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# NEWSLETTER

*International Federation of Environmental Health*

**March 2018**

## **Briefing from Peter Archer, IFEH President Update March 2018**

Colleagues, in less than two weeks we will be opening the 15th IFEH World Congress 'A South Pacific Perspective' in Auckland, New Zealand. The congress is being hosted by IFEH Member Organisation the New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health and will take place from 20th – 23rd March at the SkyCity Convention Centre right in the centre of Auckland. Thirty years ago in September 1988 our first IFEH World Congress was held in Sydney, Australia. Since then we have visited every continent for our biennial world congress; two years ago we were in Lilongwe, Malawi, and in 2020 we shall meet in Malaysia.

In Auckland on Monday 19th March the IFEH will hold its Annual General Meeting where we will discuss among other things the appointment of officers for the coming year. My friend Selva Mudaly from the South Africa Institute of Environmental Health will take over from me as IFEH President; Susana Paixao from Portugal will be the new President Elect. Both these posts will be held for two years until the 16th World Congress in Malaysia. I wish them both well in their new posts. Full details of the AGM are available at [www.ifeh.org](http://www.ifeh.org).

In this newsletter besides highlighting our World Congress, we have a report on the World Academic Conference in Jamaica last October, details of the 2018 World Environmental Health Day on 26th September and a report from Malawi on the completed IFEH/MEHA Project where a whole village is benefiting from installation of a new bore hole and water supply together with a sanitation block at the local school. This project does not just have a public health impact but benefits the 'learners' in ensuring a local and convenient water supply and toilets which meet the cultural requirements of the local community.

I'm pleased to say that the IFEH is going from strength to strength, and now represents more than 50,000 EHPs, more than 40 individual national Member Organisations and a large number of associates such as universities and colleges. We are now a Partner of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) which places us in a strong position to influence both WHO and the UN.

Finally, I would like to thank IFEH Public Relations Officer, Jesper Christensen, for producing these

regular newsletters which provide an opportunity for all members to keep up to date!

IFEH/PJA/09.03.18.  
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### IFEH News from Chigolo, Malawi

Report from the completed Chigolo Sanitation Project funded by the International Federation of Environmental Health, project managed by the Malawi Environmental Health Association and implemented by our Partners – Assemblies of God Care

At the 14th World Environmental Health Congress in Lilongwe, Malawi a field trip took delegates to a number of rural villages in the Salima District, close to Lake Malawi. Visitors were made acutely aware of the problems of a lack of accessible water supplies and any toilets in schools not meeting cultural requirements. In one village we visited, girls had to walk at least four kilometers each morning to collect water. Frequently this task made the children late for school and very tired! Adolescent girls were only attending school three weeks out of four because when menstruating they stayed at home so no one was aware of their condition. In discussions with representatives from the Malawi Environmental Health Association it was decided to assist one village school to put in a new bore hole and associated hand pump. In addition we would build a toilet block providing facilities for both girls and boys. The access to the toilets was to be discrete and with appropriate washing facilities in the girls' toilets.

The total cost of the project was £5,487 with generous contributions from EHAI, REHIS and SAIEH. The balance of the cost was met by the International Federation of Environmental Health. Colleagues in Malawi managed the project overseeing the work carried out by the Assembly of God Care.

After a number of delays, one borehole was drilled and two toilets constructed at Chigolo Primary School of Mtambo village traditional authority Kuluunda in Salima district. Both the bore hole and toilets will benefit 414 girls and 400 boys. A total of 11 participants, seven women and four men, have been trained in community based water resource management and water safety plans. It cannot be overemphasised the difference this project will make to the life of the village and to the educational chances of girls living there. The work was completed in February 2018



*Temwa Mzengeza from MEHA opens the new facilities*



*A student of the school tries out the new water pump*



*Girls of the school attending the opening!*

### World Academic Conference, Jamaica 2017

The 2<sup>nd</sup> IFEH World Academic Conference, '**One Health; One Global Environment**' was held in Montego Bay October - 2017. The conference was run by the Jamaican Institute of Public Health Inspectors (JAPHI) with support from NEHA.

Delegates and participants numbered over 300 from 18 countries representing all continents. Over 50 keynote speakers, plenaries, oral presentations and posters were on show. The main keynote speaker was Dr. Sheryl Stroud, Executive Director, One Health Commission.

Four delegates were supported through the Hedgerow Bursary to attend the IFEH Council Meeting in Montego Bay and to stay on for the academic conference.

This bursary is available to representatives of IFEH members living in low income countries.

In the July 2017 newsletter it was mentioned that the biannual 'Roy Emerson Award' was won for the first time by an EH undergraduate from Slovenia. Zarja Zrinski from the University of Ljubljana.

The winner, Zarja Zrinski received the award for an outstanding submission entitled 'Is the knowledge of international travel health a legal obligation or a social and personal responsibility?', which she was presenting at the conference.



Look up for the winning presentation on [IFEH.org](http://IFEH.org)

Delegates and participants complimented the conference organizers for a great conference and some openly expressed to JAPHI that it was "the best conference" they ever attended. JAPHI is proud to have hosted this conference and look forward to future collaborations with the IFEH.

