

Minutes Business Meeting ICOH SC Rural Health

June 1, 2015, Seoul

Following the agenda that was send before the following items were discussed:

1. Activities SC 2012-2015;

- a. The report of the activities to the ICOH board was accepted. Gert van der Laan gave a short overview. Following the strategic goals of ICOH:
 - i. Extending effective OHS to all workers, including BOHS
 - ii. Developing action oriented ICOH toolkits
 - iii. Developing and sustaining induction, guidance and conduct of ethics
 - iv. Promoting good OH Practices
 - v. Strengthening ICOH network activities
 - vi. Developing collaboration with international allies
 - vii. Strengthening information activities
- b. The goals of the SC Rural Health are:
 - i. Promoting BOHS in agriculture
 - ii. Website, e-newsletter
 - iii. Developing a Platform for OHS in agriculture knowledge, tools and education
 - iv. guidelines, protocols, surveillance schemes, learning materials, quality websites, newsletters etc
 - v. Connected with Workers Health Education
 - vi. supported by the WHO Collaborative centers in Occupational Health

It is obvious that these goals are very ambitious, and were not completely achieved due to lack of time and resources

2. Election of Chair and Secretary 2015-2018.

- Claudio informed the group that he is candidate for the elections of the board. In case of election, he will be forced to resign; just in case, it is decided to call for candidate for the position of Secretary. Two members volunteer: Sashikala and Haifa. Claudio has already collected the willingness of Stefan Mandic Rajecevic.
- Claudio reminds all that the selection of the Secretary is decided by the Chair; Gert and Claudio get the approval of the SC to decide after to Congress, based on the results of the elections and the profiles of the candidates. Of course, the decision of the Secretary will be done with a concomitant efforts to make it possible the other two to fully express they willingness of collaboration.

3. **Congresses:** the International Congress Rural Health Lodi September 2015 is a major event in our field. This Congress, of which our SC is a co-organizer, is targeting all international experts in rural health in the world, along the lines already defined by WHO in the “Health for All” program. Main objectives are to reinforce Primary Health Care and Occupational Health services in the sector as the way to achieve universal health service coverage, and, as highlighted in the den Haag Conference. Apart for ICOH, which will be present with our SC together with the Scientific Committees on Occupational Toxicology, Toxicology of Metals, Occupational Health and Development, and Indoor air Quality, we will have the participation of the European Rural and Isolated Practitioners Association (EURIPA), the International Association of Rural Medicine and Health (IARM), which

has decided to organize during the International Exhibition its own 18th World Congress, and the Wonca Party on Rural Practice, which will organize specific sessions and lectures. WHO and ILO have already agreed to give their patronage to the Congress.

Our SC members are asked to participate and to promote participation:

<http://www.overgroup.eu/ruralhealth2015/> :

Other Congresses in which our SC can collaborate:

- Participation is anticipated in the Congress annually organized in Kampala (**Uganda**). Erik Jors will talk with Deogratias Sekimpi, organizer. We ask him to introduce at least one topic linked with our SC and its interests.
 - Hanifa announces that another important congress is planned next year in **Indonesia**. She will inform as soon as new information are available.
 - The SC unanimously decides to collaborate at the organization of the **Biological Monitoring Symposium**, very likely scheduled by the SCOT at the time of the mid-term meeting.
 - Eva informs the participants that the “**Organic Dusts Group**” is planning to organize a meeting on organic dusts during.
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4. **Project Good Practices** in Protecting and Promoting Workers Health in Agriculture
- a. Good Practice Reports on Occupational Health Promotion in Agriculture from different parts of the world. This project is run by the Chair from his position as visiting professor in the International Centre for Rural Health. In 2015-'17 5-10 places with Good Practices in this field can be visited (a mix of developing and more prosperous countries). Goal of the visit is the production of a report together with the local host in a such a format that can be used to write an article. The separate contributions can be placed on a website or a Newsletter.
 - b. Susan suggested a visit to Australia to coincide with participation in a course in Agricultural Health and Medicine and visit to the National Centre for Farmer Health in February 2015.
 - c. Erik suggested the Danish-Bolivian collaboration in Reduction of pesticide-related health problems
5. **Website:** the objective is to create an independent website of the SC linked with ICOH. Sashikala volunteers to prepare it, based on the one of her institutions, to be used as a model. Dissemination will be done also through the creation of the SC profile on social networks such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter. Hanifa is willing to organize the use of these tools and Susan is also very happy to assist.
6. **Any other issues:** After a request of Leslie on that matter all the participants accept the proposal of re-thinking at the publication of an update of the text “**Health Surveillance of Pesticide Workers**”, as already proposed in the past but never done due to an apparent lack of interest of the SC group members. Gert and Claudio will work on it and with the help of Hanifa will prepare an outline, based on the table of contents of the book of 1996 and of the proposal already prepared by Claudio.

Claudio proposes to try the organization of some **virtual meetings** using Skype or other web available resources.

Post Scriptum

After the meeting it appeared that Claudio was not elected in the board. He will keep his position a Secretary of our SC as decided, with help of active supporting members. Division of the tasks of the active supporting members will be:

- Sashikala Chandrasekar will organize a website dedicated to our SC and connected to the ICOH general website.
- Hanifa Denny will serve as a 'communication officer' in charge of the positioning of our SC in social media.
- Stefan Mandic Rajecevic will be in charge of communication with the members and setting up personal profiles / biosketches of the members on the Website.
- Susan Brumby is happy to assist Stefan with profiles

All communicate their activities with the Chair and Secretary and together they will be active in collecting and updating information on the website and social media

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