



*The Newsletter of the International Federation of Environmental Health*

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

The NEHA Board of Directors has referred to its Credentialing Board the question of possible reciprocal credentials with other organisations, specifically with the UK (Chartered Institute) and Canada (Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors). The study is expected to be a long term effort by the Board.

*(Diane Evans NEHA liaison to IFEH)*

NEHA has both a Website and Internet e-mail address. Information about NEHA, upcoming events, the Annual Conference and Exhibition, publications, credentialing and certification programmes, and news items are available by accessing the NEHA home page:  
<http://www.neha.org/-beckyr>  
E-mail can be addressed to: [NEHA.org@juno.com](mailto:NEHA.org@juno.com)

NEHA administers five credentials within the environmental health profession. Each credential signifies a level of expertise and competence based on education and experience. There are different eligibility requirements for each credential. The five credentials are:

- REHS - Registered Environmental Health Specialist/  
Registered Sanitarian (RS)
- CEHT - Certified Environmental Health Technician
- RHSP - Registered Hazardous Substances  
Professional
- RHSS - Registered Hazardous Substances Specialist
- RET - Registered Environmental Technician

### IFEH Shield

The International Federation Shield will be available shortly at £30. Should any member be interested in obtaining a shield please contact the Public Relations Officer for further details.



## PAST EVENTS

### The Eurocypria Group Met On The 11th September 1997 In Bournemouth

Items discussed included:

- European Union Funding
- A Graduate/Post Graduate Research Conference
- Liaison with Eastern Europe



- Proposals for an International Environmental Health Discussion Forum on the Internet
- World Congress 1998 - Group Travel Arrangements Recruitment
- Discussions with the University of Strathclyde

### The North American Regional Group met on 2nd July 1997 in Washington DC,

in conjunction with the Annual Education Conference of the National Environmental Health Association. The Group decided on two regional projects, in accordance with the IFEH Action Programme for 1997/98 which recommended that each Regional Group develop a regional project. The first project agreed upon was to embark on a recruitment campaign for new associate members, academic associate members, and sustaining subscribers to the Federation from within the region. A membership marketing package will be developed as a preliminary effort. A second project will involve soliciting environmental health textbooks for donation to Zimbabwe in response to the appeal to Federation members for donations of books from the Zimbabwe Environmental Health Practitioners Association.

It was reported that a Far East affiliate had been formed within NF<sup>IA</sup> involving members working in the Far East. A Puerto Rican affiliate may also be forming.



## **Botswana**

Botswana's 11th conference in Environmental Health was held at The National Conference and Exhibition Centre, Gaborone in July 1997. It had been hoped that Michael Halls would be the guest of honour, but finances and other commitments conspired against this. The Keynote address was given by Dr. J. Lema of WHO.

Papers were presented on a variety of topics, reflecting the breadth and depth of interests and expertise in Botswana. 'Development of Pollution Control Mechanisms', 'Urban Environmental Quality' and 'Botswana Defence Force - Environmental Policies' are just three examples of over 25 papers, well presented and well received.

The Botswana Environmental Health Officers Association (BEHOA) held their AGM during the conference. The Officers and Committee were elected after some close voting, deemed 'fair' by two English EHO's pressed into service as election officials. Topics discussed at the AGM included, meat inspection. Student training and subscription rates. Sounds familiar!

BEHOA were proud to announce their membership of IFEH.

*Stewart Petrie FBEHOA*

## **Chartered Institute Annual Congress**

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health held its Annual Congress September 9th to 12th 1997. It was well attended and much attention was focused on the report of the independent Commission on Environmental Health funded by but independent of the CIEH. This report has far reaching recommendations which will ripple round the environmental health world.

The Congress was attended by Art Bloom, President of the National Environmental Health Association of the USA. The exhibition was good and the Federation is grateful to the CIEH for the hospitality and complimentary stands for themselves and EHOverseas which were appropriately located together.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

The next meeting of the IFEH Council will be in Launceston, Tasmania, on 19th October 1997. The Council meeting will follow an IFEH Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss several special resolutions.

