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EDITORIAL

This issue is probably the last to be produced under the editorship of the current IFHE General Secretary, who for the past 14 years has undertaken compilation of the IFHE newsletter. Consequent upon nomination and election of a new General Secretary at the Council meeting on 13 April 2012, members may expect to receive Newsletters bearing the imprint of a refreshing change in outlook and publication policy format.

The contributions of many persons – presidents, past presidents, executive and council members – to the content of the newsletters are acknowledged with thanks. This and past issues owe much to the incumbent IFHE President and Immediate Past President, both of whom have consented to once more providing material - one in the form of a valedictory and the other as a philosophical statement. This issue departs from the customary limit of four A size pages to accommodate their contributions.

I trust that the newsletter, in whatever form it may take in future, will continue to provide a source of interest and information to IFHE members.

PRESIDENTS COLUMN

The following is an edited version of a valedictory article prepared by Yasushi NAGASAWA, IFHE President 2010-2012

At the beginning of this new year, I would like to convey to all IFHE members greetings of the season, and best wishes for 2012.

It has been an impressive and meaningful period for me since 09 November at the IFHE Council Meeting 43, Tokyo Japan, when I accepted the responsibility of being the IFHE President for the period 2010 -2012

One of the sub-themes of the IFHE 21st Congress was "Safety and Security" under the main theme of "Healthcare Engineering against Cultural Background". At that time, I never anticipated that Japan would be struck by a devastating earthquake on 11 March 2011. The north-east part of the Japan islands suffered an extraordinary Tsunami following the big tremors, an unexpected occurrence of nuclear exposure; and other setbacks such as power outages, water and food shortages. These were shown on the television, newspapers and via the internet all over the world. If these events had happened before November 2010, it would not have been possible for the IFHE 21st Congress to be held in Tokyo.

I would like to express sincere appreciation for the many messages from IFHE members expressing concern about myself, my family and the Japanese people. Currently the situation in Tokyo, as well as in Japan as a whole, is returning to a semblance of ordinary daily living. However a great number of people are still in difficult living and working conditions in north-east Japan. These mails from overseas encouraged us to fight against the difficulties lying before us.

I am convinced that we will definitely overcome the serious problems, and I realize that the great support of the international network has been working. SOLIDARITY is the word used by the Japanese people in the current situation and this will be extended worldwide. I hope that Japan will be able to demonstrate recovery from the disasters with the dignity and courage, based on its cultural heritage and background.

Although the situation in Japan was not very optimistic in spring 2011, I was fortunate to be able to participate in the IFHE Executive Committee and Council meetings on 02 and 03 June respectively, following the 4th European Conference on Healthcare Engineering and 51st IHF Conference at Palais de Congres de Paris, in Paris. I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to Jacques Roos, IHF President, and his staff for their endeavours in organising this very successful conference.

IFHE Council overwhelmingly accepted a proposal motivated by the General Secretary, consequent upon the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, to make a token donation for disaster relief. As one of the Japanese people, I personally would like to say thank you very much indeed for this kind consideration by IFHE. Subsequently a donation has been made to the Japan Municipal Hospital Association (JMHA). A letter of thanks from Kimio Henmi, MD, President JMHA was received in December 2011.

In regard to IFHE member countries, I would like to mention that in Tokyo, KIHA Korea President Jungman Lee and HASRB China's Ms Dong Yu participated for the first time in an IFHE Congress. HASRB (The Hospital Architecture System Research Branch, Chinese Hospital Association) application to be admitted to IFHE National membership was provisionally approved at the Council meeting in Tokyo, and subsequently ratified at Council meeting 44 in Paris.

I hope that IFHE membership will in the future be extended to East Asian nations in addition to BEAM Malaysia, similar to the promotion of membership in Latin American countries achieved by the considerable efforts of both Francisco Castella, Immediate Past President and Steve Drinkrow, Past President. This encouragement has contributed to AADAIH Argentina being selected to organise the IFHE 23rd Congress October 2014 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and to Liliana Font being appointed to the IFHE Executive as Second Vice President.

