



NEWSLETTER

International Federation of Environmental Health

April 2013 Edition

Welcome to the April Edition of the IFEH Newsletter. At the time of writing European countries are experiencing disclosure problems associated horsemeat found in meat products.

Since the middle of January, when the Food Safety Authority of Ireland published the findings of a targeted study examining the authenticity of a number of beef burger, beef meal and salami products available from retail outlets in Ireland. The study which tested for the presence of horse and pig DNA, revealed the presence of horse DNA in some beef burger products. Since the study results were published Food Safety/Food Standards organisations around Europe have been on high alert. At the beginning of February the UK the Food Standards Agency announced that it now requires a more robust response from the food industry in order to demonstrate that the food it sells and serves is as indicated on the label, and required food businesses to conduct authenticity tests on all beef products, such as beef burgers, meatballs and lasagne and provide the results to the FSA. The tests will be for the presence of horse meat. Many products have now tested positive, not only for the presence of horsemeat but also for pig DNA. Whatever the outcome of the various investigations, and perhaps in the fullness of time prosecutions, the effect on consumer confidence from these incidents is incalculable.

IFEH

The next meeting of the IFEH Council will be held on the 18 and 19 May 2013, in the Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew, Scotland. The hotel is situated close to the Glasgow Airport which is about eight miles west of the city centre and just two minutes from the nearest towns, Renfrew and Paisley. Taxis pick up outside the terminal for travel to the hotel. For those travelling by rail the nearest rail station is Paisley Gilmour Street, and again taxis are available for onward travel to the Conference venue. The Council will meet on Saturday 18 May and the Annual General Meeting will take place on the morning of Sunday 19 May. Delegates attending these meetings may also wish to consider registering as delegates for the REHIS Annual Conference which takes place in the same venue on the two days prior to the IFEH meetings.

IFEH Americas Region

Dr. Sylvanus Thompson, has been appointed secretary of the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH), Americas Region. Dr Thompson is a member of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI), the Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors (JAPHI) and the United States-based National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and works in Toronto.

Alliance for Healthy Cities Global Conference

The 5th Alliance for Healthy Cities Global Conference "Healthy Urbanisation: Healthy People — Healthy Communities" was held on the 24, 25 and 27 October 2012 in Brisbane, Australia, organised by Alliance for Healthy Cities Australian Chapter and World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office.



The Conference attracted 450 people from 23 countries, mainly from the Asia and Pacific Region, but also from Europe, UK, Brazil, Mexico, Canada and USA. The relevant issues for better leadership of healthy cities were presented and discussed by participants, such as empowerment of communities, environmental sustainability, urban and regional planning, healthy settings and chronic and communicable disease management, equity based health systems, environmental health, health security, etc. There were pre- and post-conference courses organized, and all this integrated into the '10 days Healthy City Forum'.

The IFEH was also among the sponsors of the global event and was represented by Dr Peter Davey, the President of the IFEH, Secretary of the Alliance for Healthy Cities Australian Chapter and the Chair of the Conference. Dr Andrius Kavaliunas, from Lithuanian Union of Hygienists and Epidemiologists, set up the IFEH Trade Display and had an opportunity to present his research on development public health at local level and epidemiology of food allergy.

As well as the opportunity to meet with famous and interesting people from various countries, like well known Evelyn de Leeuw, Agis D. Tsouros, Trevor Hancock, Shin Young-soo, the participants enjoyed Australian hospitality, including cute koalas, and had a unique opportunity to explore the country's nature, visit the famous Gold Coast and end up with bright recollections and new ideas for "healthy futures in cities and communities globally".

Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS)

REHIS is holding its Annual Conference in The Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 May 2013. The full programme is available at www.rehis.com and the theme is 'Environmental Health – Apart, Yet Connected'.

The Conference will provide an ideal opportunity to hear the latest developments in public health and afford delegates the opportunity catch up with fellow professionals. Attendance can be for the whole Conference or specific sessions. To register please contact Helen Black by e-mail at contact@rehis.com.

