



## PAST EVENTS

### MINUTES OF IFEH COUNCIL MEETING

The latest meeting of the Federation Council took place on 19 October in Launceston, Tasmania, courtesy of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health (AIEH) and particularly their Tasmanian Division.

The friendliness and hospitality of the Australian EHOs were second to none and the charms of the beautiful island of Tasmania will long live in the memories of those who were fortunate to attend the meeting - which was held in conjunction with the 24th National Conference of the AIEH and at which the Keynote Address was given by someone called Michael Halls from Scotland!

Prior to the start of the Council Meeting, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held and this approved the new 'Memorandum & Articles of Association', which replaces the original document, prepared in 1985 and which should see the IFEH through until well into the next century.

Apart from the AIEH, other Members present were the CIEB, the New Zealand Institute, the Malaysian Association and the Scottish Institute. Although the turnout was low, the meeting was lively and productive and it is clear that the IFEH is now making significant headway. Delegates were welcomed by Ron Spratt and Adele Gliddon, the President of the AIEH.

The commitment which the Chartered Institute has to the Federation was demonstrated in a very tangible form in Tasmania, when their President, Alan Johnson, presented to the Federation, a Chain of Office to be worn by the Chairman of the Council. It is fitting that the first Chairman to wear this emblem is the CIEH's own Bryn Jones

The meeting heard that there is a distinct possibility of the Federation establishing its credentials with the World Health Organisation and of even achieving the status of a recognised NGO. Such recognition would be a feather in the Federation's cap but it may take time to achieve this status, with a realistic target being sometime in 1999.



The appeal for text-books for students in Zimbabwe was well supported by EHOs in the UK and the USA and soon a consignment of these valuable aids will be sent to Harare where they will be put to very good use.

In an effort to generate funds to enable it to expand its operations, the Federation is to appeal to all Members to consider giving financial support in addition to the annual subscription; and all Members are to be asked to try to recruit more Sustaining Subscribers.

Investigations are continuing into the possibility of IFEH endorsing training certificates issued by Members (eg for Food Handlers) and it is hoped that a final decision will be taken at the next Council Meeting, which is to be held in Stockholm in conjunction with the Fifth World Congress.

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

Several initiatives are being pursued with academic establishments. For instance, the Federation is co-operating with the University of Strathclyde in projects involving (1) a Seminar for Students from outwith the UK to learn about the latest thinking in Environmental Health and this will be supported by The British Council; and (2) also with the involvement of The British Council, an exercise to assist EHOs in Malawi set up a scheme of CPD.

There are also plans at an advanced stage for the Federation to work with the University of Ulster in hosting a Seminar in 1999 at which students from all countries in Europe and in membership of IFEH would participate in a competition related to their presenting a paper on a project of their choice.

Discussions are ongoing with several interested parties with a view to holding a Seminar in Scotland in March 1998, to bring those working in Europe and, it is hoped, further afield and who are interested in HACCP 'up to speed' with the practicalities of the technique.



Those of you with access to the Internet are advised that the Federation now has a Home Page which can be accessed at [HTTP://WWW.MED.AC.UK/HEW/IFEH](http://www.med.ac.uk/hew/ifeh). There is also available, on the Internet, a Discussion Forum, which IFEH has funded and, if anyone wants to have access to this Forum, they should contact Mike Halls.

A reminder that the Fifth World Congress is to be held in Stockholm from 7-12 June 1998 and we all owe it to our colleagues in Sweden to turn out in good numbers - as they have done for the previous four World Congresses. See you there!!

### **Finance (Graham Slee)**

The budget was approved and thanks recorded to the previous Hon Treasurer, Fred Osborne.

CIEH to provide IFEH Diaries for 1999.

Members to obtain their own travel insurance for attending meetings. CIEH cover for Employees and Public Liability to be extended to IFEH.

A5 size Memorandum and Articles to be supplied to all Members and Associate Members.

Loans and grants for World Congresses would be interest free but must be repaid within six months of the end of Congress.

Capitation Fee for World Congresses £5 up to 2002 £10 for 2004.

