

IEQ Global Alliance

For better indoor environment quality



IEQ-GA – Presidential Column (May, 2021)

I have great news! IEQ-GA and the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The two professional organizations have agreed to work together on projects of mutual interest that will benefit the indoor air quality profession as well as the visibility of both organizations.

As a result of the MOU, ISIAQ and IEQ-GA will be collaborating on a new online program that includes a video show and audio podcast series (coordinated by Healthy Indoors, a webcast company based in Syracuse, NY, USA, operating as a corporation entitled IAQNET LLC). The programs are expected to begin in June, 2021 and they will consist of (6) live audience 60-minute shows (one each month) that will be streamed on the new Healthy Indoors Global Online Community. The program will be a live streamed and will provide an interactive audience experience, where guests will have the opportunity to answer live questions from the audience.

The shows will be 60-minutes in length and produced as both video programs and audio podcasts to create multiple distribution channels for viewer consumption. Having both video shows and audio podcasts will maximize the ability to circulate episodes to a wider global audience. IEQ-GA and ISIAQ will jointly own the video show/podcast, and will equally share mutually-approved costs. ISIAQ and IEQ-GA must unanimously approve speakers for each video show and podcast.

It is hoped that the webcasts will be successful in the first six months, and that there will be additional programs in the future. For the future, the two organizations (IEQ-GA and ISIAQ) will look for other opportunities to collaborate under the terms of the MOU.

One of the topics for the program will likely be regarding the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the successful vaccination program roll-out in North America, in Europe, in Israel, and other locations, there is of course a considerable amount of work still to be done to get the vaccine in more arms worldwide. As mentioned in the March, 2021 Presidential Column, the distribution of the vaccine to the billions in the world that are susceptible to contracting the disease will take many months and possibly years. I continue to ask that all of IEQ-GA's member organizations and the professionals that belong to these organizations to support COVAX. COVAX is the WHO's project to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world. Their website: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax>

It is good to hear that there is support worldwide (including recently the United States) to waive World Trade Organization intellectual property (IP) rules, that might result in a faster global access to vaccines, allowing poorer countries to produce it themselves for their citizens. So far, COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed primarily to the wealthy countries that developed them, while the pandemic sweeps through poorer ones, like the terrible situation that India is currently facing. The real goal of the waiver is expanded vaccine distribution to the parts of the world in need of vaccines. IEQ-GA supports that goal, and it is hoped that the vaccine can be distributed soon to the areas of the world that are most in need.

In the second half of 2021, the Indoor Environmental Quality – Global Alliance (IEQ-GA), its member organizations, and the professional members of these organizations will continue to work together as a worldwide alliance of scientists, indoor environmental practitioners, and researchers. In addition, as shown by our MOU with ISIAQ, we plan to work with other professional organizations on collaborative efforts, such as webinars, podcasts and publications, in order to provide to all of the world's population effective and pertinent scientific information about indoor environmental quality (IEQ).

I would like to conclude with a reminder that IEQ-GA has set up a webpage specifically dedicated to addressing concerns about COVID-19. This webpage includes a series of Questions & Answers (Q&A) that are intended to provide information to anyone that wants to know more about COVID-19 transmission in buildings. This webpage can be found here: <https://ieq-ga.net/covid-19/faqs/>

Please stay safe and healthy.

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