New Honorary Vice-President - Mr Young Samanyika, President of the Malawi Environmental Health Association (MEHA) and the Principal Environmental Health Officer at the Ministry of Health in Malawi, has been appointed as an Honorary Vice-President of REHIS. MEHA is one of the Institute's international partners. Young visited Scotland on two occasions in recent years and will be known to many people in Scotland's environmental health community.

Andrius Kavaliunas at Q1 Skypoint, Gold Coast, Australia





Bundesverband Der Lebensmittelkontrolleure E.V. (BVLK)

BVLK are holding an international workshop and exhibition on 2 – 4 September 2013 in Berlin-Steglitz Best Western hotel (www.steglitz.bestwestern.de). The title of this event is 'Consumer expectation between food industry and consumer protection'. Some of the questions to be asked at this event include — 'What does the consumer really expect?', 'Who knows the informed consumer?', 'Are inspection and food inspection for him?', and 'Regulations and information are helpful for the consumer, or do we need an update?'

The workshop opens on Monday 2 September 2013 and, following the opening of the exhibition, with papers on 'Food innovation and consumer reflection' and 'Consumer expectation between deception and disappointment'. On Tuesday 3 September papers include 'Risk management and communication for example EHEC and Norovirus crisis', 'The informed consumer- the food industry view', 'Food deception protection', 'Inter disciplined control approach — where this leads to?', 'Identification requirements for the use of nature related concepts and origin details', 'Future development of risk management at a Federal level', 'Presentation of the guidelines of the German Food Book Commission concerning the expression of consumer wills'. The workshop concludes on the morning of Wednesday 3 September with a panel session on 'Consumer expectation between the food industry and consumer protection. For further details concerning this workshop please contact Kati Grunwald at kati.gruenwald@altona.hamburg.de

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is holding its 2013 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition in the Washington, DC area, 9–11 July, 2013. The NEHA 2013 AEC will offer expansive training and education that covers a wide genre of environmental health (EH) topics. Sessions at the NEHA AEC will cover over 15 different environmental health topic areas including dedicated sessions to cover international environmental health issues. Additionally, sessions will cover topic areas including food safety and defense, sustainability/climate change, a global approach to water treatment, environmental justice, and general environmental health.

The designated hotel and venue for the NEHA 2013 AEC is the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport (in Arlington, Virginia just minutes away from Washington, DC) and rooms are available at a discounted rate of \$US154/night + taxes and fees for AEC attendees.

Unable to travel to Washington, DC to attend in-person? NEHA also streams a portion of its conference live via the Internet. About 30 sessions will be shown online as they are happening at the conference. If you attend these sessions online, you will be able to participate in the sessions by submitting your questions via chat.

NEHA 2013 AEC registration and information are available via neha2013aec.org.

Save the Dates: 7–10 July, 2014

The National Environmental Health Association and the International Federation of Environmental Health will be bringing their two annual conferences together to exciting Las Vegas, July 7-10, 2014. For more information visit www.neha.org/AEC/2014/index_splash.html.

Environmental Health Officers' Association — Ireland (EHOA)

New Faces

Following on from the EHOA's AGM in October 2012 there has been several new faces on the Officer Board. After three years at the helm Shane Keane handed over the reins of Chairperson to Caitriona Stack assured it would be in great hands. Peter Gaffey and Martin Fitzpatrick joined the Officer Board as Deputy Chair as Honorary Secretary respectively. Noel Donnelly remains on as Honorary Treasurer.

Awards

On the 7th of December in Dublin the EHOA had their Annual Awards Evening, this commenced with the awarding of the John Shelley Bursary. The award is presented annually in memory of Mr John Shelley who was a former Chairman of the Association and consists of a Bursary of up to €5000. This year central council awarded two very different but very worthy charities, Apostolic Work and YMCA PAKT.

- Through the generosity of Apostolic Work, disadvantaged and impoverished communities in Africa have been provided with funds for food, medicines, medical clinics and irrigation systems for clean water. The financial assistance will also contribute to improving education opportunities, health care and training in self-help projects.
- PAKT a Dublin based charity, is a project run by the YMCA and stands for Parents and Kids Together. Key Objectives of YMCA PAKT are for parents and kids to learn the value of healthy food, good hygiene, an active lifestyle and general health promotion.



