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**IFEH NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Jesper Ø. Christensen, IFEH hon. PRO  
Email: [pro@ifeh.org](mailto:pro@ifeh.org)

**IFEH Board of Directors:**

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**Registered Office Address**

International Federation of Environmental Health, IFEH  
Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields,  
London SE1 8DJ, UK  
Website: <https://www.ifeh.org>

# NEWSLETTER

*International Federation of Environmental Health*

**October 2019**

**Briefing from Dr. Selva Mudaly, IFEH President  
Update September 2019**



*Mr. Selva Mudaly, President IFEH*

Dear Colleagues and Esteemed Members of the IFEH,

The Academic Conference in Uganda was a real success and was very well attended. The support that the Makerere University received by its management, the government of Uganda and the Environmental Health Students' Association was really great. The Organizing Committee worked very hard to make this Conference a great success. I must on behalf of the IFEH congratulate our Ugandan colleagues for organizing such a successful conference in Kampala from the 9th – 11th April 2019.

The IFEH held its Annual General Meeting on the 8th April 2019. Mr. Martin Fitzpatrick was elected as the new Honorary Secretary of the IFEH and I welcome him on board.

A lot is happening in the IFEH. All the administrative issues in the Strategic plan is being implemented to address the concerns raised at the New Zealand meeting.

All Board of Directors meetings are now being held by Zoom and this has made it very easy for the members to participate and contribute meaningfully. I am proud to announce that we are having full attendance of members at the BOD Meetings and the discussions at these meeting are more robust.

We have agreed as the BOD to co-opt the Chairperson of the Faculty Forum onto the Board as this will bring about more synergy between the Council and the Faculty Forum.

We have agreed to hold a special Extraordinary General Meeting at the end of November 2019 to deal with certain changes to the Procedure Manual. The Honorary Secretary will be shortly sending out notices of this meeting. This EGM will be using Zoom to conduct this meeting. I appeal to all National Organizations in good standing to participate in this important meeting.

World Environmental Health Day was on the 26th September 2019. I hope to all our members have celebrated this very important day in the IFEH calendar. Please ensure to send the webmaster, Henning Hansen a report of your events on WEHD so that it can be loaded onto the IFEH website. Visit our website and view the posters that have been developed by the IFEH to celebrate WEHD. Once again I wish to express my appreciation for the support you are giving me, thus making my work very much easier, so that together we can ensure we serve our members properly.

Regards,  
Dr. Selva Mudaly, President IFEH

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### **5<sup>th</sup> of May - WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY at Faculty of Health Sciences University of Ljubljana, Slovenia**

This year we at the Department of Sanitary Engineering, Faculty of Health Sciences in Ljubljana decided to mark 5th of May in a slightly different way. With the valuable help of our students we organized small event in the hall of the faculty.



The main purpose was to promote educational materials which were prepared and released for consumers and professional food handlers. Additionally, the significance of hand hygiene was demonstrated also through leaflets, which were prepared in collaboration with kindergarten and elementary school children and their teachers.

**Andrej Ovc**

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### **A Perspective on the IFEH Honorary Secretary role**

It was my great privilege to be nominated by the Environmental Health Association of Ireland for the position of Honorary Secretary of the International Federation of Environmental Health earlier this year and I was honoured to be elected by the IFEH members at the Federation AGM in Kampala in April 2019.

Having been involved in IFEH activities for a decade, I have a strong belief in the importance of international solidarity amongst environmental health professionals globally, particularly during these turbulent times when we all face growing pressures

on our ability to serve our communities. My hope for IFEH is that we ensure we rise to these challenges and support each other in the process. In terms of my specific duties as Honorary Secretary the "textbook" version as described in IFEH procedures are to:

- Be the initial point of contact and official correspondent for IFEH.
- Be a member of the Board and in that capacity take decisions which cannot await a meeting of the Council.
- Arrange Council meetings including fixing times and venues in consultation with the appropriate persons.
- Issue agendas and supporting papers and to prepare and issue minutes of such meetings.
- Liaise with the organizers of World Congresses.
- Cooperate with the President, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Public Relations Officer, and the Web-master in keeping the IFEH Web-site up to date.
- Maintain the IFEH Procedures Manual.

Each one of these duties are crucial and challenging in terms of the governance of the Federation. Having spent six years on the Board of my own national association I fully appreciate just how important each of these elements are, but to my mind it is also important to have regard to what you can bring to the role that never gets written down in procedure manuals.

The Honorary Secretary, in large measure sets the tone for communication within the organisation and with the external world. That is a hugely exciting prospect and one of the great joys of the role. As anyone who has dealt with me in IFEH will know I am a very committed advocate of using technology to allow us to meet and talk face to face regardless of where we are geographically located. This opens huge possibilities for strengthening participation by all members of IFEH and enhancing democratic decision making. As Honorary Secretary I am also acutely aware of the challenge to make IFEH relevant not only to representatives who attend meetings or those who participate in IFEH activities, but most importantly to the tens of thousands of our members. The possibility of harnessing that resource through initiatives such as the IFEH Special Interest Groups deserves deeper consideration.

We are taking steady but important steps in the right direction. The ongoing process of developing and implementing a Strategic Plan that makes IFEH fit for purpose in the 21st century is one crucial element. The changes we have made so that our Board and other meetings are being conducted online with no limitation on participant numbers and no charge to participants is another. All in all, this is a very

interesting time for IFEH with tremendous opportunities if we grasp them. One final word – if you want to contact me on any topic please feel free to do so – but consider making it a face to face conversation (I will set it up for you) – it is good to talk.

