THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ERGONOMY

An International Symposium on Ergonomy on the theme "The Practical Applications of Ergonomy in Industry, Agriculture and Forestry" took place in Bucharest, between September 17th and 20th, 1974. The symposium was organized by the International Bureau of Labour and the Ministry of Labour in collaboration with other ministries, academies, central organisms, research and higher educational institutes of our country. Through the large number of participants, about 300 foreign specialists from 39 countries representing all the continents and over 400 Romanian specialists-physicians, engineers, economists, physiologists, psychologists, sociologists, architects, pedagogues, etc. — this international manifestation had a larger ampleness than all similar previous meetings. 11 reports were presented by personalities of large international prestige in the field of ergonomy and over 100 papers based on the following themes:

— The socio-economic, physiological, psychological and environmental factors in the practical applications of ergonomy.

— The methodology of ergonomy at factory level.

— The practical applications of ergonomy in agriculture.

— The practical applications of ergonomy in industry, constructions, etc.

— The practical applications of ergonomy in engineering.

— The practical applications of ergonomy in wood working.

— Ergonomy and standardization.

— The practical applications of ergonomy in transport and in other sectors.

Two work groups have also functioned having as a subject matter:

— The definition of the drawbacks of ergonomy in the light of the present trends.

— Education and training in ergonomy.

The symposium has outlined the preoccupation of specialists for the ergonomic planning of the work place, that is the adaptation of the equipment, methods and environment to man's psychological capacity.

Most specialists underlined that the old man-machine-environment relationship failed to grasp the complexity of the phenomena occuring in the process of work. Thus, a thorough analysis of the relations appearing during the carrying out of work by the doer can be obtained by considering the objects of work as a component of the man-machine-environment system, at the same time, analysing the relations between various man-machine systems, etc.

A problem which was largely discussed referred to the possibility of standardization in ergonomy. The Romanian delegates presented a number of achievements obtained by our country in this field. Thus, they agreed on the necessity of taking into consideration the national specific character and the local conditions in the activity of standardization. In this connection, during the symposium, a round table discussion was organized on the theme "Ergonomy in the Developing Countries."

The papers presented were based on a rich experience and on a significant number of measurements of the considered parameters (physiological, psychological, technical, economic, etc.), the determinations being made either on real systems or on simulators.

The researchers of the Department of Economic Cybernetics in collaboration with specialists of the Ministry of Labour and various research institutes in our country presented themes on the cybernetic interpretation of the man-machine system and the estimation of intellectual work. On this occasion, a number of new synthetic regulations on the economy of intellectual work were presented by analogy with the regulations of the economy of movements.

The particular success of the meeting which through the scope and number of participants can be considered as a real world congress on probblems of ergonomy was stressed at the closing meeting.

M. Stoica