**Conduct of IFEH Meetings** - Guidelines prepared by John McLandless accepted

**Code of Ethics** - Final report to be presented at the June Council Meeting (Kia Regner)

**Definition of Environmental Health** - to be submitted to next meeting (Vic Andrich)

**Éducation Conference 1998** - supported but responsibility of the Faculty Forum

**Tanzania Educational Activities** - initiatives commended

**Work Programme and Action Plan** to be updated (Kia Regner)

**Public Relations** - Directory to be A5 size and each member to arrange for a copy to be lodged with the National Library of Record in their Country and with the appropriate Government Department

**Proposed Year Book** - to be considered at the next meeting

**IFEH Shields** - now available - cost £30.00

**Newsletter** - CIEH to provide new design

**PR Document** - produced by Mike Halls - now available

*Caring for the Environment in the Interest of World Health*

**IFEH Journal** - report to next Council Meeting  
(John Stirling/Ken Stewart)

**International Labour Organisation** - report to next Council Meeting on advantages of association  
(Eric Foskett)

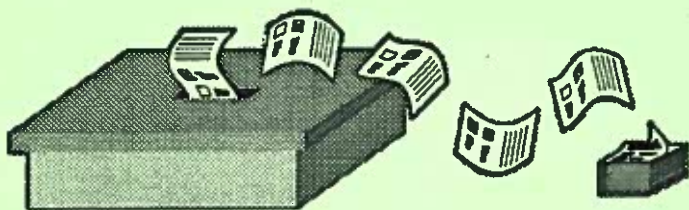
**International Faculty Forum** - difficulties in maintaining communication - Mike Halls to contact Ron Pickett

**Code of Conduct for Public Water Services** - Chapter 1 supported and will be circulated to all Member Organisations (Kea Regner)

**Future Meetings of the Council:**

June 1988	-	Stockholm,
March 1999	-	Hong Kong
June 2000	-	Oslo

**Postal Ballot** - 15 Members voted in favour of IFEH Officers receiving expenses, 1 opposed.



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

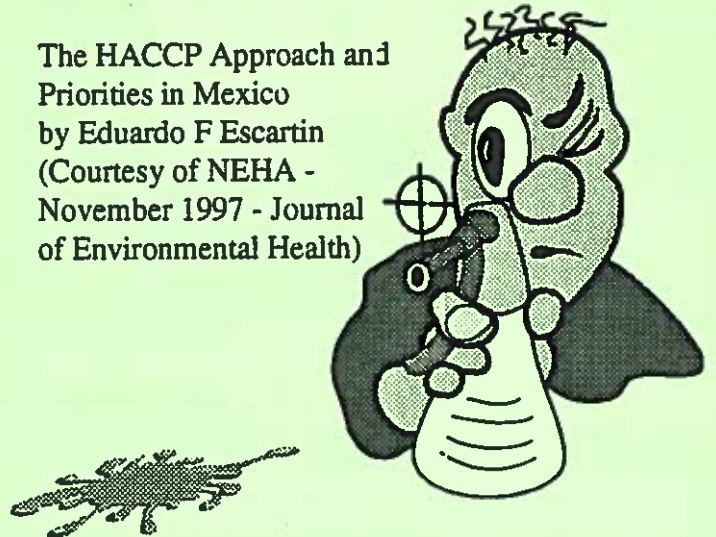
The National Environmental Health Association celebrated the 60th Anniversary of its founding during 1997. NEHA began its life as the National Association of Sanitarians in California in 1937, and moved its headquarters to the city of Denver, Colorado in 1957.

NEHA's Web Site (<http://www.neha.org/~beckyr>) receives over 100 visitors each month who are looking for information on environmental health, as well as about NEHA. Members can link into the site for \$50/year; a link for non-members is \$100/year;

governmental agencies and non-profit associations can link for free. Perhaps when IFEH has its Web Site established, a link can be created between the two organisations' sites.