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### **World Environmental Health Day 26 September 2018**

Theme for the 2018 World Environmental Health Day:  
**Global Food Safety and Sustainability**

This year's WEHD theme of 'Global Food Safety and Sustainability' aims to support the provision of more safe food, to make use of precious water and nutrient resources, and for communities to increasingly value sustainable food production.

Food safety is being challenged nowadays by global dimensions of food supply chains, the need for reduction of food waste and efficient use of natural resources such as clean water. Food safety deals with safeguarding the own national food supply chain from the introduction, growth or survival of hazardous microbial and chemical agents. But within a larger international context, borders are fading and surely this is the case for foodstuffs which are an important globally traded commodity.

Look up for more details about this year's theme on [IFEH.org](http://IFEH.org).

#### **How to get involved**

We encourage all member organisations and regional groups, academic associates and associate members to set up local initiatives and events to celebrate World Environmental Health Day.

We would specifically ask Universities to encourage and support their students in producing short videos on topics important to them.

Regarding information about planned national / regional initiatives as well as short videos we will provide opportunity for this to be displayed on the specific page on the [IFEH website](http://IFEH.org).

This opportunity is open to all – regardless of membership of the IFEH. Please send information about your initiatives to Hon. Webmaster Henning Hansen [webmaster@ifeh.org](mailto:webmaster@ifeh.org) or Hon. PRO Jesper Christensen [pro@ifeh.org](mailto:pro@ifeh.org)

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### **Updates for the 15th IFEH World Congress on Environmental Health, March 2018.**



The 15<sup>th</sup> IFEH World Congress on Environmental Health will be held in Auckland, New Zealand from 20 to 23 March 2018. The New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health (NZIEH) hosts the congress

The program for the Congress have focus on Environmental Health in the South Pacific. Delegates and participants can look forward to a varied and interesting program. The program contains topics like Environment (air quality, municipal solid waste, Noise), Natural Disasters, Public Health, Food Safety, Biosecurity, Built Environment – Housing, Noise etc.

IFEH would like to urge all members to make the effort to attend the congress as it will be a great opportunity to see how Environmental Health functions in the South Pacific as well as a great opportunity to network with members from other countries. Full details of the conference are on the IFEH website or by going to <http://www.2018wceh.org/>

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### **Updates for the IFEH – UNISDR Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**

The Federation has entered in to a formal partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNISDR under the Science and Technology Partnership.

The Federation has formed an IFEH Committee on DRR. The IFEH Committee is chaired by Henning Hansen, VP IFEH, EnviNa Denmark. Following the decision taken at the Jamaica IFEH Council meeting the Committee has been strengthened and the Committee now includes representation from all the 5 IFEH regions as well as representation from the EH academia including International Environmental Health Faculty Forum.

The IFEH Committee is in the process of elaborating a work programme with a primary focus on fostering a frame for the sharing of experience on EH DRR and disseminate information, fostering co-operation between members and between universities on educational frameworks.

In this way it is intended to help fostering new partnerships between member orgs / Universities / and member orgs together with universities on DRR.

Further information, including the updated list of members of the IFEH Committee on DRR can be found on the IFEH website.

[Link](#)

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### **General information to members**

The Federation works to disseminate knowledge concerning environmental health and promote co-operation between countries and member organisations.

Sharing of information between members are important.

### **IFEH Special Interest Groups – SIGs**

The IFEH website offers several options for knowledge sharing – one of the opportunities is to take part in the IFEH special interest groups. The groups covering 16 different professional fields – drinking water, food safety and security, waste, public health etc.

Look at the website for more information  
<http://www.ifeh.org/sig>

### **Professional networking**

Another way to share information is through the IFEH Facebook group ([facebook.com/ifeh.org](https://www.facebook.com/ifeh.org)) or [LinkedIn IFEH Group](#).

### **Twinning arrangements**

Exchange between members of IFEH

There is an agreement between the national associations within the IFEH, opening the possibility for members of the national associations to swap office and chair for a period of up to two or three weeks.

It is highly recommended by the IFEH Council that members of a National Association within the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) take the chance to see how the environmental health work is carried out somewhere else in the World.

Look at the website for more information  
<http://www.ifeh.org/twinning/index.html>.

### **Articles for IFEH Magazine and IFEH Newsletter**

Environment and Health International is the journal of the International Federation of Environmental Health. The magazine is published twice a year.

The last magazine was published in December 2017 and can be seen at [IFEH.org](http://www.ifeh.org)

This edition has interesting articles on

- the production of Jameson Whiskey in Cork
- the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 in the UK
- sustainability principles into all operations of motor sports
- the challenges of Healthcare waste management within hospitals
- the importance of measles vaccination
- the need to train the consumer so they can make an informed decision when purchasing foods

Members are invited to submit short articles or executive summary from longer articles that can be published in the Magazine.

The regular IFEH Newsletters are a source of information on the daily goings-on at the Federation (the latest newsletter is always available as a downloadable file at [IFEH.org](http://www.ifeh.org)).

Also small news items are welcome for the newsletter.

Articles for coming issues of the magazine please send to Kathryn Young E-mail: [kathy.young@dit.ie](mailto:kathy.young@dit.ie)

Small news items for the newsletter please send to Jesper Ø. Christensen - [pro@ifeh.org](mailto:pro@ifeh.org)