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## **Inaugural Editorial: A new human factors and ergonomics journal for the international community is launched**

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**Biographical notes:** Denis Alves Coelho has been responsible for the development of the University of Beira Interior's programmes of studies in Industrial Design and Technological Industrial Design. As a Mechanical Engineer with Ergonomic Design and Production Management postgraduate education, he has researched car seat comfort, cognitive engineering of information systems and affective design and has also been interested in management systems, as well as in providing a contribution to the advancement of ergonomic design methods. He has participated in technical design endeavours, focusing on human factors and ergonomics, and has carried out research and made contributions in both industrially developing and developed countries.

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The launch of the *International Journal of Human Factors and Ergonomics (IJHFE)* contributes to enlarge the set of communication channels that disseminate a shared narrative proposing a better future, supporting progress for humanity, through human factors and ergonomics (HFE) enabled design and development. At the current global crossroads of socio-economic development, supporting bio-diversity while improving quality of life for all people requires shifting courses of action. The HFE discipline represents an opportunity to materialise ethics in technology and in design, as the pursuit for efficiency and sustainability becomes rampant. Technology, devised by human ingenuity, can create quality of life and support human well-being, but sustainability needs to be both a limiting factor and a triggering factor for innovation. By explicitly verifying feasibility, supporting, directing and proposing emergent forms of creating worthwhile, meaningful and purposeful relationships between people, technology and activity in context, the HFE discipline is ever more relevant and necessary.

The discipline of HFE is lively and vibrant, constantly seeking to support and to foster new technological endeavours. In the future, as today, human interfaces with technology and new forms of human activity need to be studied, designed and improved. In order to take part in the dissemination of knowledge in this domain, the *IJHFE*, nurtured and supported by its editorial board members, is establishing itself as a setting for publication of high quality research results. It is also to become a forum dedicated to the presentation of novel research questions and to contribute to advancing the

interdisciplinarity of the field, crossing traditional boundaries between academic disciplines, as new needs and problems emerge.

This inaugural issue, which was in the making for one year, aims to set the tone and standard for this new quarterly publication from Inderscience Publishers. Most of the papers which form this first issue of the *International Journal of Human Factors and Ergonomics* are co-authored by members of its editorial board. The double blind peer review process that led to publication of this first batch of very interesting papers, was highly demanding, and hence selective, and was strongly participated by the worldwide HFE academic and industrial community of senior scholars and researchers.

In this first issue, Paul O'Connor, Douglas W. Jones, Michael E. McCauley and Samuel E. Buttrey, based in Ireland and the USA, present a paper on an important, yet under-addressed topic for the crew resource management (CRM) community in academics and industry. This kind of research is required in order to further develop methods to train and assess CRM skills, and evaluate their impact on performance. Particularly insightful is the systematic approach the authors have taken to evaluate CRM training in what is a very challenging field of research.

The article by Arto Reiman and Ari Putkonen, from Finland, represents a well-organised and participative approach to unveiling ergonomics development needs in truck body design. It focuses on an important problem, which is both crucial for industry and has significance in accident prevention.

From the Netherlands, Eva Fabriek, Dick de Waard and J. Paul Schepers, present in this first issue, the results of a set of research studies. These sought to find the most common situations that result in a poorly visible bicycle infrastructure, and investigated how to improve these conditions for vulnerable cyclist populations, specifically the visually impaired and the older cyclist.

Oronzo Parlangei, Enrica Marchigiani, Stefano Guidi and Linda Mesh, based in Italy, present a study that was conducted to investigate the emotional experience of students attending a blended learning course. In blended learning, several different experiences are possible, and the study investigates the relationship between learning and emotions in this setting.

An international authoring team, based in Indonesia, Singapore and Japan, composed of Markus Hartono, Tan Kay Chuan, Shigekazu Ishihara and John Brian Peacock, contributes to this first issue of the *IJHFE* with a study on service design, integrating Kansei engineering, quality function deployment and the Markov mathematical model. The paper presents an integrative framework of Kansei ergonomics applied to services, while reporting on a case study on luxury hotel services involving participants from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Last, but not least, from Spain, José Manuel Ojel-Jaramillo Romero, José Juan Cañas Delgado and Antonio Cándido Ortiz, present a paper that focuses on an important and timely topic. This paper, which delivers some very interesting results, reports on a study that assessed attitudes about telecare use in older adults.