

PREFACE TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE ON “ERGO FUTURE 2006”

This issue of the *Journal of Human Ergology* contains papers presented at the International Symposium on Past, Present and Future Ergonomics, Occupational Safety and Health held in Bali, Indonesia from 28-30 August 2006. The theme of the meeting was “Future Challenges for Safety and Healthy Organization of Work”, and the meeting was called “Ergo Future 2006”. The meeting was organized by the Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, Udayana University in Denpasar at the initiative of Prof. Adnyana Manuaba. It was supported by the International Ergonomics Association (IEA), the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), the Asian Office of Aerospace Research and Development, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Indonesian Association of Occupational Health and Safety, the Indonesian Ergonomics Association, the Occupational Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health and the Occupational Health and Ergonomics Institute of the Ministry of Manpower, Indonesia, the Udayana University and other local institutions. Eleven papers were submitted for publication for this *Journal*.

The International Symposium had the purpose of reviewing the past and present situations of ergonomics research and application particularly in the Asian region and discussing the future directions and cooperation in this field for developing humane, competitive and sustainable work systems and products. This purpose was based on the recognition that despite recent developments, there remained huge gaps in the research and application of ergonomics and occupational safety and health in real work life. In addition to 16 keynote papers, 53 oral papers and 32 poster papers were presented to the Symposium. The emphasis of these papers was placed on holistic thinking and approaches, bridging gaps in ergonomics research and practice, filling the needs of people in real life and the means of improving existing work systems. A particular attention was paid to participatory steps for attaining sustainable solutions. The recent experiences reported from different countries were very useful for discussing the effective types of approaches and support measures in further developing ergonomics research and practice in the region. The close link between holistic approaches and participatory procedures in solving real-life problems was extensively discussed.

The papers submitted for this special issue represent only part of research activities undertaken in this field. Many papers presented at the symposium discussed a broad range of issues relating to work and product design, accident prevention, work environment, practical measures for enhancing the quality of working life and for preventing musculoskeletal disorders, working schedules as well as lessons from action-oriented approaches applied in workplaces and villages. The extensive experiences reported from the Bali cases were particularly useful. It should be noted that the papers in this special issue referring to holistic and participatory approaches are based on these extensive experiences gained in Bali, other parts of Indonesia and the region.

Guest editors of the papers from the symposium, Adnyana Manuaba and Kazutaka Kogi, are very grateful for the Organizing Committee of the International Symposium and Dr. Putu Gede Adiatmika for their collaboration in compiling the selected papers and supporting the editorial work. It is hoped that this issue will give a special impetus for further developing the ergonomics research and application in real life conditions in different countries.

Guest Editors

ADNYANA MANUABA AND KAZUTAKA KOGI