



Special Healthy Buildings 2009 Conference Issue



President's Column by Kwok Wai THAM

This is the last time that I write as President of ISIAQ as my term of service ends with the Annual General Meeting to be convened at HB2009 in Syracuse on 15 September 2009. It has been an eventful, challenging and fulfilling three and a quarter years.

As I began my journey since election in Lisbon in June 2006, I took comfort that the Society has established itself firmly: financially we were clearly in the black with longstanding disputes resolved; the membership level was strong, having inducted members from Indoor Air 2005 and HB2006. The main challenges we inherited were the need for strengthening the Secretariat and development of the website. Together with my BOD colleagues, we pondered over these, and identified a number of strategic issues that need to be tackled for ISIAQ to grow, function more effectively and efficiently to fulfill its mission. These did not all occur simultaneously, but emerged and evolved as we learnt more about the Society and what it would take for ISIAQ to fulfill its mission. These include (i) budgetary and fiscal policy; (ii) strengthening the administrative structure; (iii) engagement strategies (firstly with the membership, and then with related professional societies); (iv) outreach to students in whom we believe rest the regeneration and leadership of the Society and the field; (v) significantly expanding the website for greater integration of services, potential for impact in scholarship,

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Syracuse Center of Excellence Leads HB2009's Collaborative Planning and Logistics Team

by Martin Walls



HB2009 lead organizers Ed Bogucz (l) and Suresh Santanam (r)



The Ninth International Healthy Buildings Conference & Exhibition in Syracuse, NY from Sept. 13 to 17 will be the start of many fruitful research and development collaborations among conference delegates and exhibition attendees. But it will be the culmination of months of planning for the conference host—the Syracuse Center of Excellence—and HB2009's many sponsors, supporting organizations, committee members, staff, volunteers, and vendors.

At the Conference Center you may run into some of the many people behind the scenes. SyracuseCoE Assistant Communications Manager Carissa Matthews, for instance, who diligently chased vendors to get the sustainable conference pouch. Or SyracuseCoE Information Coordinator Tim Benson, who managed the complex audio-visual needs, or Carmela Peters who carefully checked all technical papers included in the proceedings, or HB2009 Event Coordinator Shandrist Hillsman, who made sure all the technical, social, and other events were slotted seamlessly into the program. The entire HB2009 organizing team is here to welcome you to Syracuse and to make sure your stay is enjoyable and your conference participation productive.

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–
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“If you don’t like
the news, go out
and make some of
your own.”

– Scoop Nitzger,
*The Last News
Show*

**ISIAQ
NEWSLETTER
2009 – Number 4**

Assembled by the
ISIAQ Secretariat
with contributions
from Kwok Wai
Tham, Richard
Corsi, Glenn
Morrison, and
Martin Wall.

President’s Report *continued from Page 1*

interactions and information; (vi) integration with the Academy of Fellows to synergize the technical leadership, educational and professional outreach; and (vii) leadership.

We undertook major initiatives that have positive impact for the Society. The relocation of the Secretariat with a wider scope of services, revamp and re-launch of the website, appointment of a part time Executive Director resulted in higher efficiency and effectiveness in the conduct of Society matters, communication with the membership, a first revision of the By-Laws to facilitate incorporation of ISIAQ in the USA and to regularize the inconsistencies between what is stated and the practice and procedures. The Newsletter has begun to be continued on a regular basis, and communication with the membership has significantly increased. The reduction in membership fee from 135 Euros to USD135 made in recognition of the difficulty for members to maintain multiple professional society memberships, and with the view of encouraging them to retain their membership with ISIAQ, translates to better value for the membership. Continual efforts directed at growing the student membership included students’ nights in conferences, very significant reduction in membership fees, and institution of student awards in conferences. The *Indoor Air* journal increased its impact factor, and retained top spot in the category “Construction & Building Technology” and ranked 5 of 38 in “Environmental Engineering.”

Healthy Buildings 2012 has been awarded and the contract signed. The agreement with IA2011 is being worked out; “Regional” conferences to be convened in the “off-years” are also being pursued. The integration with the Academy of Fellows is more intricate and involves rationalization of constitution, by-laws and finances; however the wider role of the Academy in terms of scientific and possibly professional and educational dimensions is expected to significantly strengthen the Society’s engagement with external bodies and community. These are envisaged to be completed soon by the incoming BOD.

