



INTERNATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

REPORT

FOR THE TRIENNIUM
2021-2024

Mission

Mission is to promote the highest quality epidemiological practice and its use to solve public health and related problems throughout the world.

Aims

1. Facilitate communication among those engaged in research and teaching of epidemiology throughout the world;
2. Support the development and use of epidemiological methods in all appropriate fields of health including but not limited to social, community and preventive medicine and health services administration.

Strategic objectives

The strategic objectives of the Association are to promote and encourage the following:

1. The use of epidemiology and its application to the solution of health and related problems;
2. The development of epidemiological methods and improvement in these methods;
3. The communication of epidemiological methods and findings amongst epidemiologists throughout the world as well as amongst others concerned with health;
4. Co-operation with both national and international organizations which are concerned with the promotion of health in the application of epidemiological methods in the solution of problems;
5. The dissemination of epidemiological findings nationally and internationally;
6. The recruitment, education and training of epidemiologists.

These aims and objectives are achieved by holding scientific meetings, seminars and training courses, by publication of journals and other print and online publications, by promoting networking and exchange among members, and by other activities consistent with these aims.

From the desk of the IEA President

It is with mixed feelings that this report is presented. Sadness over the unfortunate loss of the IEA President (2021 – 2024), Prof. Mani Padley Chandra in October 2023 and gratitude for the grace to continue where his work stopped. We had earlier lost a former president of the IEA (2014-2017), Valerie Beral, so Chandra's demise was felt more profoundly. Prof. Chandra was passionate about the IEA and made all efforts to steer the association towards digitalization of operations. One of his key points was the need to review the database of the IEA and use modern management practices to reposition it to have better functionality and utility.

With the loss of Prof. Chandra, I vacated my President-elect position and took over as Acting President of the IEA after a vote by Council. The loss of Chandra also created a vacuum which would have made it impossible for the Executive Committee to function because of the constitutional requirement of a prescribed minimum of officers for meetings. Subsequently, the regional councillor for Southeast Asia, Dr. Lahariya Chandrakant was appointed to serve on the Executive Committee to fulfill the constitutional requirement.

Within the period under report, the IEA faced numerous challenges which included apathy towards membership of the IEA and its activities. This was further reflected in the poor response to the call for elections despite numerous reach outs through global, regional, and national networks. This apathy was partly due to the post-COVID effect as well as poor integration at the regional levels. Despite these challenges, IEA recorded some key achievements which included the sustained credibility of the International Journal of Epidemiology, the hosting of many successful webinars and interactive sessions, the migration of the IEA to a new website, renewal of our registration with the World Health Organization as a non-state actor, support for early career epidemiologists activities, implementation of the rotational arrangement for the World Congress on Epidemiology and a good financial health. In addition, we successfully conducted elections into all the offices of the IEA. Sadly, we also experienced a drop in our membership through non-renewal by existing members and lack of incentives for new membership. We are convinced that the incoming Executive Council would build on the credibility and progress made so far to move the IEA on a trajectory of success. The key challenges experienced should also be seen as opportunities for investment.

On behalf of the entire Executive Council of the IEA, our appreciation goes to Prof. Landon Myer of the University of Cape Town and the entire planning committee of the WCE 2024 for taking up the enormous task of hosting the world congress at very short notice.

To the delegates to this year's congress taking place for the very first time on African soil, I wish you a "Warm South African Welcome". Enjoy the congress and take up the opportunity to network and relax.

IEA COUNCIL (2021 -2024)

President	Chandra Mani Pandey , India (deceased)
President Elect / WHO Liaison	Akindele Adebisi , Nigeria (became President after Chandra's demise)
Secretary	Karina Braga Ribeiro , Brazil
Treasurer	Yosikazu Nakamura , Japan
Immediate Past President / WFPHA Liaison -	Henrique Barros , Portugal
Africa Regional Councillor	Armand Nkwescheu , Cameroon
Europe Regional Councillor	Linda O'Keeffe , Ireland
Latin America & Caribbean Councillor	Maria Amelia Sousa Mascena Veras , Brazil
Middle-East North Africa Councillor	Mary Deeb , Lebanon
North America Regional Councillor	Jennifer Salerno , Canada
South-East Asia Regional Councillor	Chandrakant Lahariya , India (was seconded to the executive committee after Chandra's death)
Western Pacific Regional Councillor	Chihaya Koriyama , Japan
Early Career Epidemiologist Councillor	Ritu Pradhan Sharma , India
IJE Editor in Chief	Stephen Leeder (ex officio)

Within the time frame of this report, Alistair Woodward was appointed co-editor of the IJE.

