

# IEQ Global Alliance

*For better indoor environment quality*



## **IEQ-GA – Presidential Column (October, 2022)**

It has been a while (March, 2022) since I have posted a Presidential Column. However, I will note that IEQ-GA continues to be growing, and there are great plans ahead for IEQ-GA in 2023 and beyond.

Since my last column, it has been difficult to see through media the horror of the war in Ukraine over the past seven months, and the continual destruction of the country, especially its people. The environmental and occupational health concerns for the people of Ukraine are also to be noted, including the ongoing threat of a nuclear facility accident and the release of radioactive gas as a result. It is hoped that the dedicated scientists and engineers working at these facilities can maintain control of the radioactive materials found at these plants. There are also many buildings in the war zones that are not safe for occupancy where individuals are living or entering, resulting in the possible exposure to hazardous building materials as well as munitions that can still explode and cause havoc.

IEQ-GA members that are in the health field are doing all they can to help those in need. This includes working with governmental entities such as WHO, the United Nations, and the EU, as well as volunteer organizations such as the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders to ensure that the conditions in the refugee camps are sufficient for the families, seniors and children fleeing the conflict. Overall, our technical and scientific assistance regarding the mental and physical stress of the Ukrainian people must be part of the response we as health professionals, scientists, engineers and researchers bring to help those affected by the war.

Here in Canada, we are entering autumn, the colorful and cooler part of the year. There has been a substantial reduction of COVID-19 cases in many countries, including Canada, due to vaccines, new medicines, and other measures to protect ourselves and others. However, it is noted that many medical experts are saying that the pandemic is not over, and that there may be an increased number of COVID-19 cases in the coming months when we in the northern hemispheres all spend more time inside. But, gradually, we are all working together, including the IEQ-GA member organizations, to further reduce the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths worldwide, particularly in poorer countries.

Since May, 2022, IEQ-GA representatives, both in-person and virtual, have met our colleagues at conferences and conventions for the first time in more than two years. In the spring and summer, I was able to take trips to Greece (ASHRAE/AIVC IAQ

conference), Nashville, USA (AIHce), and Toronto, Canada (ASHRAE). This summer and fall, there were other worthwhile conferences including the REHVA CLIMA2022 Congress in May, 2022; and the 42<sup>nd</sup> AIVC Conference in October, 2022. I hope that you were able to attend many of these conferences to meet our colleagues, to present your research, and to listen to others who are presenting their data.

Please note that, all member organizations, as well as other organizations that are holding conferences in 2022 and 2023 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.

Of note is that IEQ-GA is celebrating its third-year anniversary as a non-profit organization under Belgium law in October, 2022. It has been a great start for this organization and its member organizations. Personally, I want to thank the IEQ-BOD members, all of our full and affiliate members, and all of the individual members of the organizations that support the work of IEQ-GA. We are all looking forward to the bright future of IEQ-GA!

I would like to conclude with a reminder that IEQ-GA has set up a webpage specifically dedicated to addressing the ongoing 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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