more, but the major topic was food which was discussed from almost every angle. There were also technical visits.

The IFEH Council met with Kia Regner from Sweden in the chair for the first time. Twelve member countries were represented at the meeting. Admitted as new members were Hong Kong, Southern Africa and Indonesia, and this means that the Federation now includes over 33,000 environmental health professionals. The Federation held its Annual General Meeting chaired by the new President.

Before Congress started the Directory Editorial Board met : there were meetings of the Associated Bodies and International Faculty Forum, and briefing sessions for the new members.

Social functions included the Conference Dinner in the World Trade Centre and the Federation Dinner at the Services Golf Club in a building which must have been conceived in Hollywood.

The Congress concluded with the declaration of Kuala Lumpur which stated that:-

"The Federation subscribes to the concept of the generic environmental health professional as promulgated some years ago by the World Health Organisation in their publication "The EHO in an Industrialised Society", and recognises the broad spectrum of activities which compromise environmental health practice.

In addition to recognising that the environmental health team must be broadly based, the Federation is committed to the view that the principal officers in the environmental health team should be professional officers fully qualified in environmental health sciences, and whose training should enable them to exercise an overview of the whole range of environmental issues concerned with human health.

Thus the Federation believes that successful environmental control into the future depends on the adoption of an holistic approach to the subject, and recommends that all Member Organisations and Associated Bodies promotes in whatever way possible to all interested organisations (including Governments) at local, national and international level, the adoption of the approach outlined in this declaration."

Many people worked hard to achieve this success and the Malaysian Association had much external support but the major thanks must go to the organising Committee and its leaders. Well done.

Reprinted with permission from "Centre Point" the Journal of the North Western Centre of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. November 1994.

Personal News

Peter YC Ku has been appointed to be a Superintendent of Environmental Health in Hong Kong.

Mike Cook, formerly Chief Environmental Health Officer at Leicester, has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

The New Zealand Journal of Environmental Health May 1994 Vol 17 No 2.
Editor : Rodney Giddens, 348 Ngatai Road, Tauranga, New Zealand.

1. Will we see the Health Status of NZ lowered under the Building Act?
2. Air Quality Monitoring in the Gisborne District.
3. Airport Noise Management : 6805 Revisited.
4. Disasters and Environmental Health Management.
5. Hazardous Waste Disposal in the Hutt Valley.

The New Zealand Journal of Environmental Health September 1994 Vol 17 No 3

1. Electronic Mail, Internet, the Information Super Highway and Environmental Health.
2. Quality Management in the Food Industry.
3. Building Controls and Public Health Issues.

Community Health in Southern Africa February/March 1992 Vol 7 No 1.
Editor : Hylton Ryder, PO Box 2520, Pietermaritzburg 3200, South Africa.

1. Emerging Problems in Food Management - Relative to Public Health.
2. Methods of Preservation of Meat in Rural and Informal Communities of South Africa.
3. Book Review - Aids in the Workplace in Southern Africa

Enviro Health July 1994 (Environmental Health Officers Association of Southern Africa (Natal Region)).

1. Training of Occupational Hygienists in a Changing South Africa.
2. The New Health and Safety Legislation : Specific Problems Addressed.
3. Ten Ways to Kill your Association:-
 - a. Don't go to meetings
 - b. If you do go, arrive late
 - c. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of going
 - d. If you do attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the Committee Members
 - e. Never accept office, it is easier to criticise than to do things
 - f. Get mad if you are not appointed to the Committee, but if you are, don't attend meetings
 - g. If asked by the Chairman to give an opinion on some matter, tell him you have nothing to say
 - h. After the meeting tell everyone how things should have been done
 - i. Do nothing more that is absolutely necessary, but when other members use their ability to help matters along, howl that the organisation is run by a clique
 - j. Hold back your subscriptions, or don't pay at all!

California Journal of Environmental Health Summer 1994, Vol 17 No 2.
Editor : Connie Stavros, CEHA, 2211 Westchester Drive, San Jose, CA95124, California, USA.

1. A Labour Negotiation Strategy that Proved Successful for a Group of Californian Registered Environmental Health Specialists.
2. Education VS Pseudoeducation in Environmental Health Programs.
3. The Environmental Refugees and the Sleeping Bear.
4. The Real Problem Concerning Paper Mites and Cable Mites.
5. India Biogas Digester Project.
6. Benefits of Mandatory Food Service Training and Certification.
7. Manufacture of Mineral Water and Beer in Germany : Hygiene Qualifications and Requirements.
8. Prevention of Salmonella enteritidis Infections : Questions and Answers.

Environmental Health Vol 102/09 September 1994.
Editor : Linda Allen, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health,
Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields, London, SE1 8DJ.

Annual Report 1992/93 - Detailed statistics on Environmental Activities undertaken by the majority of local authorities (73%) in England and Wales during 1992/93. Information provided on Environmental Protection, Housing, Food Safety, Infectious Disease, Health and Safety and Port Health.

Environmental Health Vol 102/10 October 1994.

1. Energy through Combined Heat and Power - a viable option for air pollution control.
2. A Local Strategy for Health of the Nation - Steps to Due Diligence in Larger Food Businesses.
3. Time to Take Action on Untreated Milk.
4. A Practical Route to Sampling of Volatile Organic Compounds.

SNIPPETS OF INFORMATION

A review of NZ Food Regulatory Framework is being undertaken. (Regulations will be enabling rather than prescriptive).

Research is being undertaken in NZ to check the possibility that household dust may be a source of Salmonella/Campylobacter infection among young children.

From 1 January 1994 a total ban on PCB use in NZ came into effect.

The Institution of Environmental Health Officers (UK) has now become the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

Letters received by the Public Relations Officer from:

Adrian O'Loughlin	Australia
Henry W S Dowler	New Zealand
Martin Hall	Shetland Islands Council (Change of Address)
A G Shankster	UK
E W Kingcott	UK

I should like to thank the above for the information, advice and the suggestions for future activities of the IFEH and also for the constructive criticism, which I have taken on board.

I would very much appreciate hearing from many more of you, particularly to let me have magazines, newsletters, ideas for the role of the Public Relations Officer and what you would like to see included in future newsletters : the success of the Federation is dependent on the active support of its Members.

RICHARD A SPRENGER