



IFEH

International Federation
of Environmental Health

President's Message to mark WEHD 2023

On September 26, 2023, the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH), its affiliates and supporters in the public and private sectors will commemorate World Environmental Health Day (WEHD). The theme for this year is: **“Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day”**.

The theme reflects the consistency with which the global environmental health workforce has been addressing the myriad of environmental health challenges and issues to prevent illness and promote the wellbeing of man and his environment. There is no place for complacency as we work with our local, regional, and international partners to avert the onset of new diseases and to prevent the re-emergence of important infectious diseases.

Environmental health professionals (EHPs) represent one of the largest subdivisions of the global public health workforce and must be recognized for the delivery of the essential environmental public health services. As professionals we continue to face numerous challenges, but we should not be deterred by them. Current challenges include climate change and the climate-sensitive health risks posed and the resultant health outcomes as well as potential outcomes for health systems and facilities. Other global environmental health challenges include food safety and security, chemical, air and water pollution, solid and hazardous waste management, sanitation and wastewater management, vector proliferation, poor housing, and disaster risk reduction. At the policy and management levels in many countries, there needs to be greater urgency in embracing and introducing appropriate technology to enhance the work and productivity of EHPs.

We must continue to stand in defense of environmental health and the communities we serve daily, and we invite others in policy, management, academia, business, and other sectors to stand with us as we serve our diverse populations. WEHD provides the opportunity for our members to sensitize the public and policy makers about our work and to involve them in events planned for the day. It is my wish that WEHD 2023 will provide us with the enthusiasm, commitment, and motivation to continue our wonderful journey in environmental health.

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President - IFEH