I shall participate in IFHE Executive Committee and Council meetings on 12 and 13 April 2012 respectively, and attend the IFHE 22nd Congress organized by FSTL 13-17 April on board the Norwegian Coastal steamer MS Midnatsol. At the Council meeting I will take pleasure in handing over the insignia of the President's office to Ole Rist, currently IFHE First Vice President.

I look forward to seeing you all in April during "A voyage through International and Norwegian Hospitals".

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

The following is a verbatim copy of an article kindly provided by Francisco Castella, Immediate Past President of IFHE.

ANALYSIS OF THE VALUE

The Value Analysis is a technical process that has long been applied and which basic principles are familiar to everybody, that is to remove from the subject of the analysis the secondary things, optional and dispensable, to leave in accurate perspective the most essential., selecting among various functional alternatives the one that gives the best relation of values in the nominator compared to its cost. in the denominator. But it is not as simple and easy as it seems.

The problem we face is that the Value is a concept highly relative. The same protocols of Analysis may lead to different conclusions and results depending on the circumstances and environment. Let us be careful with the relativism.

Throughout history, throughout life, in different circumstances, our perception of an object, a situation, or its environment, is always subjective. Our interpretation of the Values changes and sometimes is reversed. The extreme example of this can be found in the behavior of politics, but there are a lot more. Values are subject to the relativism of things. The VALUE deserves a careful analysis .

The concept of relativism born with Protagoras, Greek philosopher of the V century bc. His book "On Truth " begins with the famous proposal that " Man is the measure of all things ". According to this study the same physical thing or abstract value, may appear as good for you and bad for another, by considering the perception of its intrinsic properties or because of the circumstances of different time and place.

But the perception that gives us the value of things is not entirely subjective and it is largely influenced by a complex, collective, feeling within a community. Going back again to the V century bc ,we learn that then laws were considered as moral norms, mostly opposite or mismatched with the rules of nature. Human laws were considered the result of a compromise or agreement acquired with effort. These standards of behavior would lead the individualistic perception towards a utilitarian position of a collective relativism for the common good in a civilized society. All this philosophy is as old as 2500 years, but is the foundation of modern democracies.

Mainly in the Values the relativism is more visible, and in this light we will find many applications and examples, where we accept seemingly contradictory facts, which we understand (interpretate)through a Scale of Values that we adapt ourselves to circumstances, environment and time. Also the attributes and properties of something, may be different depending on the environment in which we perceive it. The grade of the influence of the environment depends ,on the other, part on the culture from which the person is, since in the West we tend to perceive the things isolated, while in the East the things are often perceived different, influenced by its environment.

Today we need to get used to an ANALYSIS OF THE VALUE of things, in a particularly difficult environment, influenced by a global crisis. We easily understand that the value is tied to the cost, but it is important to have in mind that the two items, value and cost , are two very different concepts. Long economic boom have given a huge value to the concepts of function and satisfaction that we have perceived as a priority, and this perception led to overestimate needs and demands. Those concepts of value are linked to the numerator of the function Analysis. But we must not forget that in the denominator is the cost, which is a concept also linked to the perception of the value of things to us. .The Value we perceive is optimized when the numerator increases and when the denominator decreases.

In these times of limited and scarce resources, Hospital Architecture and Engineering needs to apply imaginative solutions . The Hospital must fulfill its role and provide the expected health services and wellbeing to people within reasonable boundaries and assumed limited resources. .The Scale of Values , subject to the laws of relativism , that will guide our analysis of value, must be adapted each time to a changing environment. This environment today is that of the global crisis. We will prioritize, of course, the functional efficiency, the environment sustainability, the patient wellbeing, but we will add economical viability to our Scale of Values.

Anyway , accepting the challenge of the relativism and with the global crisis in front, we should apply the ANALYSIS of the VALUE to optimize and give viability to our designs, today more than ever.

IFHE 24TH CONGRESS 2016

Two submissions were received in response to IFHE letter dated 13 April 2011 inviting applications from IFHE National members to organise the 24th Congress in 2016.