Membership has remained steady, and is poised for growth given the establishment of the website infrastructure, marketing efforts, newsletter and administrative efficiency.

Financially, there was a surplus, although smaller because of investments in the major initiatives. With this, the outgoing BOD has sustained a surplus throughout its tenure, and bequeathed to the incoming BOD a strong financial state of affairs.

The Nominating Committee has performed an excellent task in presenting to the membership a very strong slate of committed members of high standing as the incoming BOD. With 3 BOD members continuing from the outgoing BOD, continuity and enthusiasm is carefully balanced. The outgoing BOD has identified a set of strategic issues which would be communicated to the incoming BOD at a “handover” meeting at HB2009.

This has been a very demanding 3 and a quarter years. My BOD colleagues have remarked that this Board has attempted much more than what would have been expected. In my zest to consolidate the Society, build an infrastructure that is strong and well poised to undertake the challenges that lie ahead, I have inadvertently drawn my BOD colleagues into a level of service beyond what they had bargained for. Their dedication and sacrificial service and patience with my inadequacies have spurred me on. I wish to record my thanks for the tremendous sacrifices of my fellow BOD members in the fulfillment of their responsibilities for the Society. I have learnt so much from them and benefitted from their counsel. I am grateful to the Trustees who have performed their tasks with integrity and offered sound guidance and articulation of their concerns. I am indebted to the Secretariat and, in particular the Executive Director who, despite a short duration of appointment up to the writing of this message, has contributed far more than his call of duty. These have worked for the improvement of ISIAQ. I am grateful to ISIAQ for giving me the opportunity to serve, learn and grow.

Sincerely,



Kwok Wai THAM
President ISIAQ (June 2006 to Sep 2009)



Syracuse Center of Excellence staff and volunteers go hands-on making buttons and loading thumb drives in preparation for the HB2009 conference, starting Sept. 13. From left, Ernest Blaszczyk of Syracuse University, Aimee Clinkhammer of SyracuseCoE, Jack Ramsden, and Kelly Anderson of SyracuseCoE.

HB2009 Team *continued from Page 1*

It is impossible in this short space to mention all the people and organizations behind HB2009. Conference attendees are urged to visit www.hb2009.org to learn about the Steering, International Advisory, Technical Program, and Local Organizing committees. The HB2009 website also has a complete list of sponsors and their websites, as well as supporting organizations. You also can find this information in the HB2009 Program, now online, plus a listing of the ISIAQ Board, SyracuseCoE Board, the entire SyracuseCoE/Syracuse University Planning Team, and HB2009 exhibitors.

Without the support and resources of HB2009 sponsors, the conference and exhibition—not to mention the social programs, tours, business-to-business Opportunity Exchange (OppEx), and other related events—would not be possible. Don't forget to visit HB2009's sponsors online, or when at the conference, take time to visit their booths and listen to representatives from these companies at OppEx.

INDOOR AIR 2011 PLANNING IS UNDER WAY

Planning is well underway to assure an exciting and professionally fulfilling Indoor Air 2011 conference in Austin, Texas. The conference will take place at the Austin Convention Center from June 5th to 10th, 2011.

Indoor Air 2011 will highlight connections between our world and our discipline, preserving the holistic framework of improving indoor air while also preserving the earth's environment. Indoor Air 2011 will also include a major thematic area focused on indoor air quality and health, including the effects of indoor pollutants on children's health, and transmission of airborne infectious diseases. As always, Indoor Air 2011 will provide a forum for discussion of new knowledge related to the fundamentals of building physics, chemistry, and biology.

At Indoor Air 2011, workshops will support session streams and conclude in white papers that define state of knowledge and grand challenges in various important areas. Daily team debates will be scheduled on timely and controversial issues, and internal symposia will be formed around technical sessions, workshops, debates, and panel discussions focused on the major thematic areas.

A research-to-practice program is under development that will allow brainstorming sessions between practitioners and researchers, tutorials that boil research efforts down to practical terms and implications, and more.

The student program will involve a "student challenge" to develop a two-minute educational video related to indoor air quality, a student-run symposium, special scholarships for student registration and travel, career roundtables, meetings with prospective employers, and student social events.

The conference venue is located in the heart of one of America's most vibrant cities. Austin, the live music capital of the world, has more live music venues than any other city. In recent years Austin has been ranked by major media outlets as the greenest city in America, the top environmentally-friendly city in the U.S., the top adventure town in the U.S., one of America's best outdoor cities, one of the top two cities in the U.S. for taking a stroll, one of the top 5 cities for embracing urban life, one of the most educated cities in the U.S., America's top retail city, and best domestic airport in the world.