## Identification and Prevention of Microbial Risks in Foods

The HACCP Approach and Priorities in Mexico  
by Eduardo F Escartin  
(Courtesy of NEHA - November 1997 - Journal of Environmental Health)



### Abstract

Although significant advances in food safety have been made in some countries, inadequate practices and inadequate surveillance systems persist in many developing countries. Personal observations indicate that the sanitary quality of most of the foods produced and consumed in Mexico is deficient. Crucial to an understanding of this problem is the participation of different sectors of the community, including regulatory agencies, the food trade and food industry, consumers, and technological institutes and universities. A very important factor in Mexico is the scarcity of experts in microbial food safety. Such experts are indispensable to the application of modern systems such as the Hazard-Analysis Critical Control Point system, whose primary objective is to prevent foodborne diseases at every step in the food process from initial production to food consumption. Thus, universities and technological institutes have a primary responsibility to deal with the problem. Some universities, such as Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro, Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, and Universidad de Guadalajara are implementing post-graduate studies in food safety as a first step toward alleviating the problem.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **SEMINARS/CONFERENCES**



#### **NEHA Annual Education Conference and Exhibition**

28 June - 1 July 1998

Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada

(Register via NEHA's fax-on-demand service. Dial (303)756-9090 and select option #5)

#### **Australian Institute of Environmental Health (AIEH) 1998 Annual National Conference**

25-30 October 1998

Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast, Queensland

Enquiries to: Ms Anne Outram (AIEH)

PO Box 2222

Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006

Tel: +61+7+3854 1113

Fax: +61+7+3252 9084

Email: aiehqld@lgaq.asn.au

#### **Food Safety and Consumer Protection in Europe**

Paris - 13 March 1998 (Tri-lingual - German, English and French)

Contact: Angus Lowden (Food Inspection)  
6 Roundyhill, Monifieth, Dundee,  
DD5 4RY, United Kingdom

#### **Environmental Health: Science, Policy and Practice - 21-27 March 1999**

British Council International Seminary to be held in Glasgow

Contact: Information Manager,  
International Seminars  
The British Council, 1 Beaumont Place,  
Oxford OX1 PJ

Tel: +44(0)1865 316636

Fax: +44(0)1865 557368/516590

Email: International.Seminars@britcoun.org

## **ERASMUS**

In revising the Federation Directory it has been clear that increasingly the academic institutions which are responsible for training environmental health professionals are looking to increase their contacts with overseas colleagues and to develop their courses to make them attractive to overseas students either as 'whole course' students or those who can spend only a short time abroad.

As a major element in the Federation ethic is the exchange of information and technologies nothing could be more helpful to an academic course than the injection of ideas from a different background. This at least would help counter insularity. The European Union recognises this as a basic educational principle in such schemes as 'Erasmus' where in applicable courses the student spends part of the course in a University in a different country.

*Eric Foksett*

## **NEW MEMBERS**



The Association of Public Health  
Inspectors of Greece,  
Mr N Kioulas,  
Association of Public Health Inspectors,  
Gladstonos 10, Athens 10677, Greece

City College, Norwich  
Dr Michael Howard, Course Leader  
B Sc Environmental Health  
Ipswich Road, Norwich NR2 2LJ  
Tel: +44(0)1603 773414  
Fax: +44(0)1603 663017  
Email: M4howard@cc.nor.ac.uk

## NEW COURSES

Master of Science/Diploma in Environmental Health

Contact: Dr Iain Beverland, Lecturer in Environmental Health  
Department of Public Health Sciences,  
The University of Edinburgh,  
Medical School Teviot Place, Edinburgh  
EH8 9AG

Tel: +44 131 680 3212

Fax: +44 131 650 6909

Email: Iain.Beverland@ed.ac.uk

## CHANGE OF E-MAIL

The Public Relations Officer's New E-Mail address is:-

Richard.Sprenger@Doncaster.Gov.UK

The President - Michael Halls

M.Halls@scot.ac.uk

## MEMBERS PROFILE

### Indonesia

The Indonesian Association of Environmental Health is the successor to the Indonesian Association of Public Health Inspectors [IKKI] which was founded on 5 September 1955. Because of developments in Public Health that Association became The Indonesian Association of Environmental Health [HAKLI] in 1980. The HAKLI has a National Assembly which is held at least once in five years and the last Assembly was held in June 1996.

