



Minutes of the Joint Meeting February 9, 2014 Helsinki, Finland

Time: Sunday, 9 February 2014, 9.00 - 18.00

Venue: Hanasaari Cultural Center Espoo, Finland

Participants:

Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan) - ICOH President
Prof. Bonnie Rogers (USA) - ICOH Vice President
Ms. Suvi Lehtinen (Finland) - ICOH Vice President
Dr. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) - ICOH Secretary General
Prof. Jorma Rantanen (Finland) - ICOH Past President
Dr. Patabendi Abeyunga (Canada) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Giovanni Costa (Italy) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Andrew Curran (UK) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Elia Enriquez (Mexico) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Monique Frings – Dresen (The Netherlands) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Norito Kawakami (Japan) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Timo Leino (Finland) - ICOH Board Member
Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Yves Roquelaure (France) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Mary Ross (South Africa) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Edoardo Santino (Brazil) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Malcolm Sim (Australia) - ICOH Board Member, Chair of Occupational Medicine
Prof. Harri Vainio (Finland) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Peter Westerholm (Sweden) - ICOH Board Member
Mr. Keith Scott (United Kingdom) – Chair of Accident Prevention
Dr. Su Wang (United Kingdom) – Secretary of Accident Prevention
Prof. Clas-Håkan Nygård (Finland) – Chair of Aging and Work
Prof. Mario Di Gioacchino (Italy) - Chair of Allergy and Immunotoxicology
Prof. Akizumi Tsutsumi (Japan) - Chair of Cardiology in Occupational Health
Dr. Frank Van Dijk (The Netherlands) – Chair of Education and Training in Occupational Health
Dr. Stefano Mattioli (Italy) – Chair of Health Services Research and Evaluation in OH
Dr. Michele Riva (Italy) - Chair of History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases
Prof. Paolo Carrer (Italy) – Chair of Indoor Air Quality and Health
Dr. Nils Plato (Sweden) – Chair of Industrial Hygiene
Ms. Lena Andersson (Sweden) - Secretary of Industrial Hygiene
Prof. Dongmug Kang (Republic of Korea) – Chair of Musculoskeletal Disorders
Dr. Ivo Iavicoli (Italy) – Secretary of Nanomaterials Workers' Health
Dr. W. Kent Anger (USA) - Chair of Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology
Prof. Swen Malte John (Germany) - Chair of Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses



Prof. Maurizio Manno (Italy) - Chair of Occupational Toxicology
Dr. Shyam Pingle (India) - Chair of OH and Development
Dr. William G. Buchta (USA) - Chair of OH for Health Care Workers
Dr. Maria Rautio (Finland) - Vice-Chair of OH Nursing
Dr. Paula Naumanen (Finland) - Chair of OH in Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector
Dr. Maren Beth-Hübner (Germany) – Secretary of OH in the Chemical Industry (MEDICHEM)
Dr. Jean-François Boulat (France) - Chair of OH in Construction Industry
Prof. Fabrizio Maria Gobba (Italy) - Chair of Radiation and Work
Prof. Pau-Chung Chen (Taiwan, China) – Chair of Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace
Prof. Yukinori Kusaka (Japan) - Chair of Respiratory Disorders
Dr. Gert Van der Laan (The Netherlands) - Chair of Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts
Prof. Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil) – Chair of Shiftwork and Working Time
Dr. Hannu Rintamäki (Finland) – Chair of Thermal Factors
Dr. Roberto Lucchini (Italy) – Secretary of Toxicology of Metals
Prof. Jukka Vuori (Finland) - Chair of Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health
Dr. Mats Hagberg (Sweden) - Chair of Vibration and Noise
Dr. Julietta Rodriguez Guzman (USA) - Chair of Women, Health and Work
Dr. Ruddy Facci (Brazil) - Chair of Work and Vision
Prof. Judith Sluiter (The Netherlands) – Secretary of Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors

Invited participants on specific items:

Mr. Baek Hun-Ki (Rep. of Korea) - President of KOSHA and President of the ICOH 2015 Congress
Mr. Gye-Wan Bae (Rep. of Korea) - Secretary General of ICOH 2015 Secretariat
Ms. Sook Shim (Rep. of Korea) – ICOH 2015 Congress Secretariat Staff
Mr. Jin Su Lee (Rep. of Korea) – ICOH 2015 Congress Secretariat Staff
Mr. Chan-Ho Jin (Rep. of Korea) – ICOH 2015 Congress Secretariat Staff
Mr. Jong-Kyu Kwon (Rep. of Korea) – ICOH 2015 Congress Secretariat Staff

ICOH/FIOH Staff:

Ms. Valeria Boccuni (Italy) - ICOH Staff
Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy) - ICOH Staff
Mr. Carlo Petyx (Italy) - ICOH Staff
Ms. Mirkka Salmensaari (Finland) – FIOH Information Officer
Ms. Marianne Joronen (Finland) – FIOH Information Officer

