

IEQ Global Alliance

For better indoor environment quality



IEQ-GA – Presidential Column (January, 2022)

Happy New Year to you all, and I hope the beginning of 2022 has been a good start for you and your loved ones! It has been a great start for IEQ-GA, which is now more than two years old. We at IEQ-GA and our member organizations continue to have a strong impact on worldwide indoor environmental quality (IEQ) issues, especially with the continuation of the pandemic now in its third year. It is noted that IEQ-GA member organizations are located in four (4) continents, with a wide variety of professional activities that are of interest to anyone involved in IEQ as part of their work. We are always interested in new member organizations to help us with the specific issues that affect IEQ for workers. In particular, we are interested in professional organizations in related IEQ fields, such as radon; vibrations; noise; etc. If you know of a professional organization that would be a good fit for IEQ-GA, please contact either myself or the Secretariat of IEQ-GA, or have the organization contact us.

As mentioned in my previous Presidential Column, IEQ-GA's Board of Directors has been in touch with representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO). It has been an excellent dialogue, primarily about COVID-19, and related subjects. As a result of this dialogue, IEQ-GA has submitted the names and credentials of qualified representatives to participate in the WHO's Environment and Engineering Control Expert Advisory Panel (ECAP) for COVID-19. In response to this invitation, IEQ-GA's Board of Directors have submitted four (4) candidates to date. We are hopeful that this will be the start of a favourable long-term relationship between WHO and IEQ-GA.

On a worldwide basis, the distribution of vaccines to the billions in the world that are susceptible to 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. Recently, COVAX has announced that it has delivered its 1 billionth COVID vaccine dose. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax>

Also, it is noted that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The agreement continues EPA-WHO collaboration on a wide range of specific and crosscutting environment and health issues, particularly air pollution, water and sanitation, children's health, and health risks due to climate change. The updated

agreement includes exciting new actions on crosscutting issues including infrastructure and environmental justice.

In 2022, IEQ-GA has already endorsed a number of conferences, including the ASHRAE-AIVC IEQ Conference in May, 2022; the REHVA CLIMA2022 Congress in May, 2022; and the 42nd AIVC Conference in October, 2022. All member organizations, as well as other organizations that are holding conferences in 2022 that are focused on IEQ issues, are invited to submit information about the conference to IEQ-GA's Secretariat. The IEQ-GA Board of Directors will review the info and then make a decision regarding IEQ-GA's endorsement of the conference.

In coordination with ISIAQ (International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Environment) by our MOU, we are now up to program #6 of the Indoor Environments webcasts. As noted previously, this is an online program that includes a video show and audio podcast series coordinated by Healthy Indoors, a webcast company based in Syracuse, NY. The sixth program was streamed on Friday, January 25th, 2022 at 11 am ET. The topic was: An Indoor Air Quality Paradigm Shift – Why, What, and How? This topic was discussed by Doctors Bill Bahnfleth, the Chair of the ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force (ETF), and Marwa Zaatari, a member of the ETF. These guests selected by IEQ-GA's member, ASHRAE as guest speakers on this jointly owned and managed webcast. If you were unable to view the webcast during live streaming, then the podcast and video of the webcast is available at: <https://global.healthyindoors.com/c/indoor-environments/episode-6>

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

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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