IN MEMORIAM



Dame Valerie Dame (President, 2014 -2017)

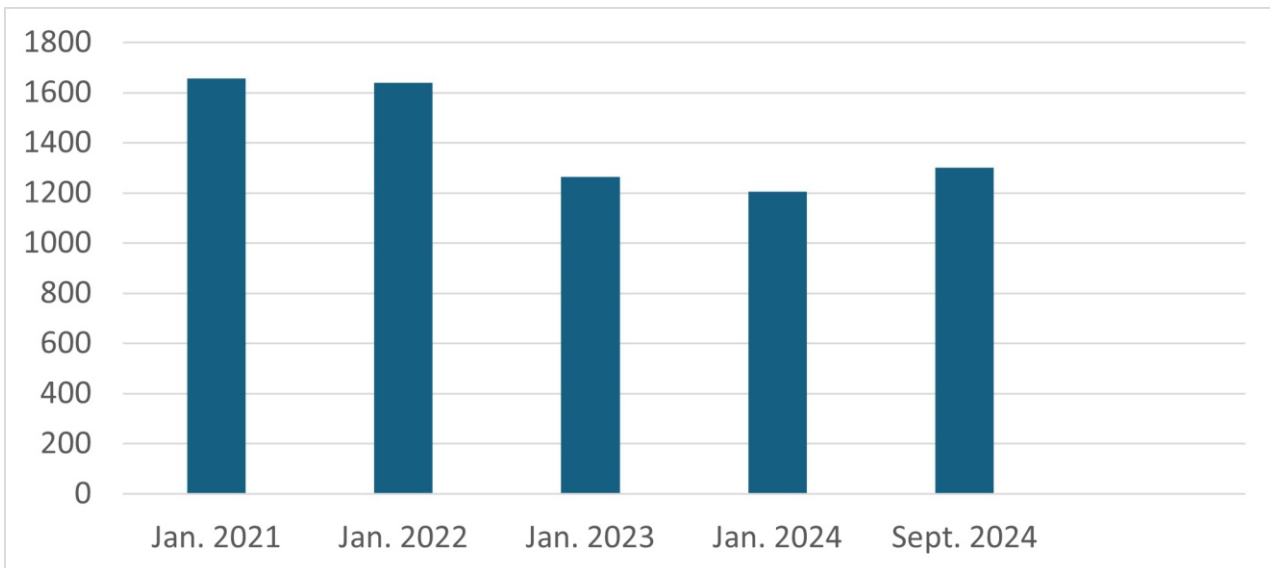


Chandra Mani Pandey (President, 2021-2024)

1. Membership

Within the period under reference, membership reduced from 1656 at the beginning of 2021 to 1300 as of the beginning of September 2024. This is a serious issue because failure to renew membership is quite rampant while registration of new members was also not as expected. This calls for a deeper look at the root causes and re-thinking the membership process.