The General Secretary, in terms of Standing Order S.O.11.2.g.5., requested both applicants to provide clarification and/or additional documentation to enable organisations to give thorough consideration to the applications, and to brief their Council representatives accordingly. Comprehensive responses were received from the applicants by 23 January. On that day, an explanatory IFHE letter with revised versions of the submission documents was distributed to National member organisations, Council and Executive Committee members.

The submissions will be discussed by the Executive Committee and, if adjudged to be valid, will be presented to the IFHE Council at its meeting on 13 April 2012, when a decision will be made.

At the Council meeting, applicants, who have been advised in advance that their bids will be considered, will be given opportunity for a brief verbal presentation, preferably conducted by the prospective "Second Vice President". The presentation will be followed by a question period. Decision by Council, if necessary, will be based on the outcome of votes cast by eligible "A" National Member organisations represented at the meeting.

IFHE COUNCIL MEETING 45 and IFHE 22nd CONGRESS 2012 NORWAY

IFHE messages were sent to all National members on 03 and 09 October 2011 giving advance notice about date and venue of the meeting and providing information about registration for the IFHE 22nd Congress. A summary of these communications follows for ease of reference.

03 October 2011 Advance notice

Council meeting no.45 will be held on Friday 13 April 2012 on board the Norwegian coastal steamer MS 'Midnatsol', which departs from Kirkenes, Norway at 12:45 on Thursday 12 April. The meeting will take place prior to, and in conjunction with, the **IFHE 22nd Congress** hosted by the Forum for Sykehus Tekniske Ledelse (FSTL) of Norway.

Council representatives should plan to arrive at Kirkenes in time to board the Midnatsol before its departure on 12 April, enjoy a relaxing afternoon and evening of westward sea travel, prior to participating in the Council meeting all day on 13 April. Persons who are not Council representatives and are delegates to the congress only may choose to board the coastal steamer at Tromsø, where the Midnatsol will arrive at 23:45 on the evening of 13 April.

The IFHE General Assembly will be held on the afternoon of Monday 16 April 2012 on board ship, during the congress. Information about registration, on-board accommodation reservations, congress technical and social programmes, may be found by referral to the IFHE website www.ifhe.info and the KONGRESS AND KULTUR website www.kongress.no.

National member organizations' duly accredited Council representatives will be charged only 50% of the full congress registration fee - provided that the organization has paid all due IFHE fees and is eligible to exercise a vote in Council.

09 October additional information

IFHE Vice President Ole Rist emphasized the importance of the following:

All Council members and Congress delegates must register through **Kongres & Kultur** (the PCO) on the IFHE website. This applies especially to those persons who will be traveling on the Midnatsol from Kirkenes. Failure to register may result in being left behind at port.

When registering, indicate whether hotel accommodation is required at Kirkenes or Tromsø. Fifty rooms have been pre-booked at Kirkenes for this occasion in the Rica Arctic Hotel at a special price, for those persons planning to arrive there on 11 April. It is possible to travel to Kirkenes from Oslo on the morning of 12 April. Scandinavian Airway SAS has a flight which departs Oslo at 08:55, and arrives at Kirkenes airport 11:00. Transport to the town should ensure being in time to board ship by 12:45.

At time of publication, about two thirds of the thirty two National members had indicated their intention to be represented at the Council meeting. **Members' representatives, delegates to the congress and their accompanying persons, who have not already done so, are urged to complete and submit the registration form, as soon as possible.**

The form provides full information about accommodation etc. The voyage 12-17 April holds great promise of a unique experience – a combination of congress technical proceedings, varied social programme, and shore visits. It has been indicated that cabins on the Midnatsol which have not been booked for IFHE members and congress delegates by 15 February, will have to be released thereafter for general public reservation.

IFHE COUNCIL MEETING No. 44, 03 JUNE 2011; PARIS, FRANCE MAJOR ISSUES DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS RECORDED - PROGRESS

IFHE letter 03 October 2011 listed several items which have been subject to subsequent action

Membership suspension and termination. Council agreement to proposals for the waiving of specified arrears, and for recalculation of fees on reduced membership numbers has been conveyed to the members concerned. As yet, no response has been received as to their intentions regarding maintenance of IFHE membership.