For more information about Indoor Air 2011 please contact Dr. Richard Corsi at corsi@mail.utexas.edu.

RESEARCH BRIEFS

Research Brief 1. Danish Study Focuses on Indoor Environments and Children's Health

Villum Kann Rasmussen, a private Danish foundation, is supporting a three-year research program (2008-2011) "Indoor Environment and Children's Health". The project focuses on associations between indoor environmental factors in homes and kindergartens and children's health and well being, with special emphasis on asthma and allergy. The study is divided into three parts. The first part was a questionnaire survey of children's health and indoor environmental exposures in homes and day care facilities. A total of 17,500 questionnaires were initially distributed to families with children aged 1 to 5 years, while 11,100 families returned the completed questionnaire. In the second part, 500 children aged 3-5 years (200 children suffering from asthma/allergy and 300 randomly selected children) were selected for a more detailed investigation of the indoor environment exposure in their dwelling and the kindergarten they attended. The children also received a detailed clinical examination by a physician. The third part will be an intervention study, where 3 to 5 kindergartens with the highest absenteeism among the children will be renovated with improved technical systems. The principal investigator is Geo Clausen from the Technical University of Denmark.

Research Brief 2. Reference Material Intended to Level the Playing Field

Researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Virginia Tech are working together to develop reference materials to help improve the accuracy of chamber measurements of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from building materials and products. Reference materials have the potential to build consensus and confidence in emissions testing methods as well as "level the playing field" for product testing laboratories and manufacturers. A prototype reference material has been developed in the form of a polymer film loaded with a single VOC through a diffusion process. This loaded polymer has an emission profile similar to a typical "dry" building material (e.g. vinyl flooring) that can be measured in the small chambers commonly used for emissions testing. The polymer film emission rate can also be independently predicted using a fundamental emission model and knowledge of material properties. Preliminary tests showed good agreement between the polymer film's emission rate measured in NIST's emission chambers and the emission rate predicted by Virginia Tech's model. The NIST and Virginia Tech researchers are planning an interlaboratory study with the prototype reference material for late 2009. If interested in participating in this study, please contact Dr. Cynthia Howard Reed at NIST (301-975-8423, chreed@nist.gov).

Research Brief 3. Ozone Removal by Green Building Materials

Researchers at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (MST) and the University of Texas at Austin (UT) have received funding from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) to develop a new rating system for green building materials based on exposure to ozone. The system will account for the extent to which indoor materials remove ozone from indoor air and the degree of harmful by-products formed from ozone reactions. The rating system will be based on small chamber experiments with 20 different green building materials, 70 m³ scale-up experiments on three materials under a wide range of environmental conditions, and full-scale testing in a house equipped with two more green materials under uncontrolled summer ozone conditions. The study is currently underway and should be completed by late spring of 2010. Preliminary results have led to the identification of green building materials that are effective at removing substantial amounts of ozone with little by-product formation. Professor Glenn Morrison of MST is the principal investigator on the study and Professor Richard Corsi at UT is co-principal investigator.

Research Brief 4. New Canadian Lab Designed for Flexibility in Indoor Configurations

A new Indoor Air Research Laboratory (IARL) has recently been commissioned at the National Research Council of Canada (NRC)'s Institute for Research in Construction. The IARL has built-in flexibility to configure various floor layouts to simulate different types and sizes of buildings, as well as several types of HVAC systems. Particle image velocimetry (PIV) is used to track and quantify airflows within a room, and movement of different contaminants throughout the house is determined using various tracer gases. The first research project being completed in the IARL involves measurement and evaluation of the impact of various ventilation scenarios by configuring the laboratory's flexible modules to duplicate specific room sizes and home designs. Potential improvements of ventilation efficiency and air quality due to improved/optimized heating and air-conditioning systems and heat or energy recovery ventilators (HRV/ERV) are being assessed through simulations. A second project involves the development of detailed protocols for assessing the net impact of technologies/devices that claim to enhance IAQ. One of the technologies and solutions that will be evaluated at IARL is the residential HRV/ERV. Results are expected by 2010.



ISIAQ STUDENT CHALLENGE

INDOOR AIR 2011

Write, direct and produce your own indoor air video!