Figure 1: Membership trends 2021-2024

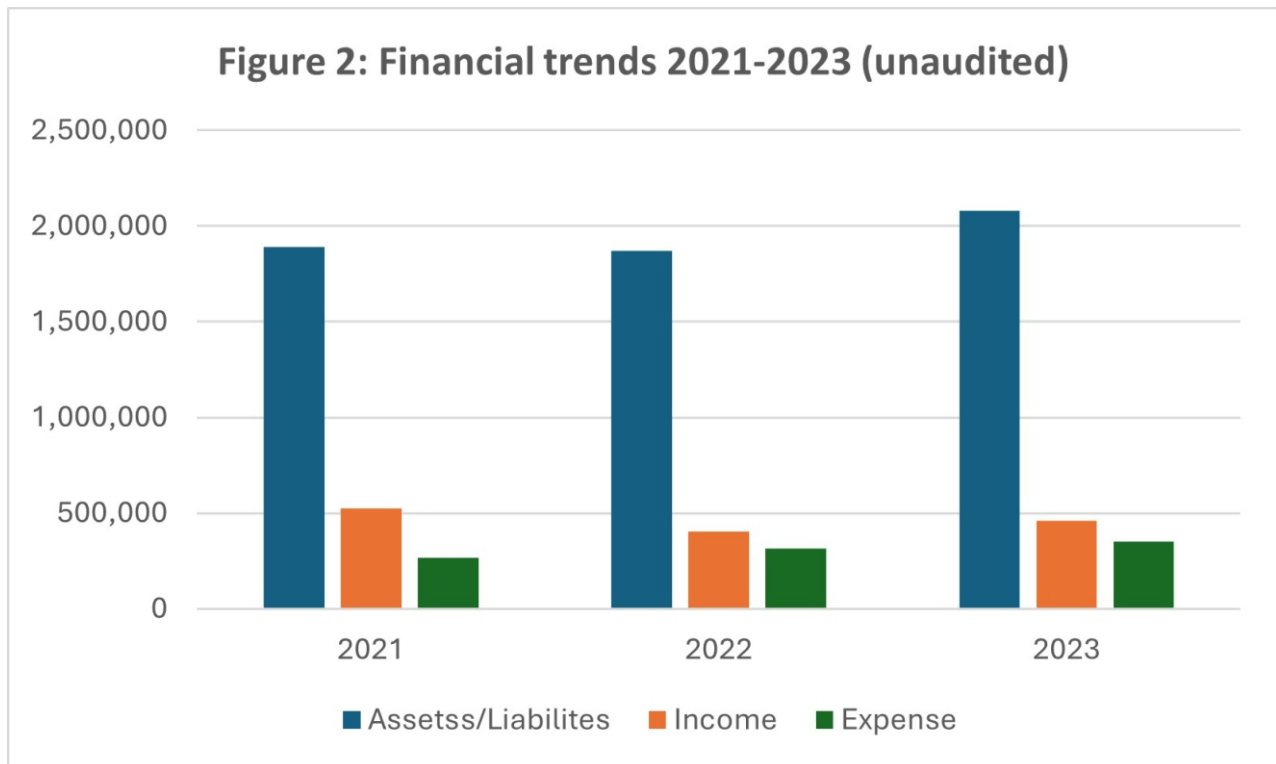


2. Funding

The International Journal of Epidemiology (IJE) remains the main source of income for the IEA. At the end of Financial Year 2023 (unaudited), IEA had total liabilities and net assets of USD \$2,078,457. Our revenue within the same time under reference was USD \$458,3634 against expenses of USD \$345,560. This resulted in a profit of USD \$112,764. The income was made up of \$391,807 from IJE, \$ 11,257 from membership dues, \$ 31,450 from the cash/money market investments and \$ 23,397 from unrealized gain on investment.

Table 1: Financial report (Fy2023)

Income (TopSources)		Expenses (Top Sources)	
	\$USD		\$USD
IJE	\$391,807	IJE	\$228,960
Membership	\$11,257	Operations	\$67,731
Investment Income	\$31,450	Regional Allocations	\$32,092
Unrealized Gain on Investments	\$23,397		



3. Activities

IEA's activities within the time under reference consisted mainly of webinars. This is understandable because many regions were just recovering and building back from the COVID-19 period. Some of the activities that occurred were.

- IEA and Japan Epidemiological Association (JEA) hosted a joint Zoom seminar, "How to Handle Missing Data."
- WP region hosted an online symposium on "Epidemiology and Climate Change."
- IEA partnered with the World Psychiatric Association on a series of epidemiology webinars.
- Latin America Region hosted "Advanced Science Methods for Epidemic Preparedness" Congress
- Europe hosted two webinars jointly with SPHeRe network for Early Career Epidemiologists (ECEs).
- African region hosted the 6th African Epidemiological Association Conference in Bamako Mali
- The ECE group hosted a highly successful webinar, "Writing a Paper and Getting it Published." It is hoped that it is just one out of a series to follow later.
- North America hosted a webinar on "Epidemiology and Public Health Perspectives after the COVID-19 Pandemic'.