Rosemarie McGowan received the Environmental Health Student of the Year Award which is presented on an annual basis to the student who has received the highest overall result within their graduation class from DIT. The purpose of the award is to recognise achievements and excellence of Environmental Health Students and to motivate them to perform well.

The final award of the night and highest accolade was presented to former Chairperson AnnMarie Part. Following a unanimous decision of Central Council AnnMarie was presented with an EHOA Fellowship for outstanding leadership and professionalism in every project that she has been involved with for the EHOA.

Chairperson Caitriona Stack reminded the group of all the work which AnnMarie has done in her different roles within the EHOA, including but not limited to PRO, first female Chairperson of the EHOA and hosting the 9th World Congress in Environmental Health was held in Dublin.

Open Farms

Following on from a motion which was brought to the EHOA AGM the EHOA plans to carry out a study on open farms. The EHOA plan to establish a working group for the purpose of completion of the study. The aim of the study will be to assess the current standards in petting farms in Ireland and produce a guidance document of best practice for open farms.

Other interesting projects taking place within the EHOA include revising our Memorandum and Articles of Association to bring them up to date and entering into an MOU with Dublin Institute of Technology. For more information go to www.EHOA.ie

New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health (NZIEH)

The NZIEH National Council Meeting was held on 26th February followed by their three day National Conference, writes Stephen Bell, President.

NZIEH Conferences move around New Zealand and this year it was held in sub tropical Whangarei. The conference was well attended, informative but more importantly relaxed.

One of the highlights was a field trip through New Zealand's only oil refinery at Marsden Point. This was followed by nibbles and drinks at the new Marsden Cove residential marina. Marsden Cove development is just inside the entrance of the Whangarei Harbour and has a 230 berth marina at its centre and is a mix of new housing and building plots for those who prefer to design their own homes. With a log port and Oil Refinery as neighbours, planning was a challenge.

The Conference dinner on the second evening not only featured a mayoral address from His Worship Morris Cutforth, Mayor of Whangarei, but also Hawaiian shirts and Cook Island dancers!

Following the conference ten of us took the opportunity to go diving in the Poor Knights Islands Marine Sanctuary. An amazing experience to see what can happen in the marine environment when humans are stopped from exploiting it.

Not all fun, sun and sea, the conference covered a range of topics from Environmental Health inequalities; control of storm water infiltration into sewage systems, bathing water quality, school food programmes, motivational interviewing, contaminated sites and new disease threats. There was something for everyone. Conference 2014 will be at Massey University in Wellington.

World Malaria Day

This year's World Malaria day will be held on 25 April 2013 and the theme is 'Invest in the future. Defeat malaria'. Since the year 2000, malaria mortality rates have fallen by more than 25%, and 50 of the 99 countries with ongoing transmission are now on track to meet the 2015 World Health Assembly target of reducing incidence rates by more than 75%. A major upscaling of vector control interventions, together with increased access to diagnostic testing and quality-assured treatment, has been key to this progress.

However Malaria is still a major problem Worldwide killing an estimated 660,000, mainly children under five years of age in sub-Saharan Africa. Added to this over 200 million cases occur with most, but not all, of these cases never declared or tested. The current World financial problems have not helped resulting in progress slowing down. Emerging drug and insecticide resistance, according to WHO, threaten to reverse recent improvements. Clearly to maintain and accelerate progress against Malaria more funds are urgently required.

Finally the next edition of the Newsletter is due to be published in July 2013. If you have any news for the Newsletter from your organisation please send this to me by the 3 June at the latest. My thanks go to Andrius Kavaliunas, Jill Cruickshank, Lisa Fitzpatrick, Andrew Forteach and Henning Hansen who have assisted in the production of this issue.

If you wish to feature any news from your organisation in the next IFEH Newsletter, please contact: Bernard Forteach, Honorary Public Relations Officer, Email: bernard@forteach.com