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PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

President—Kia Regner

Honorary Secretary—Michael Halls, FREHIS FRSH MInstWM

Chairman of Council—Vic Andrich

Honorary Treasurer—J. Graham Slee, FCIEH

Honorary Education Liaison Officer—John R. Stirling, MSc FREHIS MCIEH

Honorary Public Relations Officer—Richard A. Sprenger, BSc FCIEH MREHIS FSOFHT

Honorary Co-ordination Officer/Directory Editor

Eric W. Foskett, OBE BSc[ECON] DPA FCIEH FRSH

Honorary Regional Editor/Honorary Librarian

Dr Kenneth Stewart, MPH PHD MREHIS

Company Secretary—Michael Cooke, DMA FCIEH

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It was with much joy, mixed with pride, anxiety and awe that I mounted the podium to open the 5th World Congress on Environmental Health in Stockholm in 1998. It was a great moment for the Swedish Environmental Health Officers' Association when we, as hosts together with the Environmental Protection Administration of the City of Stockholm, could welcome some 350 colleagues from twenty-seven different countries to this Congress with the theme "Networking in the Interest of Environmental Health". I had the honour of being elected to succeed Michael Halls as President of the Federation at the Congress.

Parallel to the Congress, the Federation also held a Council Meeting, as well as Regional Group Meetings, all of which were important in bringing the Federation work forward. There was also a meeting of the International Faculty Forum, a group of universities and institutions in the field of Environmental Health Education or Research, with close links to the Federation.

Much of the Federation work is carried out on regional or sub-regional levels. A major issue for the European Group has been our involvement in the preparations for the Ministerial Conference that is to be held in June 1999, as a follow-up of the European Charter on Environmental Health and the European governments' commitment to develop National Environmental Health Actions Plans, NEHAPs.

The European Group's involvement in the London '99 Conference is of vital importance to the Federation as a whole, as a means of making ourselves heard and seen in this field. I was invited to take part in some of the preparatory meetings in early January. This makes it possible for the Federation to become involved on a broader basis, both in the preparations of official background papers and in the preparations for a parallel NGO event—the Healthy Planet Forum. During the autumn, a European Advisory Group was formally established among the NGOs, as well as a UK-based Host Organising Committee and the Federation has been represented on both these groups.

The Federation has also been represented at the 5th Conference of the International Network of Environmental Enforcement and Compliance, a major world-wide event for governments and agencies responsible for environmental protection.

Among other issues covered by the Federation during 1998, I especially want to mention the decision to produce a Federation Journal, to produce and set up a website of our own and to develop twinning and education projects. The broadening of the Federation by having two new members on board—the German Lebensmittelkontrolleuren and the Greek PHI's Association—must also be mentioned.

In late autumn, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in the UK celebrated 150 years of environmental health legislation. This was a very thought-provoking milestone for all of us working in this field, as was the “Agenda for Change” produced by CIEH.

Added to this, there should be a list of all the daily efforts and achievements that are carried out by the Federation’s member organisations and their individual members. The vast accumulated expertise and experience among these 60,000 environmental health professionals must be clearly recognised and acknowledged!

KIA REGNER
President

**DURING THE YEAR THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION
ENDORSED A FURTHER TWO POLICIES, VIZ.**

Policy Statement 5—Smoking

- 1 The International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) accepts the medical and scientific evidence that smoking is harmful to human health and that the nicotine contained in tobacco is addictive. Further, the IFEH accepts that passive smoking, which is air polluted by the exhalations of other smokers, is also harmful to health.
- 2 The IFEH calls on its members to:
 - (a) invite their governments to endorse the view expressed in 1 above;
 - (b) take steps to support everyone’s right to breathe smoke-free air;
 - (c) ensure that their respective organisations endorse the views expressed in 1 above; and
 - (d) support campaigns designed to provide smoke-free public places.
- 3 The IFEH supports the abolition of governmental subsidies for tobacco growing. Where this might cause rural poverty, governments must take appropriate mitigating action.
- 4 The IFEH promotes non-smoking and deplores activities which encourage young people to take up smoking.
- 5 The IFEH recognises the rights of individuals to smoke in private but not the right to inflict tobacco smoke on others.
- 6 The IFEH itself hereby adopts a policy of not permitting smoking by members, officers or observers at any of its meetings or official functions.

Policy Statement 6—Water and Sanitation

The International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) believes that water is an essential public service and that access to a clean and affordable supply of drinking water must be regarded as a fundamental human right.

The Federation also believes that there should be actions to ensure that sewage is disposed of in a safe, efficient and environmentally friendly manner.

To achieve these aims, the Federation calls upon all governments to lay down realisable targets for each such a situation and encourages all its member organisations to take such action as each considers appropriate to assist in attaining these goals.