4. World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE)

- WCE2024: Initially the World Congress of Epidemiology was to be hosted by the Southeast Asia region. However, with the passing away of Vinod Srivastava, the major champion for the hosting of the conference in Goa, India, the region rescinded their decision to host the conference. The African region and our South African colleagues then acceded to host the WCE 2024 at very short notice. We owe Prof. Landon Myer and his team a whole lot of gratitude for their magnanimous decision to take on the enormous task of hosting the WCE 2024 at very short notice. The hosting of this year's WCE starts the much-awaited regional rotation of the WCE that IEA initiated. The present WCE would also start the era of a new agreement wherein IEA benefits through a percentage sharing of profits from the WCE.
- WCE 2027: With the Africa region hosting the WCE 2024, the next rotational WCE falls to the Latin American region. Initially the public health association in Brazil (ABRASCO) initiated talks to host the conference. However, based on a certain level of uncertainty regarding what the political climate and funding would look like around 2027, their central decision-making body decided to withdraw their interest. Encouragingly, through the efforts of our revered former President and immediate past Richard Doll prize recipient, Prof. Cesar Victora, the University of Antioquia in Colombia submitted a bid to host the WCE 2027. The Executive Committee (EC) represented by the President and Immediate Past President had a meeting with the team to explore commonalities, ask key questions and provide clarifications. Thereafter, the bid was examined by the EC and key clarifications sought and provided. A presentation was also made to the IEA council and clarifications sought. In alignment with the guidelines on rotational hosting of the WCE, the Council of the IEA gave a conditional approval for Colombia to host the next WCE. This approval is conditional on a site visit and evidence to be provided on conditions for hosting. The team from the University of Antioquia will make a presentation at the 2024 Congress of the IEA.

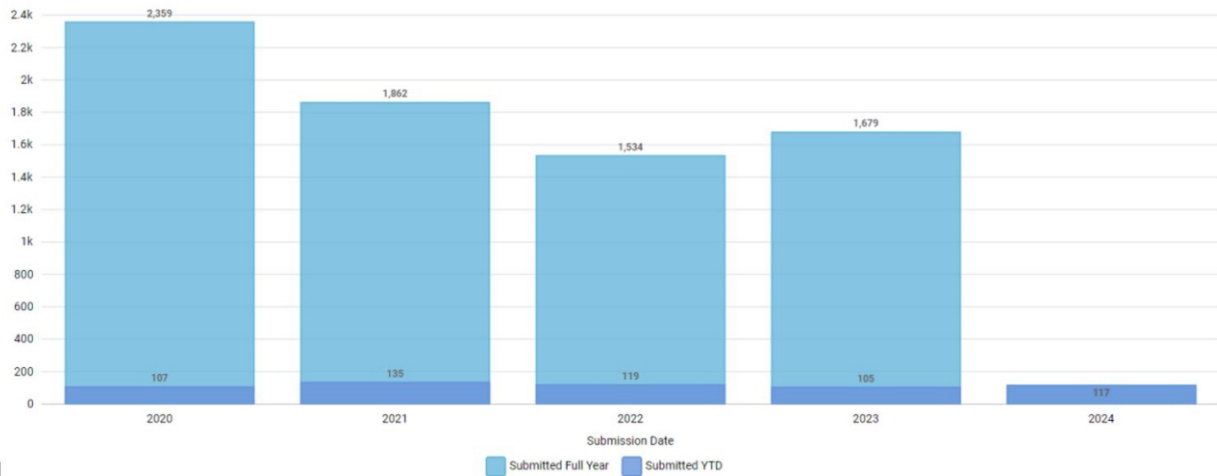
5. International Journal of Epidemiology (IJE)

This remains our flagship journal through which IEA pursues its objective and a viable source of income for the IEA. We deeply appreciate the efforts of Stephen Leeder and Alistair Woodward towards the continued growth of the journal. The IJE reports an impact factor of 7.7 in 2022 which have dropped slightly due to changes in metrics. The IJE team will speak to this issue at the AGM. The Editor Stephen Leeder was reappointed until 12/31/2025 while a co-editor Alistair Woodward was brought onboard to improve the range of expertise available to the IJE. In 2024 the IJE moved entirely on-line: the last printed issue was number 6, 2023.

