



ICOH 2006-2008 TRIENNIUM MIDTERM SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE REPORT

MIDTERM REPORT Covering June 2006 – October 2007

Please return it no later than December 1, 2007 to:

Vice President Marilyn Fingerhut mfingerhut@cdc.gov and
Secretary General Sergio Iavicoli sergio.iavicoli@ispesl.it

The SC Midterm Report will be maintained on the ICOH Scientific Committee Virtual Office at www.ichweb.org/scvo.

Submitted by Scientific Committee: Aging and Work

Date: December 1st, 2007

Chairman: Masaharu Kumashiro
Email address: m-kuma@med.uoeh-u.ac.jp

From year: 2006

Secretary: Clas-Håkan Nygård
Email address: clas-hakan.nygard@uta.fi

From year: 2006

SC Website URL: Under development

Other SC Means of Communications: Newsletters & scientific events

Main aims* of the Scientific Committee:

- Provide scientific evidence and best practices for aging workers:
 - In the assessment of work ability and employability (both concepts refer to the balance between personal characteristics and work demands);
 - In the improvement of work conditions and environment to reduce work difficulties;
 - In work place health promotion

Focus* of the Scientific Committee:

- Governmental policies concerned with Age and Work: monitoring their evolution, assessing their impact, and providing scientific evidence to support better choices
- Health promotion: mostly contextual factors for the success of health promotion programs, scientifically supported content for these programs and compatibility of the programs with work context
- Supporting systems for the elderly workers: work improvement (kaizen, work place health promotion), supporting tools, and organisational accommodations
- Measurement and improvement of the balance between personal capacities and work requirement (Work Ability concept) including e.g the Work Ability Index
- Inter-generational training: training of older workers, career plateau and training, preserving the older workers' knowledge before retirement.
- Age management

*Aims and focuses of the Aging & Work S.C. reflect the concerns and research projects discussed during formal SC event and informal scientific exchanges amongst active members of the field (researchers, practitioners and other stakeholders). The SC mainly provides a platform for discussion.

**PART I – ACTIVITIES: Business meetings, Conferences, Seminars and Workshops
Midterm Report: June 2006-September 30, 2007**

1) Business meeting:

Venue: Hotel Nikko Hanoi, Vietnam

Date: October 21st and 22nd

Number of attendees: 20-30

Business report will be sent jointly to VP Fingerhut

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Courses, etc:

Name of the event:	3 rd International Symposium on Work Ability: Towards a Productive Aging
Type of event:	Symposium/Conference
Date:	October 22 nd to 24 th of 2007
Venue:	Hotel Nikko Hanoi, Vietnam
Organizers:	Department of Ergonomics, Institute of Industrial Ecological Sciences, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan
Co-organizers and Collaborators: Please describe roles.	Vietnam association of Occupational and Environmental Health (VINAOH): facilitated contacts with local institutions, contacted local stakeholders to invite them at the event, provided logistic help. ICOH, S.C. on Aging and Work and IEA, Technical Committee on Aging and Work: Facilitated diffusion of information concerning the symposium to potential participants and provided reviewers for the selection of the presenters.
Number of participants:	116 participants from 20 countries. We had 49 oral and 25 poster presentations (excluding cancellations)
Publication of proceedings:	No
Book of abstracts:	Participants were provided a CD containing the abstracts
Book of selected proceedings:	Yes, will be published during the first half of 2008 by Taylor & Francis
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	No
Assessment of success:	In comparison to the 2 nd International Symposium on Work Ability in 2004, as expected by the unusual location of Vietnam, we had a lower number of participants. The decrease was due to a lower participation from Europe, assumingly because of the much higher travel expenses and could not be compensated by the increase in Asian and Australian participation. Concerning the scientific content, this event was very successful, the scale and quality of the presented projects showcasing an increased maturity in the field. The event was also an opportunity to discuss national initiatives to face aging and work issues mostly from Germany, The Netherlands, and Australia. Many participants showed interest for an international network on work ability issues. (see business report)

PART II Midterm Report: SC Products and Collaborations, June 2006 – September 30, 2007

Publications, Guidelines*, Position Papers*, etc

Publications, Proceedings, Guidelines*, Position Papers*, etc. Provide title, authors, full citation. SCs are encouraged to produce ICOH Guidelines* and Position Papers*. *Guidelines and Position Papers must be approved by the ICOH SC Vice Presidents, Secretary General and President. None since June 2006

Cooperation with non-ICOH organizations: The ICOH Aging & Work S.C. maintains a permanent collaboration with the Aging & Work Technical Committee from the International Ergonomic Association (IEA), since both committees share most of their members and objectives.