For its part, IFEH will give support in whatever way possible and lend assistance to countries where such targets need the injection of resources that may be in short supply.

The Federation also calls upon international agencies to do all that they can to help achieve a situation where everyone has access to a safe water supply and an adequate sewage disposal system within the first decade of the new Millennium.

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Kenneth Collins, MEP MSc (1987)—*Nominated by REHIS*

Roy Emerson, FCIEH FRSH FCIH (1988)—*Nominated by CIEH*

Eric W. Foskett, OBE BSc(Econ) DPA FCIEH FRSH (1994)
—*Nominated by the Council*

Michael Halls, FREHIS FRSH MInstWM (1998)—*Nominated by the Council*

Terence Moody, MA FNZIEH MRSH (1989)—*Nominated by the NZIEH*

Frederick P. O'Brien, BA MBA MEHOA (1992)—*Nominated by the EHOA*

Haji Ugku Abu Bakar bin Abdul Rahman, AMN FRSH (1996)
—*Nominated by the Past Presidents*

Ronald G. Spratt, JP FAIEH (1991)—*Nominated by the AIEH*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The highlight of the Federation year was, without doubt, the holding of yet another World Congress, this time in Stockholm, Sweden. The success of this event must rank highly in the history of the Federation. Attendance in terms of the number of countries represented was satisfying and the content of the Conference programme was widely appreciated, even if some sessions were, quite naturally, conducted in the native language. Thanks must go to Kia Regner and her colleagues for a tremendous effort in organising such an event.

Speaking of Kia reminds us that she was installed as President of the Federation at this event—who better to be the first woman to hold the office! Congratulations to her. Thanks are due to the outgoing President Mike Halls who, like his predecessors, brought his own unique style to the office.

The work of the Federation progresses, in the right direction, if slowly. This year has seen an increase in the activities of the Regional Groups—particularly in Europe, although it must be said that the geography of this region facilitates the operation of this group. Activities both in and involving Africa have also increased and a number of schemes, which will run on into 1999 and beyond, to help our members there, have begun.

Work has also started on setting up our own Internet web-site to take over from the pages on the Edinburgh University site. This is being developed by our colleagues in FMK in Denmark. This year we welcomed into membership, the Association of Public Health Inspectors of Greece and the German Federal Association of Food Controllers, the latter transferring from associate to full membership.

So what of 1999—firstly we look forward with great enthusiasm to our first Council Meeting in Hong Kong. In the summer, the Ministerial Conference is being held in London, and will involve the European Group and CIEH, both of whom are heavily involved. We hope to make many useful contacts at this event. Later in the year, the Council meets in Bonn Germany, another first. Also, we are led to believe that several new members will materialise, we hope so!

Finally, by the time you read this report, my term of office will have come to an end. Can I thank everyone for their support over the past two years and wish the next Chairman, Vic Andrich from Western Australia, good luck and success.

BRYN JONES
Chairman

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT



The Federation continues to go from strength to strength. This, however, has a financial price. At the end of 1998 we had a surplus of income over expenditure of £1,744 sterling on the Current Account. This was entirely due to having carried over from 1997, £1,574.

In terms of cash flow, our expenditure exceeded annual income by about £1,000 from budgeted sources. The net result, as can be seen at the end of this report, is a surplus for the financial year of £1,114. This last figure takes into account interest, taxation and a transfer to the Development Fund.

Our budget setting meeting for 1999 was at the World Congress held in Stockholm in June and as I reported at that meeting, it was impossible to set a meaningful budget some seven months in advance of knowing how the current year would turn out.

As in previous years, the full Annual Report and Financial Statements are circulated separately and will be considered at the Annual General Meeting in Germany in September 1999. Appended to this report is a summary of our position as at 31 December 1998. I would, however, highlight a few of the figures. Budgeted income from subscriptions was £2,000 less than anticipated. International postage is expensive and it is costly trying to chase up subscriptions. It is planned, during 1999, to look at the administration of the Sustaining Subscribers' Scheme to see if it can be improved. On the expenditure side, administration expenses were over £2,000 greater than budgeted for.

Membership subscriptions have remained the same for a few years and in 1998 the decision was made for a small increase for 1999. The Capitation Fee was increased from £0.15 to £0.18, all other subscriptions remaining the same. Our increase in membership should bring with it a corresponding increase in income.

In a sense, our increase in expenditure is a reflection of greater activity within the International Federation. For example, during 1998, the Council approved our involvement in the Ministerial Conference held in London in June 1999. This entailed our Secretary, Mike Halls, making several journeys to London as part of the organising committee for the Healthy Planet Forum running alongside the main conference. Much of this expenditure was incurred during 1998.