### **October 1997**

Australian Institute of Environmental Health Annual Conference, Canberra. Contact AIEH, Giels Court, Deakin ACT 2600, Australia.

### **November 1997**

Joint Regional Meeting, Stockholm - Scandinavia and Euro/Cypria Groups

### **March 1998**

New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health, Annual Congress.

### **April 1998**

California Environmental Health Association Annual Education Symposium, Monterey.

### **May 1998**

Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland Annual Congress.

### **June 1998**

Fifth World Congress on Environmental Health, Stockholm, Sweden.

7th to 12th June 1998 hosts:- Swedish

Environmental Health Officers Association.

IFEH Council Meeting, Stockholm 7/6/98

IFEH Annual General Meeting 7/6/98

National Environmental Health Association [USA] Annual Conference, Las Vegas.

### **July 1998**

North Western Centre, CIEH, Annual Lancaster Symposium.

### **September 1998**

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Annual Congress.

### **October 1998**

Australian Institute of Environmental Health Annual Conference.



## CONTACT ADDRESSES

### Norway

Forum for Miljo Og Helse  
Lars Olsen, International Correspondent  
Ringerike Kommune,  
Helsestesen Post Boks 293 N-3051  
Honefoss, Norway

### Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health

Mr. G. A. Morris, Ruchill Hospital Bilsland Drive,  
Glasgow, G20 9NB, Scotland, UK

### Australia

Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia.  
Ms Jane Heyworth, Environmental Health Unit  
Flinders University GPO Box 2100  
Adelaide, South Australia 5001

### EH Overseas

Chairman - John Barrow.  
Assistant Secretary - Richard Huyers,  
6 Church Street, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5LG, UK.

### Germany

German Federal Association of Food Control Inspectors  
Contact Hans Hohenleitner, International Correspondent.  
Bismarck Strasse 49.53721, Siegburg, Germany.

### Gibraltar Association of Environmental Health Officers

Secretary Maurice Valerina MCIEH  
The Mill, 46/2 City Mill Lane, Gibraltar.  
President - Joseph L. Delgado  
Ministry for the Environment, 37 Town Range, Gibraltar.

### Minnesota Environmental Health Association

Mrs. Petrona Lee, President,  
Environmental Health Manager,  
City of Bloomington,  
2215 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington,  
MN 55431 USA

### United States of America

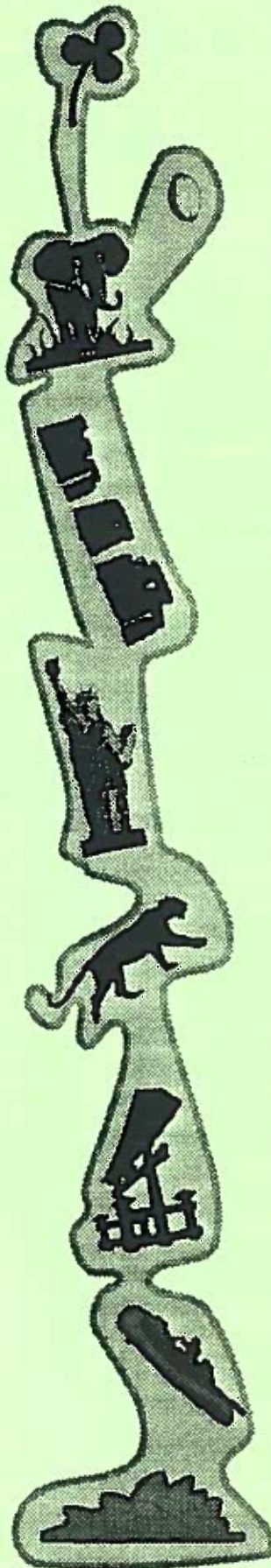
Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California.  
Donna Gurule - Assistant Professor & Co-ordinator  
David Dyjack - DrPH Chairman,  
School of Public Health,  
Department of Environmental Health  
Room 1202 Nichol Hall, University of Linda Loma

