

**Outlines of minutes from IFEH Council Meeting  
4 - 5 November 2000 - Nicosia, Cyprus**

**THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

**REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN NOVEMBER 2000**

As has been the case with all Council meetings in the recent past, the matter of the future of the Federation featured large in the deliberations of the last meeting, which was held on the beautiful island of Cyprus during 3 consecutive days in November. The hospitality of the Cypriot Association was second to none, although it was very disappointing for our hosts to have only 17 persons present for the meeting and for the concurrent Annual General Meeting.

In terms of the future of IFEH, much discussion took place about the need to involve more individual members of the associations in membership of IFEH in the work of the Federation and one change is to be introduced immediately to try to achieve this aim.

Meetings of the Council will now be held annually and at each meeting the facility will be made available for individuals to contribute to the work of the Federation and to learn about what it is doing by way of an "assembly". Further details have to be worked out but it is hoped that such a system will make the Federation more relevant to individual environment & health professionals.

It has also been decided that as from the 2001 Annual General Meeting, membership of the Federation should be open to more than one member organisation per country. It is hoped that this decision will lead to an increase in membership and it recognises that environmental health is now a much more multi-faceted profession than it has been in the past.

Work has also started on another project designed, in part, to achieve the same object. A number of Working Groups have been established and each of these will look at depth at a specific aspect of the Federation's interests and lead to the production of "good practice" guides and matters on which IFEH can produce policies or undertake advocacy work. It is hoped that member organisations will encourage their own members to get involved in the work of these Groups. Groups already set up include one looking into sustainability indicators, another dealing with a protocol on water and yet another on food safety. Any one interested in joining a Group should contact the Federation and it should be noted that all the work of these Groups will be carried out, it is hoped, by electronic communications.

The year 2001 should see the unfolding of another chapter in the development of the Federation, when it embarks upon a series of events to be held in Tanzania in October. It is hoped that the events surrounding the establishment of the first degree course for environmental health professionals in that country and the opening of the Clarence Phenix Memorial Library at the University of Dar-es-Salaam, will act as a catalyst for a much-needed impetus to the work of the Federation's Africa Group.

The group hopes to meet over two days and to incorporate a meeting or conference aimed at people with an interest in the education of environmental health professionals. Speakers will attend from

all over Africa and it is hoped that there will be a good attendance from academics from other countries who can help colleagues in the region make further progress in the educational field. It is also hoped that the WHO will participate.

The Federation Council has decided to allocate money from its Development Fund to enable the events to be successful and is seeking additional funding from other bodies, including the European Commission. A small working group has been set up to assist in organising the venture and it will be issuing further information as progress is made.

The November Council meeting also took a significant decision in terms of public relations when it decided that the Federation should embark upon a co-operative venture with a company who produce annual publications for similar bodies. If this venture is successful the mid-2001 edition of the IFEH magazine could be the last. Again, further information will be made available when there is something concrete to report.

The Federation is hoping to make an impact at and to have a significant input to the Earth Summit - Rio + 10 which is to take place, probably in South Africa, in 2001.

Anyone wishing further information about any matter covered above or any other aspect of the Federation should contact the Honorary Secretary, Michael Halls, 16 Abbotsford Road, Galashiels TD1 3DS, Scotland, UK. (Telephone +44 1896 752624 ; e-mail [mikeh@eastfield16.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:mikeh@eastfield16.freeseve.co.uk))