



NEWSLETTER

International Federation of Environmental Health

July 2008 Edition

Welcome to our first Newsletter

At its meeting in Brisbane, prior to the last World Congress held in May this year, the IFEH Council decided that the time was right to produce a quarterly Newsletter. I have volunteered to produce the first four issues and I hope to have these ready for publication, via our web site, during the first week of July, October, January and April. Now to do this I need news. This is not my Newsletter it is yours, the Members. So please if you have news of things that are happening within your organisation please contact me at president@ifeh.org. One or two hundred words is all I require for inclusion in the next issue.

In addition to this quarterly Newsletter the Federation will still produce a twice yearly magazine. However the current Editor of the magazine, John Stirling, indicated some time ago that he wished to hand over to someone else after the next issue. The Federation is delighted to announce that the new Editor will be Hadrian Bonello of the Malta Association of Environmental Health Officers (MAEHO). Hadrian who is also Honorary Secretary of the MAEHO can be contacted at secretary@maeho.net.

News from the IFEH Council meetings

The last Council meeting was held in Brisbane on the 10 and 11 May 2008. The minutes of this meeting and the AGM will appear on the web site in due course. In the meantime, some of the items agreed that will be of special interest include a decision to consider a new membership category, and the production of a quarterly Newsletter.

Consideration is also being given to setting up an appeal to assist our Members who live and work in Zimbabwe after the current regime has been replaced. This is a difficult time for all the people of Zimbabwe and the challenges facing those who work in the field of Public Health are immense. From the information available to the Federation it is clear that there will be a requirement for a massive rebuilding program with Public Health very much at the forefront.

The new President-Elect is Robert Bradbury of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI). Robert is the Director, Health Protection, for the Calgary Health Region in Alberta, Canada.

New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health (NZIEH)

Our colleagues in New Zealand recently held their Conference and AGM. The new President of the Institute is Carole Simpson who works for Auckland City Council. Mike Orchard continues as Executive Director of the Institute.

Swedish Association of Environmental Health Professionals (YMH)

I was honoured to be invited to speak at the Swedish Association's Conference which was held in Stockholm on the 28 – 30 May. The Conference sessions took place in the beautiful surroundings of Stockholm University. During the Conference Magnus Hahne handed over the Presidency to Ulla Lantz.



EHiDE (Environmental Health in Disasters and Emergencies)

The IFEH is supporting a project to establish a register of trained environmental health personnel who would be able to deploy, at short notice, to areas of the world stricken by disasters or emergencies.

The project has been introduced at a number of briefing days where volunteers had the opportunity to consider carefully the commitment needed and their ability to supply it. The next stage is to begin a course of training which will equip volunteers to meet the challenges of working in disaster situations.

The Environmental Health in Disasters and Emergencies (EHiDE) register will be made available to the International Aid Agencies who will be able to select the personnel with the particular skills they need from those on the register.

Although initially a project begun in the UK and Ireland by members of REHIS, EHOA and CIEH, the membership register will, in due course, be open to trained and equipped environmental health professionals from anywhere in the world.

The co-ordinator of the project is Peter Wright who can be contacted at p.n.wright@btinternet.com

Name change Down Under

During the recent World Congress held in Brisbane our colleagues in the Australian Institute of Environmental Health had a name change. Their new name was announced at the Congress dinner in spectacular fashion by President Dr Jim Smith. The new name for the Institute is Environmental Health Australia (EHA). We hope this rebranding exercise brings the EHA much success in the future.

Tobacco Sales in Scotland further action to stub out smoking

Displays of cigarettes in shops are set to become a thing of the past as part of the Scottish Government's continuing drive to stop smoking and make Scotland healthier. New plans outlined to the Scottish Parliament on 21 May were unveiled in **'Scotland's future is smoke-free, A Smoking Prevention Action Plan.'**

Backed by £9 million over three years, the proposals – which take in plans to licence tobacco retailers and aim to discourage young people from smoking – include:

- Legislation to restrict the display of cigarettes and other tobacco products at point of sale
- Updating statutory controls on the sale of tobacco products, with a view to introducing licensing and sanctions such as cautions and fixed penalty notices
- Possibly outlawing the sale of cigarettes in packs of 10 and taking steps to reduce underage sales from vending machines
- Introducing a scheme for local councils to more vigorously enforce tobacco sales laws
- Together with HM Revenue and Customs to crack down on smuggled and counterfeit cigarettes
- Increasing education in schools and other areas to make clear the risks associated with smoking

Full details of the action plan are available via the Scottish Government website <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/05/19144342/0/>.

Federation meetings

European Federation of Environmental Health

The next meeting of the European Regional Group will take place in Malta on the 25 and 26 October 2008. The first meeting in 2009 will be held in Vilnius at the beginning of April tbc.

2009 IFEH Council meeting and AGM

The next Federation Council meeting and Annual General Meeting will take place in Singapore at the beginning of July. Dates are still to be confirmed. The intention is for the IFEH meetings to be preceded by a seminar organised by our colleagues in the Society of Environmental Health – Singapore.

10th World Congress, Brisbane, Australia

The 10th World Congress was held in Brisbane in May this year. The congress theme was 'Environmental Health, a sustainable future' and was organised by the Australian Institute of Environmental Health, now the EHA.

The Congress Organising Committee produced a very successful programme of topical environmental health issues and I think it fair to say that those who attended, particularly from overseas, left this event with many happy memories of their visit to Australia. Congratulations and well done EHA.

Finally, this is the first newsletter produced by the IFEH. As I said earlier I need the support of Member Organisations to provide me with material for each Newsletter. The next issue will be published in October so if I could have any news from your organisation by the first week in September that would be appreciated. My thanks go to Tom Bell, Steve Cooper, Andrew Forteath and Henning Hansen who have assisted in the production of this issue.



**From left to right: Colm Smyth, Past President IFEH; Dr. Jim Smith, President EHA; Bernard Forteath, President IFEH
Taken at the Congress Dinner held in conjunction with the 10th World Congress.**

**If you wish to feature any news from your organisation in the next IFEH Newsletter, please contact:
Bernard Forteath, President, Email: president@ifeh.org**