### South Africa

M.L. Sultan Technikon, Durban.  
B.G. Newberry, Senior Director or Errol Blair  
41/43 Centenary Road, Durban  
South Africa 40015194

### Vaal Triangle Technikon, Vanderbijl Park

Mrs. E.P. Ferreira, Head of Department.,  
Biological Science, Private Bag X021  
Vanderbijlpark, 1900, South Africa.



### South Africa

South African Institute for Environmental Health  
Mr. Zama Zincume, General Secretary - SAJEH  
PO Box 110443, Hadison Park 8306  
Republic of South Africa

### Hong Kong Public Health Inspector's Association

Peter Y.C.Ku, Chairman, Flat C, Fifth Floor  
Marple Court, 41 Broadcast Drive  
Kowloon, Hong Kong

### Singapore

Society of Environmental Health Officers  
Chia Chin Boey, Secretary, 961 Woodlands Road  
Singapore.

### Tanzania

Tanzanian Association of Health Inspectors  
C Mung'aho, Secretary, PO Box 5337  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe Association of Environmental  
Health Practitioners  
Abednego Chigumbu, President  
PO Box UA145, Union Avenue  
Harare, Zimbabwe

### Ireland

The Environmental Health Officers Association  
Secretary, B. McManus  
Block 3, 1st Floor Civic Offices  
Fishamble Street., Dublin, Ireland

### Indonesia

Indonesian Association of Environmental Health  
Secretary General, H. Margani Mustar M.Sc. DiplSE  
Segiti Atrium. Gd. Bunas Lt.9, Jl Sennen Raya 135,  
Jakarta 10410, Indonesia.

### Malaysia

Malaysian Association of Environmental Health  
Haji Rosnani Bin Abdul Hamid  
2nd Floor Block E Office Complex  
c/o Disease Control Division  
Ministry of Health, Jalan Dungun,  
Bukit Damansara, 50490  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### Malawi

Environmental Health Officers  
Association of Malawi,  
Afred Chirwa, General Secretary, EHOAM  
PO Box 30368, Lilongwe 3, Malawi

### New Zealand

New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health Inc.  
Kieran O'Boyle, Secretary, PO Box 2818  
Christchurch, New Zealand



## CALL FOR ARTICLES

Please let me have brief reports on serious environmental health problems or examples of excellence and innovatory solutions, for publication in future editions of the IFEH Newsletter. (The information is more important than the style.)

*Richard Sprenger - Editor*

## MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Journal of Environmental Health - NEHA (USA)  
Editor: Nelson Fabian, 720 S. Colorado Blvd, Suite 970, South Tower, Denver, CO 80222, USA.

### April 1997

1. Impact of Human Waste Disposal on Surface Water Runoff
2. Animal Bites (A Bite Out of the Budget)
3. The Internet: Legitimate Educational Tool or Giant Electronic Sandbox
4. Global Environment Outlook

### May 1997

1. Overview of the Georgia Gain and the Performance Management Process
2. An Outbreak of E. Coli 0157:H7 Involving Long Term Shedding and Person to Person Transmission in a Child Care Centre
3. Foodborne Disease Controlling the Problem
4. Co-operation Halts Meningitis Outbreak
5. Public Perception of Risk

### June 1997

1. Clustering Effects of Lone Star Ticks in Nature: Implications for Control
2. Taxpayers Attitudes Towards Local Environmental Health Specialists
3. Solid Waste Management in Guilan Province, Iran.
4. User Fees and Solid Waste Management

### July/August 1997

1. The Effects of Receiving Holy Communion on Health
2. Educator - Employer Partnerships: A Tool for Improving Environmental Health Education
3. The Use of Enterococcus and Coliform in Characterising Bathing-Beach Waters

## Environmental Health

Editor: Clare Brown, CIEH, Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields, London SE1 8DJ.