**Martin Fitzpatrick** *Honorary Secretary, IFEH*

**Uganda successfully hosts the third International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) World Academic and 16<sup>th</sup> Makerere University Environmental Health Students' Association (MUEHSA) Scientific Conference in April 2019**

The conference held in Kampala, Uganda from April 9 to April 11, 2019 was a great success with more than 500 participants from 17 countries.

The theme for the event was “Environmental Health: A cornerstone to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”



*Group photo of conference participants with the Guest of Honour Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku, Uganda Minister of State for Primary Health Care*

The deliberations and discussions at the conference from researchers, practitioners, policy makers, funders, implementers, civil society, students and other stakeholders from national and international organisations were geared towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Uganda and the world at large.

The conference activities included remarks from highly distinguished people such as Hon Dr. Joyce Moriku - State Minister of Health for Uganda in charge of Primary Health Care, The President of the IFEH - Dr. Selva Mudaly, Professor William Bazeyo who represented the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, and Professor Rhoda Wanyenze - Dean School of Public Health. Cultural entertainment, oral and poster presentations, workshops and key note addresses were part of the exciting conference programme.



*IFEH President Elect Dr. Susana Paixao hands over the best poster award to Gloria Ahimbisibwe, a Makerere University student*

The participants from all over the world including: Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia and America came together to discuss research findings, best practices, lessons learned, and innovations relevant to environmental health training and practice. From the conference evaluation, the most beneficial aspects of the event included: keynote addresses, content, career development and mentorship.

**Faith Atai, David Musoke and others**

The article can be read in full length on the [IFEH website](#)

**SciTech Europe Quarterly.**

In the September issue of the SciTech Europe Quarterly, an article was brought with the president of IFEH about the current projects IFEH are working on and how the IFEH plan to tackle climate change, amongst other projects now and in the future. The federation’s work with World Environmental Health Day was highlighted in the magazine.



The article can be found in [SciTech Europe quarterly issue 32](#)

The 16<sup>th</sup> IFEH World Congress on Environmental Health 2020 is kindly hosted by:  
Malaysian Association of Environmental Health  
MAEH



**Organised by:** [Logos of IFHEM, MAEH, and others]

**Supported by:** [Logos of WCEH, PWTC, and others]

**16th INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (IFEH) WORLD CONGRESS 2020**

**Date:** 10th-13th August 2020

**Venue:** Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Theme:** Environmental Health At The Centre Of Sustainable Development

**Email:** secretariat@wceh2020malaysia.com

**DISCIPLINE COVERED**

- Air Quality
- Built Environment
- Child Environmental Health
- Climate Change and Environmental Health
- Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases Related To Environment
- Environmental Forensics
- Food Safety and Hygiene
- Green Technology and Sustainability Research
- Hazardous Materials/Toxic Waste Management
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Pest and Vector Control
- Sustainable Solid Waste Management
- Waste Water Management
- Water Quality

For more info, please contact the secretariat or visit [www.wceh2020malaysia.com](http://www.wceh2020malaysia.com)

• Abstract Submission is now open  
• Travel Grant coming soon

Scan and Subscribe using the QR Code

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 10th - 13th August 2020

**Congress Theme:**

The theme of the 2020 Congress is:  
Environmental Health at the Centre of Sustainable Development

This congress provides a platform for Environmental Health practitioners and industries to share knowledge of the most recent techniques, developments, innovations and the latest updates in Environmental Health

Updates and more information can be found on the [conference website](#) and the [IFEH website](#)

**Spotlight on World Environmental Health Day 26 September 2019**

This year's theme for World Environmental Health Day was 'Climate change challenges, time for global Environmental Health to act in unison.'

Climate change impacts on vulnerable communities and a call for Environmental Health Practitioners to play a essential role in adaptation strategies and measures to protect communities against the challenges of climate variability at a grassroots level.

Ever since the decision of the IFEH to make the 26th September 'World Environmental Day', many countries, universities, schools and our national organization members have been highlighting this day.

There has been great interest from member organizations, regional groups, academic associates and associate members to support and celebrate WEHD with many local initiatives to promote and focus on this year's theme.

The interest has been overwhelming this year. The various projects and events celebrating has really highlighted the importance of environmental health and its importance to protect the climate and health of our communities and future generations.

Thanks to all who have helped putting the climate on the agenda. There is room for only a few examples here. Look at the website and see all the impressive initiatives, <https://www.ifeh.org/wehd/>



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Republic of the Philippines



WEHD 2019 - Sociedad Iberoamericana de Salud Ambiental, Buenos Aires, Argentina

## IFEH participation in UN Global Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Geneva



The IFEH was invited by the UNISDR (now renamed to UNDRR) to attend the [Global Platform 2019](#) on DRR in Geneva in May 2019 including meetings with other S&T Partners and participation in the UNDRR Science and Policy Forum at the UN Grand Palais leading up to the UN Conference.

Mr. Henning I. Hansen (EnviNa Denmark), Chairman of the IFEH DRR Committee, Hon IFEH Vice President, attended the Conference on behalf of the IFEH.

In connection with the UNDRR Conference the IFEH posted an Official Statement to the Global Platform 2019.

[Look up the Official IFEH Statement 2019](#)

The IFEH is a formal partner with the UNDRR under the Science and Technology Partnership (S&T).

In this capacity the IFEH DRR Committee has been participating in several UNDRR hearings in regard to Disaster Risk Reduction.

Further information can be found on:

<https://www.ifeh.org/drr>

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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.

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

<https://www.ifeh.org/sig>

### Professional networking

Another way to share information is through the IFEH Facebook group ([facebook.com/ifeh.org](https://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

<https://www.ifeh.org/twinning/index.html>.

### IFEH Magazine/Journal and Newsletter

Environment and Health International is the journal of the International Federation of Environmental Health. The magazine is published occasionally.

The magazines are available on the [IFEH website](#).

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](#).

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).