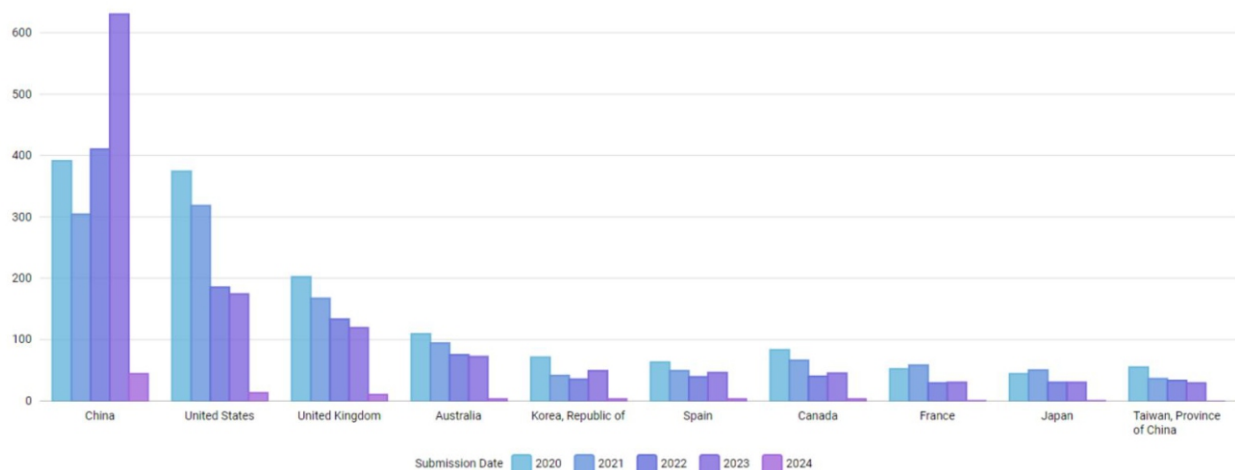
A few reforms have also been instituted by the editorial such as increasing the proportion of women, improving geographic spread and having a plan to mentorship. Alistair will speak to all these including the Counter 5.1 reports.

IJE REPORT, FEBRUARY 2024 (SOURCE – OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS)

Submissions



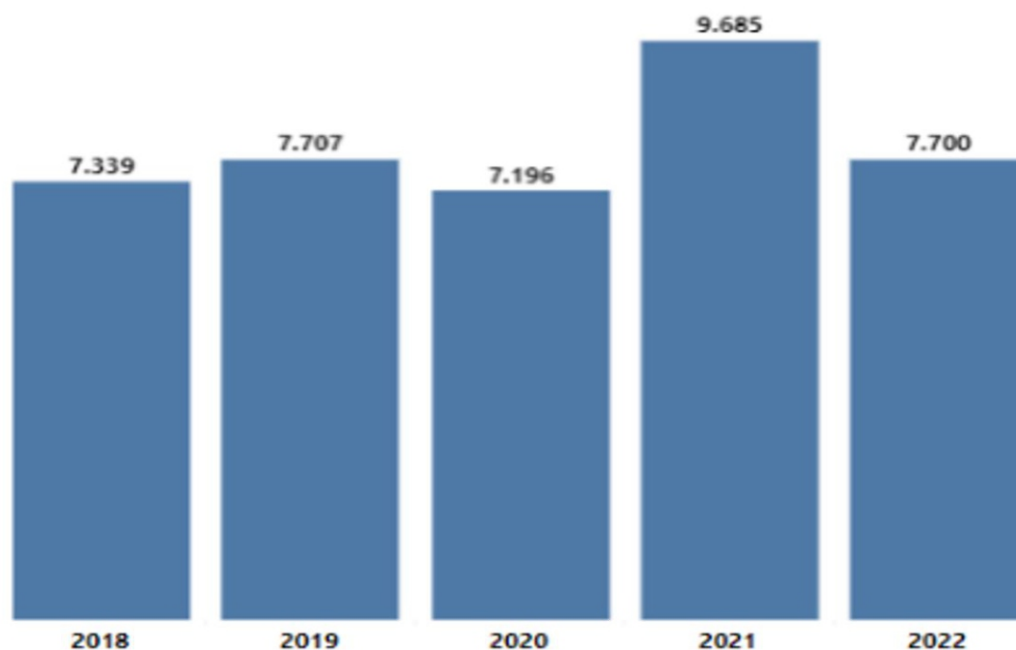
Submissions - Top Ten countries



Submissions – Average Time to First & Final Decision

Final Decision Date	Mean Days First Decision	Mean Days Final Decision	Total Decisions	Acceptance Rate
2020	9	13	2169	6%
2021	16	32	1863	13%
2022	14	33	1560	15%
2023	13	33	1442	12%
2024*	29	76	85	31%
	13	27	7119	