PART III Midterm Report: SC PLANS for second half of Triennium and for ICOH 2009: October 1, 2007 – March 30, 2009

Planned business meetings, conferences, seminars:

The 40th Annual conference of the Nordic Ergonomics Society, Ergonomics is a lifestyle, Reykjavik, Iceland (August 11-13, 2008) – one session will concern aging and work.

The 1st East Asian Ergonomics Federation Symposium, Ergonomic Trends from the East, Kitakyushu, Japan (November 12-14, 2008) - one session will concern aging and work, one meeting will be held concerning East Asian networking for the Work Ability Index.

29th ICOH, International Congress on Occupational Health, Cape Town (March 22-27, 2009) – we will prepare a business meeting and seminar sessions during this congress. (see session ICOH2009, Suggestion form)

17th World Congress on Ergonomics, IEA 2009 in Beijing (August 9-14, 2009) – we will prepare a business meeting and seminar sessions, either during, before or after official congress data. Exact format remains to be discussed.

Planned collaborative Activities with other ICOH Scientific Committees:

Contacts with both following S.C. are under considerations:

- the S.C. on Shiftwork and Working time, our two committees share many members and one important concern for shiftwork and working time is its effect on aging,
- the S.C. on Work Disability Prevention and Integration, due to close relationship between the Work Ability concept and the continuum of incapacity, and the importance of aging in the disability paradigm (longer absence from work and decreased chances of returning to work with more advanced age).

Planned collaborative Activities with other (Non-ICOH) Organizations:

- IEA Technical Committee on Aging and Work will remain a close partner.
- We are also trying to establish relations with the field of gerontology to increase awareness of the “work” component in aging. At this time, gerontology associations have limited concerns related to work issues. Therefore, our committee still has to increase awareness of the work component in ageing. During the 2007 Hanoi conference, Peter Buijs (member of The Netherlands Blind Spot for Work project) directly addressed the lack of consideration for work during medical consultations. This consideration was less directly mentioned by other presenters. This lack of consideration for work related issues in medical treatments seems to have even greater consequences during the pre-retirement age.
- We also need to maintain our contacts with members of the International Gerontechnology Association. We will explore the possibility of taking advantage of our closer relationship with their interests to facilitate exchanges with the world of Gerontology.

Planned Publications, Position papers, etc.:

- A scientific book is under preparation based on selected papers from the 3rd International Symposium on Work Ability: Towards a Productive Aging. It will be published in the first half of 2008 by Taylor & Francis. All scientific editors are active members of the Aging & Work S.C.
- We are preparing a schedule to update the position of the SC in an official position paper (road map).

Planned Scientific Contributions to ICOH 2009: (Be specific: List title of scientific sessions, speakers, abstract reviewers, business meeting, etc.)

Space for 6 sessions is requested to hold a small symposium inside ICOH 2009 (see ICOH2009 – Suggestion form, Aging&Work SC)

PART IV – Assessment of Success of SC and Impact on Global Occupational Health

We want to understand and share widely the value and impact of the work of the Scientific Committees on improving global occupational health. Please look back into the past and provide an assessment.

Midterm Report: Please assess the success of the SC and its influence in improving global occupational health as a result of the work *prior to* the current Triennium. Give examples where possible.

The S.C. raised the awareness of aging and work issues. Positive outcomes include an increasing number of scientific publications on aging and work, especially concerning the topic of work ability. We have not evaluated this increase at the moment, grant opportunities would be required to provide a broad review of the research on aging and work.

A second indicator of the work done in the aging & work field is the emergence of national networks and large scale surveys using the work ability index (see business meeting report for details).

PART V – Evaluation of this Midterm Report form.

This form is acceptable

This form should be changed. Please recommend changes.

PART VI – List of Members of Scientific Committee (provide full name and email address)

Name**Email address:****Chair:** Masaharu Kumashiro

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Secretary: Clas-Håkan Nygård

clas-hakan.nygard@uta.fi

Active members:

Goedhard, William

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Juhani.Ilmarinen@ttl.fi

Malo, Jean-Luc

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*Confirmation is needed for others members

Passive members (registered to the Newsletter):

We use a mailing list containing almost 200 email addresses, from former SC Aging & Work activities to other collaborators on this topic. At this moment, we do not see the necessity to form a formal committee, though we expect to form special committees for each task the SC sets itself to do. For example, during the preparation of the orientation strategy for the Aging & Work S.C., all potential collaborators will be contacted through email; we will ask for volunteers to collaborate in the construction of the document, and the volunteers will form a temporary committee for the length of document's redaction.