Apologies:

Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang (Rep. of Korea) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Dana Loomis (USA) – Chair of SC Epidemiology in OH
Prof. Glenn S. PRANSKY (USA) – Chair of SC Work Disability Prevention and Integration

1. Opening

The President of ICOH, Dr. Kazutaka Kogi, welcomed all the participants to the Joint Meeting of the ICOH Officers, Board members and Scientific Committees' Officers. Dr. Kogi informed the attendees about the achievements reached since ICOH 2012 Cancun Congress and put



particular attention to the future steps of ICOH also in view of the forthcoming ICOH 2015 Congress in Seoul. Dr. Kogi informed all participants that Dr. Seong Kyu Kang (ICOH Board member) could not attend the meeting because of a new recent important assignment which did not allow him to leave Korea. Dr. Kogi warmly thanked FIOH and the Hanasaari Cultural Centre for having hosted the ICOH Mid-term Meeting ongoing.

2. President's Report

(See BD1 in Background documents ICOH Joint Meeting)

Dr. Kogi gave a summary of the ICOH activities undertaken during the first half of the triennium 2012 – 2015 according to the sets of priorities for the current triennium that were agreed upon in Cancun. Among the main achievements, he stressed the importance of the *ICOH statement on global ban of asbestos and the elimination of asbestos-related diseases* issued in 2012 and further revised in 2013 (now placed on the ICOH website) through collaboration with SC on Respiratory Disorders, WGs, relevant ICOH members and the Board. Another important ongoing activity was the review work of the *ICOH Code of Ethics* planned to be finalized during the 2nd Board Meeting on February 10, 2014. Dr. Kogi also focused on the ICOH organizational development, which includes continued strengthening of organizational arrangements, information activities and membership campaign. He reported back the achievements of various objectives and tasks. With respect to ICOH collaboration with allies, he reported that close collaboration with ILO has continued by contributing to the promotion of the ILO Global Strategy on occupational safety and health, Framework Convention No. 187 and national projects. ICOH issued its statement on the occasion of the World Day for safety and health at work on 28 April 2012 and 2013 to reinforce this collaboration. Support for implementation of training projects has been provided jointly at regional and country levels. Close collaboration with WHO has continued at all relevant levels, including joint efforts to promote the WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health and regional and country level activities as well as active participation in the WHO Collaborating Centres' Network. ICOH has supported pilot projects and development of practical guidelines for BOHS. Collaboration is in progress for producing practical training materials.

3. Report on Scientific Committees

(See BD10 in Background documents ICOH Joint Meeting)

Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees, Prof. Bonnie Rogers, reported on the activities of ICOH SCs during the first half of the triennium. She discussed the sessions received for ICOH 2015 reminding the SCs Officers to present their ideas for logistic questions (rooms and planning of space). Prof. Rogers reminded that at the moment there are 35 SCs in ICOH with 35 appointed Chairmen and 34 Secretaries. SCs were very active with many outputs (publications, events, etc). Prof. Rogers stressed the fact that ICOH SCs collaborate with each other, a recent example is the Joint Conference in Sao Paulo (September 2013) organized by 4 SCs. Prof. Rogers explained that the ICOH 2015 Congress Sessions will have a similar format to ICOH 2012 Congress (two plenary sessions each day, that is a total of 10, and 30 semiplenary sessions, six each day; special and oral paper sessions as well). Prof. Rogers pointed out that Scientific Committees are involved in the determination of ICOH 2015 Scientific programme with 75 nominations for keynote speakers and many special sessions being planned.



Prof. Rogers also announced that the Trustees Committee, the national Scientific Committee and the Ethics Committee have been already appointed by Dr. Kogi, ICOH President. She informed that the first announcement of ICOH 2015 was in June 2013 and the second one will be in April 2014.