### May 1997 - Volume 105/5

1. Danish National Food Agency: A Leading Example?
2. Private Rented Sector Initiatives
3. Perception of Hazard and Risk in the Workplace

### June 1997 - Volume 105/6

1. Carbon Monoxide: How Can EHOs Stem the Tide of Poisoning
2. Safe System for Meals on Wheels
3. Perceptions of Risk
4. New Methods Stem the Tide of Waterborne Diseases
5. M & S's Commitment to Food Safety

### July 1997 - Volume 105/7

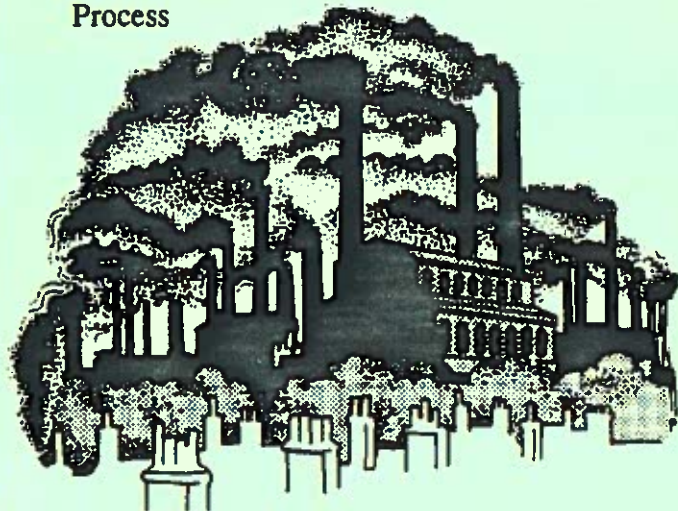
1. The Recommendations of the Commission on Environmental Health
2. A Landfill Route to Sustainable Development
3. Rat Infestations on the Increase

## Environmental Health Review - Australia

Editor: HER-A, PO Box 77, Deakin West ACT 2600

### May 1997 - Volume 26/Issue 2

1. Prevention/Mitigation. The Risks of Potential Disasters
2. Urban Animal Management, The Warringah (NSW) Experience
3. Participation in Policy Development
4. Environmental Control of Mosquito Vectors
5. Marking Contaminated Sites Report Cards
6. Environmental Management and Planning Process



**Environmental Health Scotland**

Chief Executive: John Frater, REHIS,  
3 Manor Place, Edinburgh, Scotland EH3 7DH.

**May 1997**

1. Self Reported Prevalence of Lead Exposure Risk Factors
2. Pennington Report - An Inside View
3. Peer Review
4. Nitrogen Dioxide Diffusion Tube Results
5. Project: Salud Para el Pueblo Ecuador (Health for the People)   
uyers, 6 Church Street,  
Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5LG, UK

**July 1997**

1. Public Health - A Century of Progress
2. The Options for Clinical Waste Disposal in Scotland
3. Air Quality in Edinburgh
4. REHIS Response to Food Standards Agency Report

## **E.coli 0157 Outbreak In Scotland Results in Approximately 500 Identified Cases and 20 Deaths**

The possibility of an outbreak of E. coli 0157 was identified on 22nd November 1996 when several cases of infection were reported in residents of Wishaw in the central belt of Scotland.

The premises implicated in the outbreak was a Butcher's shop involved in wholesale and retail trade involving the production and distribution of raw and cooked meats. Current criminal charges are pending.

The outbreak comprised of several separate but related incidents including a lunch, involving steak pies, a birthday party in a public house, a nursing home in Bonnybridge and retail sales of cooked meats in Lanarkshire and the Forth Valley.