Impact Factor trend 2018 -2022



6. Other reports

- *Management:* The IEA maintains a management agreement with First Point Management Resources which was renewed in 2023 and runs till August 31, 2026. There have been mutual discussions with the management of FMPR on the challenges in adapting a modern management approach and it is hoped that all these will be concluded with useful inputs from the Council.
- *Website:* First Point Management Resources, our administrative partner undertook to overhaul the old website of the IEA to ensure more interactions and functionality. Plans are on to assess the functionality and user experience as we move forward.
- *Dictionary of epidemiology:* We thank Miquel Porta for leading the effort to update the 7th edition of the Dictionary of Epidemiology. At this year's WCE, he would be taking suggestions for the revision.
- *Technical consensus statement:* Towards the end of 2022, the IEA made a consensus statement on the importance of including children in the global vaccination efforts for the Covid-19 which was well received.
- *Awards:*
 - The IEA established the Dame Valerie Beral Fellowships in 2022 to honor the memory of IEA Past President, Dame Valerie Beral (2014-2017) and her lifelong advocacy and support of women pursuing careers in epidemiology.
 - The 2024 Richard Doll prize in epidemiology was awarded to prof. Deborah Lawlor of the University of Bristol, UK. She is the first female recipient of this highly prestigious award.

- *WHO affiliation:* The affiliation of the IEA with the WHO was renewed and a workplan agreed to. IEA is published in the list of non-state actors and have attended and contributed to many meetings and initiatives of the WHO. The Southeast Asia and West Pacific regions have also been invited to WHO regional meetings. Unfortunately, the invitations to the regional meetings of the Europe which have always been sent to the IEA has remained unhonoured. We hope the incoming regional councillor for Europe would remedy this situation.
- *Other affiliations:* The African region cemented a working relationship with the African Centre for Disease for control and was invited to a meeting on the standardization of the curriculum for Field Epidemiology Training Programmes in Africa
- *Pandemic Treaty:* The IEA made very useful contributions on data governance to the pandemic treaty which is still being negotiated under the auspices of the WHO. It is hoped that the new treaty would usher in a vista of global collaborations and solidarity for pandemic response and equity of purpose.
- *IEA Strategic plan:* The association has started the process for a 10-year strategic plan which was first mooted during the 2017 -2021 period. This would include a survey of members to get their views on moving the IEA forward.
- *Elections:* The elections for the 2024-2027 term of office were held successfully despite the initial lukewarm attitude of members to serve. We thank the following members who were elected after volunteering to serve the association. We wish them all a successful term of office.

IEA Council 2024 -2027

PresidentAkindede

President- Elect

Secretary

Treasurer

Immediate Past-President

Africa Regional Councilor

Europe Regional Councilor

LAC Regional Councilor

MENA Regional Councilor

North America Regional Councilor

SEA Regional Councilor

WP Regional Councilor

ECE Councilor

Adebiyi

Eduardo Franco

Jennifer Salerno

Chihaya Koriyama

Karina Braga Ribeiro

Armand Nkwescheu

Raquel Lucas

Antonio Boing

Mary Deeb

Mariam El-Zein

Chandrakant Lahariya

Brigid Lynch

Hermano Rocha

Nigeria

Canada

Canada

Japan

Brazil

Cameroon

Portugal

Brazil

Lebanon

Canada

India

Australia

Brazil

Early Career Representatives 2024 - 2027

ECE Councilor

Africa ECE
Europe ECE
MENA ECE
North America ECE
SEA ECE
WP ECE

Hermano Rocha

Moleen Dzikiti
Saeed Ahmed
Rachel Btaiche
Sharon Fitzgerald
Siva Santosh Kumar Pentapati
Bomi Park

Brazil/LAC

South Africa
Finland
Lebanon
USA
India
Korea

7. Conclusion

Despite the challenges of building back within the post COVID period, the IEA has remained credible and was able to engage her members with a few webinars and other activities. Nonetheless, there is ample room for improvement. We wish the incoming IEA executives a successful term of office and encourage all members to join hands to make the IEA better and stronger.