4. Report on activities of National/Area Secretaries (See BD11 in Background documents ICOH Joint Meeting)

Ms. Suvi Lehtinen, ICOH Vice President in charge of ICOH National/Area Secretaries, briefly reported on the activities on the National/Area Secretaries. Ms. Lehtinen pointed out an important request of NSs to SCs Officers: it is important that SC Officers inform the relevant NSs when they organize events in the countries of NSs. Therefore, Ms Lehtinen requested the SCs Officers to take into consideration the list of NSs at the end of her report where they could find NSs' names and emails. Ms. Lehtinen stressed that SCs Officers play a key role in supporting NSs as well as ICOH Officers. Then Ms. Lehtinen spoke about the main tasks of the NS and the ongoing activities. The current number of ICOH National/Area Secretaries appointed is 58. Ms. Lehtinen talked about the importance to have information/promotion materials to recruit and attract more members to ICOH. She reminded all participants that ICOH already has a brochure with ICOH activities and a leaflet in English, Spanish and French describing ICOH members' benefits. Ms. Lehtinen pointed out the importance that the ICOH Code of Ethics is having worldwide, indeed Ms. Lehtinen informed the participants of its being used in some countries as guidance for basic national Legislation and National Regulations. Vice President Lehtinen, also informed that during the current triennium some Regional Meetings have been organized like the one in Buenos Aires organized by Dr. Pantano and Dr. Taboada. Future Regional Meetings will take place in Africa in August 2014 and in Fukuoka, Japan on September 2-4, 2014. In connection with the ILO-ISSA World Congress in Frankfurt (August 24-27, 2014) another regional meeting may be organized. At the end of her report, Ms. Lehtinen left the floor to Prof. Kusaka who briefly reported on the ACOH Conference to be held in Fukuoka.

5. Report on Membership (See BD2 in Background documents ICOH Joint Meeting)

Dr. Sergio Iavicoli showed some figures on positive membership results achieved in comparison with the previous triennia, having 89% of ICOH members already renewed their affiliation as of November 2013. All the Sustaining Members already renewed their ICOH membership for the current triennium. In addition to them, the Workplace Safety and Health Institute of Singapore has recently joined ICOH as new Sustaining Member. Another positive result is the more balanced situation between ICOH members from developing countries (45%) and industrialized countries (55%). Thanks to the actions taken, the aging of ICOH members relatively improved. The increase of young members and the involvement of young professionals in the ICOH community remains a priority. In this view, the Secretary General reported on the agreement recently reached with the ILO which offered a partial fellowship in the amount of 4200 Euros for two ICOH candidates who will be selected in conjunction with ICOH 2015 Congress. They will have the possibility to attend the Master in Occupational Safety and Health organized by the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, Italy, thus providing a great opportunity for young professionals. Finally Dr. Iavicoli focused on the need for increasing effort to recruit young



members at the SCs conferences/events organized during the triennium through leaflets, brochures and promotional material. ICOH benefits for young professionals should be made more visible. In this view, Dr. Iavicoli informed the participants that ICOH Secretariat is evaluating a further development for the website. The idea should be to update the site while maintaining a traditional approach, introducing a more modern style and feel, improving the readability and offering a series of useful widgets to the users. With respect to ICOH 2018 Congress, Dr. Iavicoli reported about the presentation made by Dr. Martin Hogan, President of the ICOH 2018 Organizing Committee, during the Board meeting on February 8, 2014 and informed the audience about the agreed theme of the Congress (“Occupational Health and Wellbeing: Linking Research and Practice”) and dates (April 29 – May 4, 2018).

6. Breakout sessions A-B-C

Dr. Iavicoli presented the breakout sessions and communicated to the participants the topics identified for the discussion of the three groups. He also proposed the names of one member of the Board and one Officer of a Scientific Committee as possible facilitators during the discussions among group members. The topics and facilitators were agreed as follows:

- A) SCs Collaboration activities with WHO
(Facilitators: M. Fingerhut/S. Pingle)
- B) Integration and collaboration among SCs
(Facilitators: M. Sim/M. Manno)
- C) SCs outputs and dissemination strategy
(Facilitators: P. Abeyunga/S. Mattioli)

The breakout sessions started right after the coffee break with groups reporting to the assembly on the outputs produced after lunch break.

7. Report from breakout sessions

A) SCs Collaboration activities with WHO

Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut presented the report on SCs Collaboration activities with WHO. The discussion was very dynamic and interactive and mainly focused on the possible SCs commitments with respect to Healthy Workplaces and Occupational Health Services, which are among the priorities set by WHO in the Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health 2012-2017. Possible SCs contributions were identified as follows:

- Healthy Workplaces
 - SCOHDev survey to clarify activities on healthy workplaces in developing countries and informal work
 - Collaboration with WHO on guidelines on healthy workplaces
 - Co-sponsor with WHO another International Consultation on Healthy Workplaces
 - Establish a special interest group on Healthy Workplaces



- Occupational Health Services
 - Organize symposium on health coverage of workers in rural areas Milan Sep 8 to 11, 2015
 - Send second survey to ICOH National Secretaries in 2014 to learn country developments in contents, coverage and quality of occupational health services
 - Produce basic training materials on stepwise development of OHS according to ILO Conv 161
 - Contribute to policy options for organization and delivery of basic occupational health services.

As WHO contribution to 2015 Congress sessions, it was highlighted that the 10th Meeting of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centers for Occupational Health will be organized in conjunction with ICOH 2015 (28-29 May 2015, Jeju, Korea). ICOH President stressed the importance to coordinate the joint activities among SCs for producing training materials or contributing to policy options.