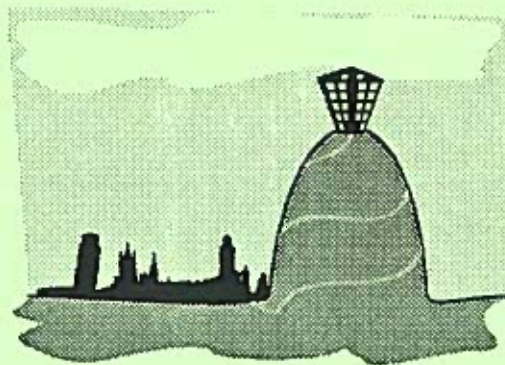
The National Assembly is entitled to elect the President and other officers, and draw up a programme for HAKLI for the following five years.

The Association was admitted to Membership of the International Federation of Environmental Health on 20 September 1994 as the twentieth Member.

## TRANSLATION TRAGEDIES

### Hotel Brochure, Italy:

This hotel is renowned for its peace and solitude. In fact, crowds from all over the world flock here to enjoy its solitude.



### Hotel Elevator, Paris:

Please leave your values at the front desk.

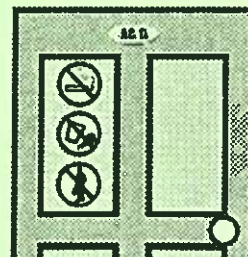
### Hotel Room, Yugoslavia:

The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.



### Hotel Room Notice, Chiang-Mai, Thailand:

Please do not bring solicitors into your room.



### Hotel, Zurich:

Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

## **MAGAZINE ARTICLES**

### **Journal of Environmental Health - NEHA (USA)**

Editor: Nelson Fabian, 720 S. Colorado Blvd,  
Suite 970

#### **September 1997**

1. Major Landfill Landslide
2. Heterotrophic Bacteria Control
3. Environmental Health Effects of the Red River Flood of 1997
4. Pollution Prevention Resource

#### **October 1997**

1. Staphylococcal Food Poisoning from a Fund-raiser
2. Reducing Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields
3. NEHA Position on Children's Environmental Health

#### **November 1997**

1. Pharmaceutical Sales - A Method of Disease Surveillance?
2. A Proactive Approach for Managing Indoor Air Quality
3. Performance Management: A Case Study

### **Environmental Health Review - Australia**

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

1. Toward an Environmental Repair Bubble Plume Aerator Project
2. Progression of Indigenous Environmental Health Towards 2000
3. Australian Childhood Immunisation Charter - your contribution
4. Environmental Auditing: A Local Government Perspective
5. Developing Local Policies for Disaster Recovery Planning
6. Small Business Environmental Review and Education Programme

### **Environmental Health**

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

#### **August 1997 Volume 105/8**

1. Agenda 21: An Obsession with Green
2. Stress: Spotting the Early Warning Signs
3. Water Metering: What are the Alternatives
4. Building Strategic Partnerships

#### **October 1997 Volume 105/10**

1. Trials of an Air Quality Pilot Area
2. Managing Capital Programmes in Private Sector Housing
3. Assessment of Professional Competence: Dispelling the Myths

#### **November 1997 Volume 105/12**

1. Violence at Work: are EHOs Equipped for the Front Line
2. Stopping deaths from HMO fires
3. Safe as Houses? Asbestos on Trial

### **Environmental Health, Scotland**

Chief Executive:

John Frater, REHIS, 3 Manor Place,  
Edinburgh, Scotland EH3 7DH

#### **September 1997**

1. Clinical Waste Produced by the National Health Service in Scotland
2. Pennington Recommendations for Food Safety (Ref: E Coli 0157)
3. Housing and Anti-Social Behaviour - Working Together
4. 'Agendas for Change' The Report of the Commission on Environmental Health

#### **December 1997**

1. Food Safety Without Panic
2. The IFEH President's Address to the 1997 National Conference of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health
3. Scottish Food Co-ordinating Committee
4. Health and Safety Co-ordinating Group