Membership promotion

East Africa. In regard to the April 2011 training course for selected delegates from Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, the South African Federation of Hospital (SAFHE) has presented a detailed accounting of the expenditure incurred; and IFHE has made reimbursement in terms of the arrangement approved by Council. It is understood that SAFHE intends putting forward a proposal for a further but modified form of assistance programme in 2013.

Administrative support service provider: IHEEM responded favourably to the IFHE request for an extension of the current agreement until the end of 2012. The General Secretary in conjunction with members of the Executive Committee and the IHEEM CEO has reviewed the Support Services Provider terms of agreement. The terms of an agreement, renewable annually, have been accepted and will be formally signed on behalf of IFHE by the President Yasushi Nagasawa and General Secretary Bernard Shapiro at the forthcoming Council meeting.

Fees and subscriptions. Annual fee invoices calculated in accordance with the Council decision that no increment be applied to the fees to be invoiced in 2012, have been sent out. The covering letter draws attention to the fact that the next IFHE Council meeting is due to take place on 13 April 2012, and reminds National members that eligibility to vote, and concessions in regard to conference registration fees, are contingent upon being fully paid-up. Payment of annual fees and arrears therefore should be made by Friday 30 March 2012 to ensure that National member representatives present at the meeting will be permitted to exercise a vote.

Disaster donation. The Japan Municipal Hospital Association has acknowledged with thanks the receipt of the amount of GBP 1 500 which IFHE had donated on the recommendation of the Executive Committee and as ratified by Council.

World Health Organisation (WHO) liaison. Several Executive Committee members are of the view that some good may come of having an IFHE presence at the yearly WHO Executive Board sessions - to publicise IFHE objectives and to promote the knowledge that exists in IFHE members. However there are reservations as to whether the format of these sessions, the types of agenda items, and the limitations imposed on the speaking opportunity for NGO's in official relations, present the most effective way of conveying IFHE's experience and skills in the field of healthcare engineering

and design. It is suggested that a more positive approach may be to actively pursue contact with the appropriate WHO department, via the appointed DTO's, and define proposals for collaborative work (such as the East Africa initiative). Actual collaborative efforts as well as future plans are necessary for WHO's review and continued recognition of IFHE as an NGO in official relations. IFHE will probably be required to submit a report for review in the second half of this year. Unfortunately there is no news yet as to the appointment of a Designated Technical Officer to succeed Dr Roger Schmitt's to continue liaison with the federation.

Joint publication – IFHE Digest

The production of the 2012 Digest has progressed well. Distribution - either by direct mailing to individual members, or bulk mailing to a specified principal address - has occurred.

REGIONAL GROUP IFHE-Europe

The following is based on Gaston Lam's record dated 13 June headed "Report on IFHE-Europe as presented in the IFHE Council meeting in Paris, France 3 June 2011."

During the *IFHE-Europe* Council Meeting on 29 April 2011, Jacques Roos, President of IHF (France), was appointed Chairman of the regional group, in succession to chairman Leo Van Namen and co-chairman Roger Albertijn.

At present there are three active Working Groups:

WG1. Infection Control Precautions during Building Reconstruction in Hospitals.

During ECHE 4, it was agreed to propose the use of one model in Europe. When this model has been translated into the various languages of the countries participating in *IFHE-Europe*, this Working Group will have achieved its goals.

WG3. Energy use in European Hospitals.

A questionnaire in this regard has been completed by a few participants. It has been difficult to derive an initial conclusion because of the low level of participation. However, subsequent to the presentation by Paul Merlevede at the ECHE4, several persons from five countries had contacted him with a view to participating in the questionnaire. This should result in more significant results being presented at the next conference.

WG4. Quality of Safety management in Care Institutions.

A questionnaire has been prepared and completed in by the members of NVTG Netherlands. During ECHE4 the first results were presented by Dr. Peter Roelofsma. In the near future, this research will also commence in France and Belgium. It is anticipated that other countries will follow later.

IFHE-Europe Executive Committee has decided not to develop a website for the regional group. However via *LinkedIn* a Group *IFHE-Europe* has been set up, and by using this it is expected to achieve a good and working network. At present this is in the development phase.