The seriousness of the outbreak resulted in the Government setting up an expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Hugh Pennington. This Committee was required 'to examine the

circumstances which led to the outbreak in the central belt of Scotland and advise the Government on the implications for food safety and the general lessons to be learned'.

The Committee has made many recommendations most of which have been accepted by the Government and some already implemented.

### **Recommendations:**

The need for an education/awareness programme for farm workers, repeated and updated periodically as appropriate.

Improvements in standards of hygiene at abattoirs to avoid carcase contamination.

The implementation of HACCP should be accelerated in all food businesses and documentation and record keeping should be included. Selective licensing of 'high risk' food premises should be introduced.

All food handlers should receive, at least, basic food hygiene training and supervisors (including one person operations) should be trained to, at least, intermediate level.

Complete separation of raw and high risk foods must be achieved.

Food hygiene training should be provided in schools.

The investigation of outbreaks should be improved and written reports completed and publication considered.

Further research should be pursued. The Government has announced additional funding to improve the inspection frequency of premises at risk from E coli 0157 outbreaks and to implement some of the above recommendations.

The major issues relating to training, licensing and separation, continue to be debated.

*Richard Sprenger - Public Relations Officer*



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### New Course

Leeds Metropolitan University is offering an M.Sc course in International Environmental Health starting September 1998, subject to approval and demand. Further details from Dr. Geoff Cram, School of Applied Sciences, Leeds Metropolitan University, Cleverly Street, Leeds, LS1 3HE, England. Telephone: 44(0)113282600 extension 4991. Fax 44(0)1132833124. E-mail [g.cram@lmu.ac.uk](mailto:g.cram@lmu.ac.uk) or on the Internet at <http://www.lmu.ac.uk>

### European Working Community for Food - Inspection and Consumer Protection (EWFC)

The EWFC was founded in Metz in 1991. There are now nearly 20,000 members from Associations in Germany, Holland, UK, France, Austria and Belgium.

The aim of the EWFC is to exchange information and experience, and to harmonise the education and development in the different professions.

Further information can be obtained from: Jan Van der Laan (President), Sportterreinstr. 286, NL-9648 CB, Wildervank, Holland.

## THE DECLARATION OF WESTPORT

On the 10th May, after several years of discussion, the environmental health officers professional bodies of Northern Ireland, Norway and the Republic of Ireland committed their organisations to:

*Promote the exchange of professional experiences and expertise.*

*Compare systems of organisation and management. Foster better co-ordination in the fields of Environmental Health Information, Education, Training and Ill-health Prevention.*

*Develop an infrastructure for study tours and exchange visits on subject areas relevant to the environmental health professional.*

### Environmental Health Training Needed in Tanzania

The Northern Ireland Centre of the CIEH, which sponsors Tanzania membership of the IFEH, is assisting in the introduction of a B.Sc (Environmental Health Sciences) Degree programme at the University of Dar Es Salaam.

Funding and the lack of specialist lecturers are two problems that have to be tackled. A volunteer has been despatched to Tanzania on a fact finding mission and specific information on requirements will be available shortly.

**Contact:** John McCandless, Glenart, 12 Knocksilla Park, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland BT79 0AR.

## PERSONAL NEWS

John W. Tiffney of Mole Valley District Council, Surrey, a long time supporter of the IFEH and for a number of years one of the Federations Honorary Auditors was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday honours list.

Michael Halls, the Federation President has been elected to the Council of the Royal Society of Health. Michael, formerly Director of Environmental Services for Etrick and Lauderdale District Council in the Scottish Borders, has been actively engaged in working for the Federation since before it was formally inaugurated and has served as a Council Member, Public Relations Officer, Chairman and President.... but NOT all at the same time. He now sits on the RSH Council on of the seats reserved for environmental health professionals.

Eric Foskett an Honorary Vice President has been elected an Honorary Member of the Malaysian Society of Environmental Health.

### Thought for the Day

Action may not always bring happiness,  
but there is no happiness without action.

(Benjamin Disraeli)