

# NEWSLETTER

*International Federation of Environmental Health*

November 2016

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## Briefing from Peter Archer, IFEH President Update November 2016

This is my first news update since I took over the role at the World Congress in Lilongwe Malawi in May this year. Before providing any detail, I need to pay tribute to the major contribution made by the Immediate Past President, Henning Hansen of Denmark's EnviNa. For two years Henning has been busy engaging with separate parts on the United Nations and the World Health Organisation. One of Henning's special interests has been in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change. The IFEH is now recognised as a Partner in the UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction) Science & Technology Partnership.

In the past year Haiti has joined the IFEH and Fiji is going through the application process as I write this report. The IFEH is strong and getting stronger by the day. Over the weekend of 5th & 6th November the IFEH met in Croatia in the coastal town of Opatija. Reports will be posted on the website in due course.

In May 2016 the Malawian Environmental Health Association hosted the 14th World Environmental Health Congress in the capital city, Lilongwe. 162 delegates from 25 countries in five continents attended the four day conference. MEHA is thanked and congratulated on hosting such an excellent congress. More detailed reports will appear in the IFEH Journal due out in December but I will mention the water and sanitation project at a school in Southern Malawi. This is being led by EHA and MEHA and supported by IFEH.

Later in May on behalf of the IFEH I attended the World Federation of Public Health Associations' General Assembly in Geneva; this took place alongside the World Health Assembly at the United Nations. On Monday 23rd May at the UN, the WFPHAs launched a 'Global Charter for the Public's Health' <http://www.wfpha.org/wfpha-projects/14-projects/171-a-global-charter-for-the-public-s-health-3.html>

This Charter is accompanied by a practical 'health protection policy toolkit' (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8wr6920su0aVDJ6Sm1PbGE5Zlk/view>) which is applicable to all

environmental health practitioners. The IFEH is now assisting in its implementation.

### Update from Malawi

Under the theme of Environmental Health: Solving Emerging and Prevailing Global Health Risks, the 14<sup>th</sup> IFEH World Environmental Health Congress was held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 3rd to 6th May 2016.



The Congress adopted a declaration on the role of Environmental Health in the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

More detailed material on the website and the upcoming IFEH Journal.

The annual IFEH Council Meeting held in addition with the World Congress included the following highlights and decisions:

- Initiatives launched to promote a closer liaison between IFEH and UNISDR on disaster risk reduction.
- Continued IFEH involvement in a Malawi school project to provide girl friendly latrines
- Closing the association's job portal due to lack of interest and users. Thanks to Jan Homma for his work on this matter.

Additional information in the minutes on the website.

### New IFEH PRO

Jesper Ø. Christensen, EnviNa, Denmark new PR Officer of the International Federation of Environmental Health.



Jesper is a board member of EnviNa - The Danish Association of Environment and Nature Protection Officers. His first experience of the International Federation was at the IFEH Council Meeting in Denpasar, Bali Indonesia 2011.

He has worked for 30 years with environmental issues for the local municipality with expertise in municipal waste management and wastewater.

### Spotlight on World Environmental Health Day 26 September 2016

This year's theme was Tobacco Control.

Tobacco consumption is the single largest avoidable health risk in the European Union. It is the most significant cause of **premature death** in the EU, responsible for nearly 700,000 deaths every year. Around 50% of smokers die prematurely (on average 14 years earlier). (<http://ec.europa.eu>).

In addition, smokers have more life years in **poor health**. Many forms of cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases are linked to tobacco use, which causes more problems than alcohol, drugs, high blood pressure, excess weight or high cholesterol.

Worldwide there are many initiatives taken to reduce the use of tobacco, one example is The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) - <http://www.who.int/fctc/en/>. 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.

There is room for only a few examples here. Look at the website and see all the impressive initiatives, <http://www.ifeh.org/wehd/>.

The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland launched a competition for Scottish Primary Schools and invited year 6 pupils at these schools to demonstrate what 10 years of a smoke-free Scotland means to them as 10 year olds. The winning entry, a short video, was submitted by Blacklands Primary School, Kilwinning.

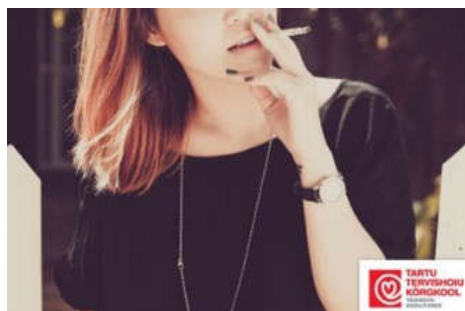


The National Environmental Health Association – NEHA (USA) has developed a toolkit to focus on second and third hand tobacco exposure.

The toolkit provides a set of sample of social media messages, animations and graphics, key

data points and newsletter that can be used to distribute and simplify messages about tobacco exposure.

In Estonia Tartu Health Care College has organized a free course “Honestly and Openly about Tobacco” for school teachers.



### **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 <http://www.ifeh.org/sig/index.html>.

### Social networking

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

### **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>.

### **IFEH Magazine/Journal and newsletter**

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

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

Also small news items are welcome for both the Magazine and this 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 [pro@ifeh.org](mailto:pro@ifeh.org).