The 5th European Conference of Healthcare Engineering (ECHE) will be held in Bern, Switzerland, 9-11 April 2013.

IFHE NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER – COURTNEY THORNE

An application for Affiliate membership submitted by Courtney Thorne Ltd, Bournemouth, Dorset, UK has been accepted by the General Secretary in consultation with the IFHE President and Vice President. A short history of the firm follows:

With over 40 years' experience as a service provider, Courtney-Thorne began as a family run business in 1968 designing and manufacturing alarm systems for the fire, security and nurse call industries. By working with customers to design new products for the care industry the company is now firmly established as a leading manufacturer of high quality, innovative, bespoke, wireless nurse call systems. These were traditionally referred to as radio nurse call systems. Courtney Thorne is committed to giving a high quality service, from initial consultation and installation, to on-going customer service. Its client base includes the private family-run care home to the multi-national care home group as well as hospitals and NHS trusts together with a worldwide export division working through locally appointed distributors.

CANADIAN HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING SOCIETY (CHES)

Canadian Healthcare Facilities – journal of CHES Autumn 2011 issue carries several articles which may be of interest to IFHE members

The President's message notes that CHES continues to work with partner organizations such as, inter alia, ASHE and IFHE, with a view to broadening its influence and participating in the setting of standards and development of programs that benefit its membership. John J Knott, who succeeded Mike Hickey as CHES President at the 31st national conference in Winnipeg September 2011, intends participating in the IFHE Council meeting and Congress in Norway April 2012.

Articles of interest include: *Wayne McLellan Award of Excellence, Chatham-Kent Health Alliance; Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre – A Case Study in Design.*

INSTITUTE OF HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING AUSTRALIA (IHEA)

The Australian Hospital Engineer – December 2011 also has content of interest

The IHEA National President's report is by Mitch Cadden, who succeeded Darryl Pitcher at the 62nd National Conference in Adelaide, October 2011. Under Darryl's stewardship, IHEA engaged a full-time CEO, took back core administration functions of membership registration and management, and publication of the quarterly journal. Darryl, immediate Past President and Darren Green, Vice President will represent IHEA at the IFHE Council meeting and Congress in April.

Articles of interest include:

Green Rating in Healthcare Building;

Healthcare Facility Management – Internal and External Control Systems

INSTITUTE OF HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT (IHEEM)

Health Estate – Journal of IHEEM November 2011 IFHE edition has over 100 pages of content.

IHEEM welcomed Richard Boyce as its acting CEO, while the process for recruiting a new permanent CEO takes place. [Since Mr Boyce's appointment in August 2011, IFHE has negotiated a mutually acceptable extension and renewal of the agreement, by which IHEEM will continue to provide an Administrative Support Service to the federation.]

IFHE sourced papers are:

Gold Standard for Gold Coast Facility by Bill Geerlings - describing the processes used in the planning, design, and construction of the Gold Coast University Hospital in Southport, Queensland, due for completion late 2012. Bill Geerlings, is a highly qualified and experienced engineer and administrator. The Northcote Medal awarded by IHEEM for his paper on *Strategic Asset Management* was presented to him in 1995 by Bernard Shapiro, then IFHE President.

Evolving education on waterfront campus by Lorie Shekter-Wolfson, Dean of Community Services and Health Sciences at George Brown College in Toronto.

University Hospitals – design excellence by Daniela Sorana, a Ph D in Architecture Technology, who has participated in research programmes at the University of Florence and in national interest programmes funded by the Italian Ministry.

EVENTS CALENDAR

IFHE members are invited to submit information regarding forthcoming events for publication.

