



PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2018 TO 2020

It gives me great pleasure to present my report as President of the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) from 20th March 2018 to 24th October 2020.

My Presidency was a critical period in the history of the IFEH. From the first day of my term I was given the enormous task of developing a Strategic Plan for the IFEH. At the Council meeting of the 18th March 2018 in Auckland, many member organizations raised issues about the management of the IFEH and the clear direction it needs to take to make it a true representative of all our National Organization, i.e. a real visible and recognized International Body representing Environmental Health and all our members as equal partners in the decision making of the organization.

The road in getting the finalization of the Strategic Plan for the IFEH was not an easy one. 5 Task teams were established, ensuring that member organizations participated in these task teams viz;

- Communication Strategy/ Plan
- Finance Committee
- History of the IFEH
- Marketing and Membership Strategy/ Plan
- Good Governance, Branding and Procedure Manual.

Each of these Task Teams submitted their reports with recommendations. These reports and recommendations together with the scoping strategy points laid the basis to create a new three- year Strategic Plan. Regular reports were submitted at each Board meeting and Council Meeting, so as to keep the members updated. The Strategic Plan was finally adopted on the 24th October 2020 at the Council Meeting. Going forward all Board Meetings must have an item addressing the Strategic Plan. During the process certain urgent actions had to take place to ensure that good governance and management of the IFEH can take place so that the IFEH can function properly with transparency and democracy thus transforming the Organization. Some of the achievements thus far are as follows:

- A new logo for the Organization was developed and approved

- The Organization now has a set of Branding Rules
- A new Mission and Vision Statement for the Organization was adopted: **“To promote International co-operation between Environmental Health professionals, thus striving for safer, cleaner and healthier environments in the interest of world health.” And “To be the Internationally recognized leading professional organization in the field of Environmental Health.”**
- We now have a set of Values, a new set of Objectives, defined who we are and who is our audience and stakeholders
- All our Board of Directors, two Extraordinary and the Council and Annual General meetings are now virtual via Zoom platform, thus making these meetings more accessible to our members. The attendance at our meeting has improved tremendously.
- A membership audit has been carried out to clearly determine what our numbers are in the Organization. This updated audit must be regularly updated as office-bearers change, as we had very old membership numbers and contact details on our records.
- The Board of Directors have co-opted the Chairperson of the Faculty Forum onto the Board, so as to strengthen the relationship between the Board and the Faculty Forum.
- On the 30th November 2019, the Council rationalized the membership and removed individual membership from the Procedure Manual.
- On the 21st March 2020, the Council agreed to further amendments to the Procedure Manual, where the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary must be elected like other office bearers, i.e. President and President-Elect and they must be representatives on the Council from their National Organizations. All the terms of these office-bearers shall be 2 years. Furthermore, the cost of travel to conferences and Congresses will not automatically be paid by the IFEH, but the IFEH can decide to appoint anyone of these office-bearers to represent them.
- The Council at its meeting held in Uganda on the 30th May 2019 resolved to establish a Finance Committee to assist the Honorary Treasurer to manage the finances of the IFEH. A final term of reference for the Finance Committee was approved as part of the Strategic Plan. The new Board of Directors must establish this Committee and ensure that all financial matters must be dealt with by the Finance Committee and its recommendations must be submitted to the Board for approval.

- One of the most significant achievements for the IFEH during my Presidency was that the History of the IFEH was captured in a comprehensive document for future reference of the membership. This document must be updated on a regular basis and Mr. Jerry Chaka offered to ensure that this is done regularly.

It was agreed that the Board of Directors of the IFEH will be the drivers of this Strategic Plan.

During my Presidency, it became more and more clearer that our Procedure Manual was old, outdated and not user friendly. In fact, it does not comply with the United Kingdom Company laws. Going forward this Procedure Manual must be the first task the new Board must deal with so as to legitimise the operations of the IFEH. This responsibility to update this Procedure Manual is the task of the Honorary Secretary and published at the direction of the Council.

The other aspects I carried out to enhanced the profile of the IFEH are as follows:

- We were approached by the Editor of SciTech Europa Quarterly, Ms Olivia Frost to write an article on the IFEH, what is it work, what role it plays in health, its objectives, World Environmental Health day, the current activities and projects the IFEH are running and what is next for the IFEH and where would I like to see the IFEH in five years' time. The article was published in the July 2019 edition of this journal.
- We were signatory to a letter, dated 26th May 2020 to the members of the G20 Countries, where the Health professionals stand united in support of pragmatic, science-based approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic and in the same spirit , we also stand united in support of a Healthy Recovery from this crisis, including the new health threat of climate change upon vulnerable populations.
- I was mandated by the Board of Directors to draft the theme for the World Environmental Health Day for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 which was approved by the Board.
- I also as the President of the IFEH sent message of support to our National Organizations, which suffered with incidents and disasters, viz; Sri Lanka – storms, flooding and deaths
Zimbabwe – storms, flooding and deaths

South Africa – storms, flooding and deaths

New Zealand – killing of worshippers in a mosque

Going forward the IFEH must continue to represent its National Organization as a priority at all times and not our own interest. We need to make every single National Organization of the IFEH equally important and no National Organization is more important than the others.

We must continue to ensure that we continue to transform the Organization and make it accessible and transparent to all our members.

We must continue to build the membership of the IFEH as there is great potential to do this. I will commit myself to make sure this is realized.

I will always be a member of the IFEH, and I am available at anytime to assist in whatever way possible to move the IFEH forward.

I want to place on record a special thank you to all the National Organizations of the IFEH, the Board of Directors, the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Martin Fitzpatrick and Mr. Jerry Chaka for all his guidance and support at all times.

Lastly, against all the odds, I managed to complete my term as President of the IFEH and delivered on the mandate given to me by the Council with all the support I received.

I wish the new Board of Directors and the Council all the best going forward and wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dr. Selva Mudaly

Past President -- IFEH