

# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



## IFEH DRR COMMITTEE

**MINUTES: IFEH Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (IFEH DRR Committee)**

**Date: 29 April 2023**

**Time: 13h00 GMT**

**Virtual**

**Present:**

Henning Hansen (Chairperson), *Hon Vice President IFEH, ENVINA, Denmark*

Abelkassim Beshir, *Ethiopian Environmental Health Association*

Dr Andrew Mathieson, *Hon. Treasurer IFEH, Faculty Forum, Environmental Health Australia – EHA*

Carol Stewart, *Massey University, New Zealand*

Dr Charles (Chuck) Treser, *Faculty Forum, IEHFF, Washington University, (NEHA), USA*

David NemaKonde, *IFEH Honorary Secretary, SAIEH, South Africa*

Graeme Mitchell, *Hon Secretary IFEH, CIEH, Liverpool John Moores University, England*

Prof. Jamal Hisham Hashim, *Faculty of Health Sciences, University Selangor, MAEH, Malaysia*

Jerry Chaka, *Hon Vice President IFEH, SAIEH, South Africa*

Jesse Bliss, *Chair IFEH Americas Regional Group, Director PPD Department, NEHA, USA*

Prof. Peter Furu, *University of Copenhagen, Department of Public Health, Global Health Section, Denmark*

Tim Hatch, *National Environmental Health Association, NEHA, USA*

Prof. Virginia Murray, *Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction, UK Health Security Agency, UK*

Minutes panel for the meeting: David NemaKonde, Andrew Mathieson, Henning Hansen

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## **1. Welcome by the Chair:**

The Chairperson (Henning Hansen) called the meeting to order at 13h05 (GMT), after all the available participants have joined the platform.

## **2. Approval of agenda**

All members were happy with the agenda of the day.

## **3. Brief intro from all participators**

All the participants were given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

## **4. Presentation by Prof Virginia Murray**

Prof Virginia Murray, Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction, UK Health Security Agency gave a presentation on UNDRR/ISC Hazard information Profiles and IFEH DRR Committee opportunities for engaging in the second review of updating vital information. After the presentation she was requested to develop a 1 pager article that can be published on IFEH Magazine and also on Website. (See also point 7. in these minutes).

## **5. Presentation by Tim Hatch**

Tim Hatch from NEHA gave a presentation on the development of strategies to strengthen community and public health system resilience. He emphasized that there should be the development of the Environmental Health Emergency Preparedness Capabilities, a resource that defines the core capabilities of Environmental Health responsible during disaster.

## **6. Presentation by Carol Stewart**

Carol Stewart from Massey University in New Zealand gave a presentation on Disaster Environmental Health teaching, research, and practice, experienced in Aotearoa New Zealand.

## **7. Discussion on further IFEH DRR Committee engagement re. Hazard Information Profiles (re. point 4.)**

Based on the presentation of Prof Virginia Murray and endorsed by her, it was resolved by the Committee to recommend to the IFEH Board of Directors to write a letter to the UNDRR in order for the IFEH / IFEH DRR Committee to engage/support in a second review of the [UNDRR/ISC Hazard Information Profiles publications](#).

## **8. Discussion on the development of a new IFEH Policy Paper on DRR and EH**

The committee resolved to make a recommendation to the BoD for IFEH to develop a new Policy on DRR and EH

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## **9. Cooperation with IFEH Faculty Forum on DRR**

Andrew Mathieson will activate the Faculty Forum for further engagement in the DRR agenda and ask the chair of Faculty Forum to take seat in the IFEH DRR Committee going forward. David Musoke to be consulted so that he can engage the academic institutions in Africa to participate also.

## **10. Participation at relevant UN DRR conferences.**

The committee resolved to participate on relevant UN DRR conferences where possible.

## **11. Further cooperation between IFEH member organisation on DRR**

Cooperation between IFEH member organisations on DRR is key to get even more engagement and involvement and to drive this agenda further. Likewise it is key to use all the EH qualifications on many topics that our members of our national organisations and associated members represent – and also to recognize and encompass that there are different disaster threats and risks based on where we are located on the planet – and also in terms of socio-economic standing. As IFEH in its nature is global it gives us a great opportunity to engage on all stages. Henning Hansen mentioned to be aware about the UNDRR regional platforms: [Africa](#), [Americas & Caribbean](#); [Arab States](#); [Asia-Pacific](#); [Europe & Central Asia](#) <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/regional-platforms>

For the BoD to be well informed on the matters concerning DRR, a request will be made to the BoD, for the chair of the DRR committee on an ad-hoc basis to participate at BoD meetings, when needed, and of course only with observer status.

## **12. Any other business**

The committee resolved to have meetings bi-monthly in line with the BoD meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 15h25 GMT.