Welcome

On behalf of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia we invite you to the society’s Annual Conference, to be held at the Aquarium of Western Australia (AQWA)—located on the coast 20 minutes drive north of Perth city centre with amazing views of the Indian Ocean. Delegates will be able to use the facilities offered by AQWA to experience the unique marine environments of Western Australia.

Western Australia is experiencing economic boom times at present, but we cannot afford to neglect the well-being of the State’s workforce, drawn from many nationalities and diverse cultural backgrounds. The theme of the Conference—
A Healthy Society: Safe, Satisfied and Productive—is especially fitting with the ongoing need to devise, establish and evaluate human-machine systems that are safe, productive and satisfying to use. There will be addresses from two keynote speakers, plus a mix of workshops and other presentations, and a trade exhibition.

The Conference will be attractive to a broad spectrum of participants—ergonomists, safety and health professionals, human resource specialists, management and academia—who wish to extend, and share, their knowledge of topics relevant to the Conference theme.

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting Conference.

Jenni Miller   Ian Gibson
2007 Conference Co-Convenors

Keynote Speaker
Professor Rhona Flin
School of Psychology, University of Aberdeen

Rhona Flin directs a team working on safety management and emergency response. The group has worked in the offshore oil and gas, nuclear and health industries on projects relating to safety climate, leadership, team skills and emergency management. Her recent books include Safety at the Sharp End: A Guide to Non-Technical Skills; Incident Command: Tales from the Hot Seat; Sitting in the Hot Seat: Leaders and Teams for Critical Incident Management; and Managing the Offshore Installation Workforce.

KEYNOTE: Managers as safety buffers: Balancing production and safety

Managerial resilience can be characterised as an essential layer oforganisational defence against external or internal threats to the survival of the organisation. One particular aspect of this characteristic is the manager’s ability to manage conflicts between safety and production goals. Drawing on accident cases ranging from Sweden’s Vasa in 1628 to the NASA Columbia in 2003, the key resilience skills for managers will be examined with reference to measurement, training and the effects of the prevailing safety culture.

WORKSHOP: Safety at the sharp end:
The role of non-technical skills

Many 21st century workplaces are characterised by significant risks. Workers at the operational level (sharp end) have to cope with these hazards while maximising performance in competitive, commercially-driven environments. In industries with excellent safety records, such as civil aviation, it has long been realised that some accidents could have been prevented if better non-technical skills had been demonstrated by personnel operating and maintaining the system. Non-technical skills are the cognitive and social skills (such as decision making or teamwork) that complement workers’ technical skills. This workshop will examine methods for identifying and assessing non-technical skills using examples from three behaviour observation systems: NOTECHS (pilots), ANT (anaesthetists) and NOTSS (surgeons).

Keynote Speaker
A/Professor Maureen Dollard
School of Psychology, University of South Australia

Maureen Dollard leads a number of national and international projects focused on work stress. Her group has worked with correction officers, hospital workers, volunteer counsellors and call centre workers. She founded a journal for rural psychology and the Work and Stress Research Group at the University of South Australia. Her books include Occupational Stress in the Service Professions and Occupational Strain and Efficiency in Human Service Workers.

KEYNOTE: Throw-away workers: A natural outcome for unsustainable work

Psychosocial risks at work have the potential to cause serious and costly work and health problems. Successful interventions to control workplace stress will be reviewed based on research in the service industry. Dominant societal ideologies which view workers as disposable commodities also need to be addressed to create safer, more satisfying work. Ergonomists therefore need to apply multi-level approaches and be more active to counteract pressures on worker health and wellbeing at all levels.

WORKSHOP: Participatory Action Research: A work stress intervention

PAR involves workers in a cyclic process, participating in defining the issues or problems, defining interventions, and evaluating the results. The philosophy behind PAR is that organisational interventions designed to promote employee health cannot take place without the participation and experience of the subjects under study. As such, PAR holds promise for the reduction of psychosocial hazards in the workplace, particularly when hazards arise from conflict between management and workers. The workshop will discuss PAR and its overlap with risk management as an ideal stress prevention philosophy and framework and will provide case studies to highlight the process and points of tension for better practice.

Important Dates

Submission of Abstracts: 7th May 2007
Online Registration: 8th June 2007
Notification to Authors: 15th June 2007
Early Bird Registration Closes: 28th September 2007

Registration Fees

Early Bird—HFESA & NZ Ergonomics Society $550 incl. GST
Early Bird—Non Member Early Registration $770 incl. GST
Student & Retired Members $495 incl. GST
Day Registration $330 incl. GST per day

To be entitled to an early bird registration rate you are required to submit to the Conference Secretariat your completed registration form along with the required payment no later than 28th September 2007. After Friday 28th September Full Registration fees will be applicable to all registration types.

Website

The Conference website will be updated regularly as the Conference evolves. To find out more about the Conference, venue, scientific program, abstract submission, sponsors, exhibitors, social functions, accommodation and registration information please visit:

www.keynotewa.com/HFESA-2007
Call for Papers

The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia is seeking submissions of abstracts for paper/poster presentations and workshops at this meeting.

The Conference Program will include Keynote Addresses, the Ron Cumming Memorial Address, podium presentations, poster blitzes and workshops.

Full papers of the addresses, podium and poster presentations will be published in the Proceedings following peer review.

Presentations and workshops related to any area of human factors and ergonomics are invited. Authors should submit their abstract for presentation/workshop using the proforma available at the Conference website: www.keynotowa.com/HFESA-2007

Deadline for abstract submission: 7th May 2007

Trade and Sponsorship

The committee have arranged a Trade Exhibition area for the duration of the Conference. All daily catering, (arrival tea and coffee, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea) will be held within this location allowing delegates to fully investigate the trade displays.

Should you be interested in receiving more information on this opportunity or about Conference Sponsorship please complete the attached form and return it to the Conference Secretariat, Keynote Conferences. Alternatively, please refer to the Conference website for a copy of the Sponsorship and Exhibition Prospectus.

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