Despite the slightly pessimistic report above, there are matters of good news to report. In 1998 we kept to our medium-term financial strategy and transferred £1,500 to the Development Fund, that now stands at £7,955. Our total reserves now stand at £22,505 as against £19,231 at the beginning of the year. In addition, some £1,515 has been set aside to meet any creditors' accounts that might fall due.

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During the course of 1998, new Financial Regulations have been taking shape for approval in 1999. It is proposed, among other matters, to disband the Finance Working Group and create a new Finance and Administrations Group, which will have the authority to keep the work of the Federation moving forward between Council meetings. The new Regulations will also formalise the duties and responsibilities of the Honorary Treasurer. The composition of the new group is such that greater use of communications technology will have to be made as we demonstrate that we truly are a global organisation.

Finally, it would be most remiss of me not to express the thanks of the International Federation of Environmental Health to the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland, for their most generous donation. This is in the form of an annual donation of £2,000 for five years beginning in 1998. There are no conditions attached and the Finance and Administration Group will prepare a report for a future Council Meeting suggesting uses for the funds.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(for the year ended 31 December 1998)

	1998	1997
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions and donations	6,598	7,137
Sundry income	2,099	1,050
Interest receivable	1,470	789
	-----	-----
	10,167	8,976
Expenditure		
Administrative expenses	7,136	(6,439)
	-----	-----
Surplus before taxation	3,031	2,537
Taxation	(417)	(93)
	-----	-----
Surplus after taxation	2,614	2,444
Transfer to Development Fund	(1,500)	(1,000)
	-----	-----
Surplus for the Financial Year	1,114	1,444
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GRAHAM SLEE
Treasurer

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT



The year 1998 was one of mixed emotions for me on a personal level. Sadness was present, as I had to pass over the Presidency of the Federation at the end of my two-year term of office but pleasure existed too in that I have been able to continue to work for the organisation in my new capacity. I am looking forward keenly to serving the IFEH well into the next millennium. The sadness at giving up the President's chain of office was tempered by the fact that I knew I was passing on the mantle to Kia Regner who I know will continue to drive the Federation forward towards its stated goals. I cannot proceed further with this report without paying tribute to John Stirling who occupied the post of Honorary Secretary from 1996 to 1998. His commitment to IFEH cannot be doubted and although he was unable to attend many meetings in his secretarial capacity the work that he did (and continues to do as ELO and editor of the IFEH magazine) is testament to that dedication. The Federation thanks you, John, for your not inconsiderable assistance!

The Council of IFEH met only once during 1998—at the World Congress in Stockholm—where the meeting was spread over three days and where there was one of the largest attendances ever—fifty delegates representing seventeen Member organisations and five Associate Members.

Other reports within this document give details of some of the major decisions which were taken at that meeting but to appreciate the breadth of the work of IFEH readers may care to note some of the more every-day matters which were dealt with in Stockholm.

Further revision of the Federation's Memorandum & Articles of Association was approved; a new Associate Member (City College, Norwich, England) was admitted and two new policies (which are reproduced elsewhere in this document) were approved.

Further progress was made during 1998 on some educational initiatives and one of the more significant was the appointment of an Education Liaison Officer (ELO) who is charged with co-ordinating, with other interested parties and individuals, the IFEH's educational role. As mentioned earlier, John Stirling has taken on this role and his first report is contained in this document. The project involving IFEH and the University of Strathclyde, Scotland, progressed during the year and it is hoped that the Federation will be represented on a visit to Malawi early in 1999. The visit will be funded by The British Council and is intended to allow a fact-finding exercise to be undertaken. This will enable plans to be drawn up to see how the Federation, the University and the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland can assist in the improvement of the education and training of environmental health professionals in Malawi.

It is usual for the Honorary Co-ordinating Officer to contribute to this Annual Report but at the time of composition, Eric Foskett was indisposed and I have taken it upon myself to refer in my section to the work which he has undertaken during the year for IFEH. The Federation continues to be grateful for Eric's enthusiastic efforts on its behalf and in particular for his work on the Directory. In this project he is very well supported by Diane Eastman of the California Association of Environmental Health and the thanks of all within the international environmental health movement are due to them. Eric is also working on a year book and has responsibility for liaison with a number of bodies such as the International Labour Office.