2012

- 09 February **IHEEM Technical Seminar** The Difficulty of Decontamination of Medical Instruments – Dirty Little Secrets. Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel, Birmingham UK www.iheem.org.uk
- 22-23 March **NVTG 65th Anniversary Jubilee Congress** www.nvtg.nl
- 12 April **IFHE Executive Committee meeting 37** on board MS 'Midnatsol', Norway
- 13 April **IFHE Council meeting 45** on board MS 'Midnatsol'
- 13-17 April **IFHE 22nd Congress** organized by FSTL on board Norwegian coastal steamer "A voyage through International and Norwegian Hospitals." www.ifhe.info and www.kongress.no
- 27 April **IHS Jahresfachtagung in Notwill**. Weitere info folgen. www.ihs.ch
- 15 June **VTDV Annual Congress** "Back to the future." Nieuwe Ontwikkelingen in de Kerntaak van de Technische Dienst. Brabantse Leuven, Belgium. www.VTDV.be
- 15-18 July **ASHE 49th Annual Conference and Technical Exhibition**, San Antonio Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas. ashe@aha.org; www.ashe.org
- 4-7 September **ABDEH V Congresso** "Ambientes de Saúde: Projetos, Práticas e Perspectivas." Bourbon Convention Ibirapuera Avenida Ibirapuera, 2.927, São Paulo SP Brasil. www.abdeh2012.com
- 12-13 September **WGKT TK 2012** Medizinischen Hochschule Hannover. wgkt@wgkt.de www.wgkt.de
- 23-25 September **CHES 32nd Annual Conference**, Palais des congrés, Montréal, Quebec, Canada. "Towards World Class Healthcare". ches@eventsmgt.com. www.ches.org
- 25-28 September **OVKT Tagung 2012**
- 03 -06 October **IHEA Healthcare Facilities Management Conference**. "Back to Basics". Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania. www.ihea.org.au
- 09-10 October **IHEEM Healthcare Estates Conference & Exhibition**, Manchester Central Convention Centre
Call for Papers office@iheem.org.uk www.iheem.org.uk
- 29 October -
02 November **Water and Health Conference: Science, Policy and Innovation**. The Water Institute at UNC Chapel Hill, North Carolina USA. Call for Abstracts: whconference.unc.edu. www.waterinstitute.unc.edu
- November **AADAIH 23rd Latin American Congress for Hospital Architecture and Engineering**
Ciudad de la Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina. www.aadaih.com.ar

2013

- IFHE Executive Committee meeting 38** to be confirmed on 13 April 2012
IFHE Council meeting 46 to be confirmed on 13 April 2012

2014

- 03 October **IFHE Executive Committee meeting 39** Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 04 October **IFHE Council meeting 47** Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 05-09 October **IFHE 23rd Congress** organized by AADAIH at UCA University Av Alicia Moreau de Justo 1300 Buenos Aires, Argentina. "Healthcare Facilities in times of Radical Changes"

IFHE AND 'A' NATIONAL MEMBERS' WEBSITES

Members are requested to keep IFHE informed about changes in contact details and website addresses.

- A001 IHEEM UK www.iheem.org.uk
- A003 IHF France www.ihf.fr
- A007 ASHE USA www.ashe.org
- A009 IHEA Australia www.ihea.org.au
- A012 VTDV Belgium www.VTDV.be
- A014 IHS Switzerland www.ihs.ch
- A017 WGKT Germany www.wgkt.de
- A020 HEAJ Japan www.heaj.org
- A025 AADAIH Argentina www.aadaih.com.ar
- A032 SUAIH Uruguay www.suaih.com.uy
- A035 ABDEH Brasil www.abdeh.org.br
- A040 OVKT Austria www.ovkt.at
- A042 KIAH Korea www.ikiha.org
- A044 SIAIS Italy www.siais.it
- A002 FENATO Italy www.usppi.info
- A006 NVTG Netherlands www.nvtg.nl
- A008 NZIHE New Zealand www.nzihe.org.nz
- A010 SAFHE South Africa www.safhe.co.za
- A013 AEIH Spain www.aeih.org
- A015 FSD Denmark www.sygehusmaskinmestre.dk
- A018 CHES Canada www.ches.org
- A024 FKT Germany www.fkt.de
- A028 FSTL Norway www.fstl.org
- A033 UNAMHE Uganda www.unamhe.org
- A038 AFHE Finland www.ssty.fi
- A041 IHE India www.iheindia.org
- A043 BEAM Malaysia www.beam.org.my
- IFHE www.ifhe.info