Make a difference by communicating the hazards of poor indoor air quality to the public, and/or by letting them know how they can improve the quality of their indoor environments! The organizers of Indoor Air 2011 believe that researchers should be able to effectively communicate the importance of indoor air quality in general, or specific issues related to indoor air quality to the public. This first-ever *ISIAQ Student Challenge* is meant to be fun, but also provide ISIAQ student members with an opportunity to be creative and to hone their communication skills.

Objective: Student teams will create a short educational video designed to inform while entertaining the general public.

Eligibility: All members of a video team must be student members of ISIAQ at the time of submittal of a video entry.

Requirements: The video can address indoor air quality in general or a specific issue related to indoor air quality, e.g, radon, mold contamination, indoor air quality in schools, indoor asthma triggers, etc. The following requirements apply: (1) each video must be made by a team of students at any level without assistance by professors or professional video staff, (2) teams of two or more students are preferred, but individuals can submit videos, (3) videos MUST be less than two minutes in length, (4) videos must either be in English or another language with English sub-titles, and (5) the ISIAQ logo (below) must appear in the video at least three times (shameless product placement). This logo may be copied from the Indoor Air 2011 (indoorair2011.org) or ISIAQ (isiaq.org) websites. The video should end with the ISIAQ logo (4th usage) and website address on the screen.



Evaluation: Videos will be judged by a group of professors, practitioners, fellow students who do not submit videos, professionals in the environmental media field, and votes by attendees of Indoor Air 2011. The evaluation will be based on a 100 point scale weighted according to quality of video (15%), correct technical content (15%), effectiveness of message (25%), creativity (25%), and Indoor Air 2011 attendee votes (20%).

Creativity: Creativity is a major component of the assessment for the panel evaluation and we encourage students to think outside the box. Videos may be serious or humorous, but should be compelling. Employment of the ISIAQ logo will be weighed heavily under “creativity” (be creative!). Videos should be made in good taste and should not be offensive.

Example: An example of a 30 second video (without ISIAQ logo placement) made by graduate students to describe the potential adverse effects of cooking can be found at www.indoorquality.org/PSAs/ (You get an additional 90 seconds!).

Video Premieres: All or most of the videos will be shown at Indoor Air 2011 in Austin, Texas.

Awards: The top three videos in each category will receive certificate awards at Indoor Air 2011 and will be posted on the ISIAQ website after the conference. We are seeking sponsors for cash awards for the top three places in each category.

Deadline: Videos must be uploaded by April 15, 2011. The upload site will be determined soon and announced on the ISIAQ and Indoor Air 2011 websites.

Questions? Please contact Professor Glenn Morrison at gcm@mst.edu if you have any questions.

About ISIAQ

ISIAQ is an international, independent, multidisciplinary, scientific, non-profit organization whose purpose is to support the creation of healthy, comfortable and productive indoor environments. We strongly believe this is achievable by advancing the science and technology of indoor air quality and climate as it relates to indoor environmental design, construction, operation and maintenance, air quality measurement and health sciences.

As a Society, our major role is to facilitate international and interdisciplinary communication and information exchange by publishing and fostering publication on indoor air quality and climate. We organize, sponsor and support initiatives such as meetings, conferences, and seminars on indoor air quality and climate; and we develop, adapt and maintain guidelines for the improvement of indoor air quality and climate.

ISIAQ's journal, *Indoor Air*, published six times per year, is the most respected and widely-cited source of scientific information relevant to building scientists and professionals. Our two major international conferences -- the Indoor Air 'xx and the Healthy Buildings 'xx conference series -- set the standard for high quality scientific information and its application to making healthy buildings. We also cooperate with government and other agencies and societies with interests in the indoor environment and climate.

To find out more about us, visit our website: <http://isiaq.org>

International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate—ISIAQ

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Corporate Memberships are available

If your organization is involved in indoor air science, policy, or practice, a corporate membership in ISIAQ will place you in the limelight with the international indoor air community.

- ISIAQ reaches more than 40 countries around the world.
- ISIAQ's conferences, considered the most important in the field, have been attended by more than 4,000 individuals.
- The official Society journal, *Indoor Air*, is respected by scientists and policy-makers as the most reliable way to keep up with the latest scientific findings in the field.

To learn more about the benefits of corporate membership in ISIAQ, visit the membership page on our web site and click on the [corporate membership link](#).

OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

