

IEQ Global Alliance

For better indoor environment quality



IEQ-GA – Presidential Column (December, 2020)

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.” Charles Dickens – Tale of Two Cities, 1859.

I quote at length the beginning of the ‘Tale of Two Cities’ because it reflects well what the past year has been like for so many of us who are in the indoor environmental quality (IEQ) field. Our research, expertise, knowledge and experience have been called upon by many entities, including governments, schools, and workplaces, who are relying on our professional judgement to help control the spread of COVID-19. On the other hand, science and medicine in general (and those who worked in our field in particular, as well as closely related fields) have been attacked, denigrated, disbelieved and ignored by many through misinformation from social media, cable news, fraudulent websites and the like. For our part, IEQ-GA will continue to support scientific integrity and evidence-based research and science in the indoor environmental quality field. We believe strongly in the ethical practices of scientists, researchers and practitioners who work every day to advance the science of indoor environmental quality.

Through it all this year, the Indoor Environmental Quality – Global Alliance (IEQ-GA) has progressed and become a bigger worldwide alliance of scientists, indoor environmental practitioners, and researchers. In the past year, there have been additional professional organizations that have joined the IEQ-GA.

The India-based professional organization, Society for Indoor Environment (SIE) has been accepted as an Affiliate Member of IEQ-GA. SIE has all the representations from the pioneer and reputed research, engineering, medical, and educational institutes in India. The core group of SIE formed this organization to address the issues of indoor environment as people spend more than 90% of their daily times in indoor environments. For information regarding SIE, please review the following webpage: <https://ieq-ga.net/about/affiliate-members/>.

The Acoustical Society of America (ASA) has joined IEQ-GA as a full member. ASA is the premier international scientific society in acoustics devoted to the science and technology of sound. Founded in 1929 to generate, disseminate, and promote the

knowledge and practical applications of acoustics, its over 6800 members worldwide represent a broad spectrum of the study of acoustics. For more information regarding ASA, please review the following webpage: <https://ieq-ga.net/about/members/>.

Most recently, The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning, and Restoration Certification (IICRC) has joined IEQ-GA as a full member. IICRC a non-profit organization for the inspection, cleaning and restoration industries. The IICRC, originally named the International Institute of Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning Inc. (IICUC) was founded in 1972. Since starting in 1972, the IICRC has evolved into a global organization with over 60,000 Certified Technicians and 6,000 Firms worldwide. For more information regarding IICRC, please review the following webpage: <https://ieq-ga.net/about/members/>.

As President of IEQ-GA, I was hopeful that the good news concerning vaccines for the SARS CoV-19 virus will continue in 2021, with more vaccinations taking place worldwide. Unfortunately, it is likely to be many months before the full effect of the vaccinations will be felt in many countries. The distribution of the vaccine to the billions in the world that are susceptible to contacting the disease will take many months and possibly years. In addition, there appear to be a new variant of COVID-19 is more transmissible. All of these matters will require that there continue to be vigilance regarding public health restrictions such as physical distancing, masks, and hand watching.

The IEQ-GA Task Force on COVID-19 remains active, and its members are meeting regularly to discuss the ongoing pandemic and our response. The Task Force will stay current with the rapid changes that are occurring regarding the spread of the pandemic and the unprecedented response from the science, engineering, health and safety and research communities. A reminder that there is a webpage specifically dedicated to addressing concerns about COVID-19. This webpage includes a series of Questions & Answers (Q&A) that are intended to help anyone who has concerns about COVID-19. This webpage can be found here: <https://ieq-ga.net/covid-19/information-center/>

IEQ-GA is looking forward to sponsoring a number of upcoming conferences regarding various aspects of indoor environmental quality. For the time being, it is likely that most of these conferences will be 'virtual'. Our Member Organizations will continue to post their conferences, webinars and symposia on the IEQ-GA webpage: <https://ieq-ga.net/events/> Please plan to attend these conferences by 'on-line' or in person, if possible.

The ASHRAE/AIVC 2020 Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) conference is planned for September, 2021. IEQ-GA is a sponsor of this conference entitled 'Transiting from IAQ to IEQ'. IEQ-GA looks forward to participating in the conference in September, 2021. For more information on this conference, please click on this webpage: <https://www.ashrae.org/conferences/topical-conferences/indoor-environmental-quality-performance-approaches>

IEQ-GA continues to lead the way on all matters related to indoor environmental quality, including IAQ, acoustics, lighting, vibrations and other environmental factors. We are often contacted by professional organizations in these fields regarding full and affiliate

membership. For information on membership, please click on this webpage: <https://ieq-ga.net/contact/how-to-join-us/>

IEQ-GA expects to proceed with new and innovative means to communicate to workers and building occupants throughout the world that have issues with indoor environmental quality in their workplaces as well as their dwellings. IEQ-GA is considering sponsoring webinars, podcasts and publications in 2021 that will enable the IEQ-GA to reach even more people interested in indoor environmental quality. Please continue your support in the coming year, and IEQ-GA will thrive even in these difficult times.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Donald Weekes, President of the IEQ-GA