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NEWSLETTER - NO. 14.

EDITORIAL

This is the last Newsletter which I will have the pleasure of preparing. I am demitting office as Hon. P.R.O., having been asked to take on the Chairmanship of the Federation Council with effect from January 1992. The new Hon. P.R.O. will be Raymond Ellard, who represents the Environmental Health Officers Association (Ireland), and who will take over my role on the same date. I wish Ray the best of luck in his endeavours, and would ask the Secretaries of member organisations to be as helpful to Ray as they have been to me over the past few years.

The remainder of the Newsletter will be taken up with a report on the proceedings at the Second International Congress on Environmental Health which was held in Brighton, England from 9th to 13th September 1991. The Federation were involved in a number of events at Brighton, and had a fairly high profile throughout the week.

CHANGE AT THE TOP

In an impressive ceremony at lunch on the opening day, the Presidential regalia (or "donger" in Australian parlance) was handed over by the outgoing President, Ron Spratt, to Eric Foskett. In a moving acceptance speech, Eric using the mottos of both the Institution of Environmental Health Officers and the Federation, suggested that he as a "friend of the human race" was fulfilling a lifetime's ambition by taking over as President of an organisation committed to "caring for the environment in the interests of human health".

RECEPTION

On Monday evening the President played host to overseas delegates at an informal reception in the Metropole Hotel. The Federation had laid on wine and savouries, and near the end of the hour-long event there were 90 people in attendance. The informal atmosphere was ideal for meeting representatives from the many countries in attendance, and it is hoped that many lasting friendships were started during the evening. It seems that environmental health professionals the world over are very adept at enjoying themselves (especially when the wine is free!)

DINNER

On Thursday evening the Federation hosted a Dinner in the very impressive surroundings of the Royal Pavilion, and in addition to a superb meal, the guests were treated to a conducted tour of the building. Feedback from a sizeable majority of the 120 people attending was very positive, and the occasion was enhanced by the presentation of a number of certificates of

membership to new members, and of marks of appreciation to individuals who have been of assistance to the Federation in its early years, Several delegates wore national dress, and in all there were 11 countries represented at the Dinner.

One of the highlights of the week followed the Dinner, when a number of delegates retired to the Metropole Hotel and held an impromptu concert under the direction of a certain Norwegian "conductor". The true internationalism, of this occasion was evident when during a recitation by an Englishman in a broad Yorkshire accent of a poem about a lion and a little boy, it was observed that an Irishman was explaining the storyline to an English-speaking Russian, so that he could translate it into Russian for his companion who spoke no English!

EXHIBITION

Thanks to the generosity of the I.E.H.O., the Federation was allocated a stand space in one of the Exhibition Halls, and the flags of all 13 member countries were arranged on display - making a very eye-catching show. Several of the Federation publications were distributed from the stand, and an attempt was made to ensure that virtually all delegates attending the Congress were provided with a special Congress Newsletter extolling the virtues of the Federation, and appealing for support from all interested environmental health professionals. Indications are that the presence of the Federation in the guise of an Exhibitor was well-received, and certainly some useful contacts were made.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Two Council meetings and the statutory Annual General Meeting were held on Wednesday and Thursday, and a number of very important matters were debated. First and foremost, there was a very full discussion on the future development of the Federation, and contributions from the majority of the delegates were positive and well-received.

Attendance at the meetings was excellent, with 10 member countries represented, and invited observers present from Germany and U.S.A. The general consensus was that the Federation was a force for good in terms of global environmental health, but that it needed to broaden its base and involve more of its members than it has in the past.

It was felt that these Newsletters were a valuable link between members which could be expanded upon provided organisations were willing to contribute to their production.

Papers are to be produced for the next meeting on how the Federation could improve links between members and, in particular, how lines of communication could be improved by using co-ordinators working in defined geographical areas.

In closing the meeting, the new President received unanimous support for the view that Sydney 1988 had led to the Federation becoming established, and that Brighton 1991 would be seen as the launching pad for a more dynamic role in the future.

N.E.H.A.

The President of the National Environmental Health Association of U.S.A. was present at the Council meeting by invitation, and reported on his Association's position vis-a-vis membership of the Federation. The Council noted the situation, and are optimistic that in the near future N.E.H.A. can be welcomed back into the fold, where it is known that they have a key role to play.

NEW MEMBERS

On the opening day of the Congress, there was among the office bearers a degree of depression, as it looked as if the Council were to be advised in the middle of the week that there had been no new members recruited since May. By the end of the week however the Federation had one new National Organisation in membership (Finland), and four new Associated Bodies (The American/Soviet Environment Centre, Novgorod; The Environmental Health (Scotland) Unit, Glasgow; Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia; and Kings College, University of London). At the time of going to press it has been revealed that the Chairman has authorised another entrant - the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Membership now stands at 14 Countries and 16 Associated Bodies. The Federation is on its way!

FUTURE EVENTS

1991

The Economics of Recycling - 29th October 1991 in London

Further information from: Deborah Jones, I.E.H.O., Chadwick House, 48 Rushworth Street, London, England.

Australian Institute of Environmental Health - Annual National Conference - Gold Coast, Queensland - 18th-22nd November

Further information from: Jim Dodds, G.P.O. Box 1739, Brisbane, Queensland 4001.

1992

Environmental Health Officers Association - 13th Annual Environmental Health Conference - Aberdeen Arams Hotel, Lahinch, Co. Clare, Ireland - 6th-9th May
Further information from: Ann Deacon, Secretary, E.H.O.A., South Eastern Health Board, County Clinic, Grogan's Road, Wexford, Ireland.

Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland - Annual Congress and Exhibition, Eden Court Theatre, Inverness - 19th-22nd May

Further information from: Edna Milne, Secretary, R.E.H.I.S., Virginia House, 62 Virginia Street, Glasgow G1 1TX.

Institution of Environmental Health Officers -

Annual Congress and Exhibition - Bournemouth - 14th-17th September

Further information from: Deborah Jones, I.E.H.O., Chadwick House, 48 Rushworth Street, London, England.

Australian Institute of Environmental Health - Annual National Conference - Grand Hotel, Glenelg, S.A.045 - 16th-20th November

Further Information from: John Veldhoen, Conference Convenor, 3 Lorelle Avenue, Aberfoyle Park, S.A.5159 (Tel: 08-332 7833 (W); Fax No: 08-332-9208)

POSTSCRIPT

There have been times over the past few years when being the Hon. P.R.O. of the Federation was somewhat frustrating. There was a lack of information coming from Secretaries, no future events forms were being returned, problems were arising in relation to the stand being mounted at Brighton, and all-in-all I felt like giving up.

At the end of the week in Brighton I am as full of enthusiasm for the Federation as I have ever been. The friendships made, the memories created, and the sheer pleasure of meeting some very friendly and committed people were worth all the trauma of the past few years.

Like our President, I see Brighton as a turning point, and I am convinced that the Federation is alive, well and able to play its part in improving the environmental health of our global village. I look forward to helping you all achieve the Federation's aims for as long as I am able.



MICHAEL HALLS
Hon. Public Relations Officer

September 1991.

Note to Secretaries:

Attached to this Newsletter is a future events form. Please complete it (and photocopy it if you have a need for more than one), and send it to me for inclusion of your event(s) in a future edition of the Newsletter.

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