In conclusion I would pay tribute to those who have assisted the Federation in the revision of its Web Site. Eric Foskett started the ball rolling and the University of Edinburgh were of considerable assistance in the early days. By the end of the year it became clear that the Danish Association (FMK) were prepared to put their expertise at the disposal of the Federation and 1999 should see their efforts bear fruit. Everyone reading this report and with access to the Internet should visit the IFEH site at www.ifeh.org

MICHAEL HALLS
Secretary

IFEH MAGAZINE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

At their meeting in Stockholm in 1998, the Council agreed to the publication of a Federation magazine and a small team consisting of John Stirling (co-ordinator), Dr Kenneth Stewart and Richard Sprenger, was invited to progress this matter.

In the initial stages, it was envisaged that the articles would be submitted by those Member Organisations already publishing a magazine. It was hoped that as it gained in strength, material could also be sourced from individuals within Member Organisations and colleagues working with Associate Member Organisations. In these early stages, it has been anticipated that the budget proposed to the Council would ensure that it was not a drain on the Federation's resources.

The project was commenced in the autumn of the year under review, with a date set for issue No. 1 being the spring of 1999 and the second one in the autumn of that year.

JOHN R. STIRLING

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

- Australian Institute of Environmental Health
Verband Der Osterreichischen Lebensmittelkontrollore (Austria)
Botswana Environmental Health Officers Association
Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
Association of Public Health Inspectors—Cyprus
Foreningen Af Miljomedarbejede I Kommunwenre [MFK]—Denmark
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health—England, Wales
and Northern Ireland
Finnish Communal Association of Environmental Health and Protection
Association Nationale des Ingenieurs du Genie Sanitaire (France)
Federal Association of Food Control Inspectors—Germany
Association of Public Health Inspectors—Greece
Hong Kong Public Health Officers Association
Indonesian Association on Environmental Health
Environmental Health Officers Association—Ireland
Association of Public Health Officers—Kenya
The Latvian Association of Preventive Medicine Functioners
Malaysian Association of Environmental Health
The Environmental Health Officers Association of Malawi
Health Inspectors Cadre—Mauritius
New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health Inc
Forum for miljo og helse—Norway
Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
Society of Environmental Health—Singapore
The South African Institute for Environmental Health Officers
Swedish Environmental Health Officers Association
Tanzanian Association of Health Inspectors
The National Environmental Health Association—United States of America
Zimbabwe Association of Environmental Health Practitioners

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

British Columbia Institute of Technology—Canada
Cape Technikon—Cape Town, South Africa
Curtin University of Technology—Perth, Western Australia, Australia
Dublin Institute of Technology—Ireland
University of Edinburgh—Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
Flinders University—Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
Hong Kong Technical College—Hong Kong
King's College, University of London—London, UK
Leeds Metropolitan University—Leeds, UK
Loma Linda University—California, USA
Manchester Metropolitan University—Manchester, UK
The City College, Norwich, UK
Ngee Ann Polytechnic—Singapore
Peninsula Technikon—Belleville, South Africa
Queensland University of Technology—Brisbane, Australia
Russia/American Environmental Centre—Philadelphia, USA
Ryerson Polytechnic University—Toronto, Canada
University of Salford—Salford, UK
University of Strathclyde—Glasgow, Scotland, UK
Stevenson College—Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
M.L. Sultan Technikon—Durban, South Africa
Technikon Natal—Durban, South Africa
Technikon Pretoria—Pretoria, South Africa
Technikon North Gauteng—Pretoria, South Africa
Vaal Triangle Technikon—Vanderiljpark, South Africa
University of Ulster—Jordanstown, Northern Ireland, UK
Umea University—Umea, Sweden
West Lothian College—Bathgate, Scotland, UK
University of Wales Cardiff Institute—Cardiff, UK

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Arizona Environmental Health Association—USA

California Environmental Health Association—USA

EHOverseas—UK

Gibraltar Association of Environmental Health Officers—Gibraltar

Minnesota Environmental Health Association—USA

Peruvian Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineers—Peru

The Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health—
Glasgow, Scotland, UK

The Tidy Britain Group—Wigan, UK

Underwriters Laboratories Inc—USA

HONORARY EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

At their meeting in Stockholm in 1998, the Council expressed a desire that better liaison arrangements should exist between the Faculty Fora currently in existence and appointed an Honorary Education Liaison Officer. The two Fora cover separate geographical areas, these being (i) the USA and (ii) the rest of the world.

Contact has been made with both and I can report that whilst the USA Faculty Forum is not in a healthy state at present, progress is being made on resurrecting it.

Turning to the other Faculty Forum, it is good to report that under the continued Chairmanship of Birgit Haglund, University of Umea, Sweden, it is gaining strength and accordingly I have been in contact. It is anticipated that a meeting will take place in 1999, at which time the exact form of assistance and support that each body can give the other, will be established.

The forthcoming year will provide the Federation with the opportunity of further defining the role of the Education Liaison Officer and what other areas should be the concern of the post-holder.

JOHN R. STIRLING