B) Integration and collaboration among SCs

The presentation was made by Prof. Malcolm Sim. Among the 17 Scientific Committees who participated in this session, all but two had some collaboration with other SCs through joint sessions organized at ICOH Congress and other societies, and joint conferences on specific topics and collaboration on documents and publications. A general strong support for SCs collaboration arose from the lively discussion and some barriers were identified: lack of information on planned SC activities, inadequate opportunities for interaction, limited resources, lack of joint planning, incoming Chairs not familiar with other SCs. The group identified the following proposals for further promotion of integration and collaboration among SCs:

- More interactive website for SC activities specifically for SC Officers
- Triennial calendar of events with enough lead time for collaboration
- Regular integration session for SC Officers: Congress and midterm meeting
- Bottom-up and Top-down approaches integrated with each other:
 - Example of Bottom up: More attention by chairs/secretaries to potential collaborations with other SCs
 - Examples of Top-down: Practical promotion/facilitation by ICOH, especially for small and/or new SCs, monitoring of achievements and products (consensus documents/position papers etc)
- Rationalisation or possible aggregation of less active SCs, to increase viability, critical mass, more rational use of resources
- Supra SCs for SCs in related areas to promote collaboration
- Possibly establish Special Interest Groups across SCs for specific topics, for example biological monitoring

C) SCs outputs and dissemination strategy

The presentation was made by Dr. Frank Van Dijk. The group started discussing the main Scientific Committees possible outputs (abstracts and proceedings of meetings/conferences,



position papers, training materials, etc) and identifying the specific target groups (colleagues within SCs, ICOH members, professionals, trainers, educators, public/workers/managers, decision makers, politicians). The possible dissemination channels were also evaluated (website, print products, electronic media). Some proposals to facilitate the production of outputs were identified as follows:

- Start with a clear plan for 3 years or for a meeting: what kind of outputs, for what audience, using which channel?
- Transparent procedures needed for development and external dissemination of guidelines, position statements, etc.
- External outputs should be from the committee and not from individuals

With respect to the need for procedures, Dr. Iavicoli reminded that the ICOH Guidelines for Scientific Committees represent a reference document where the processes to approve outputs and position papers are described.

8. Future of Scientific Committees

Prof. Rogers reported on the future of Scientific Committees. Firstly, she thanked the breakout groups for their presentations and the very productive discussion. She then listed the main points to focus on in order to strengthen the work of the Scientific Committees in the future. She stressed the importance of increasing the collaboration among SCs. She suggested that one idea for the next triennium could be that the Vice President in charge of SCs looks for points of collaboration in the work plans presented by the SCs in order to identify and indicate possible joint activities. She also stressed the importance for the SCs to look for the collaboration of the National Secretary of the country where their conferences are organized. The participants had an interactive discussion based on the bullet points presented by Prof. Rogers. Among the important aspects to be considered to address the future activity was the need for increasing visibility of SCs activities, getting young members more involved in the SCs and expanding products and outputs. Prof. Rogers thanked the participants for their productive contribution to the discussion. She encouraged the SCs officers to pick up one or two points among the arisen comments and ideas and focus on them for the remaining half of the triennium (for example focus on younger workers, identifying an emerging problem, getting in contact with another SC and carrying out some joint activities until 2015 rather than trying to implement too many activities that may then be problematic to implement because of lack of resources, time, etc).

9. ICOH 2015

Mr. Baek Hun-Ki, President of KOSHA and President of the ICOH 2015 Congress, made the introductory speech and gave a general overview on the preparation activities carried out so far. Then he left the floor to Mr. Gye-Wan Bae, Secretary General of ICOH 2015 Congress Secretariat, who showed the preparation work more in detail, explaining what has been done so far and what will be done in the remaining year until ICOH 2015 Congress (programme structure, committees, promotional activities, first announcement, official website, social programme). He reported also on the ICOH Officers visit to Coex in March 2013 and about the two preparatory meetings of ICOH Officers and ICOH 2015 Congress Organizers. As for the scientific sessions he



informed that 84 sessions were already set up as of January 2014. Mr. Bae stressed the need to increase the number of sessions (the venue offers room up to 200 sessions) and asked for the support of ICOH Scientific Committees in this process. He also invited the participants to actively cooperate in promoting the event in the next conferences and events they will attend. Young participants will be facilitated by the arrangements of less expensive accommodations (information will be available on the official website). Grants for participants from developing countries will also be guaranteed: 65.000,00 € supported by ICOH 2015 Congress Organizers, 12.429,00 € from ICOH's remaining funds of 2012 and additional fund raising for ICOH 2015. Mr. Bae informed the audience that the registration and abstract submission procedures are under development and will be included in the 2nd announcement to be sent out in April 2014 together with the list of keynotes speakers. He reported about the main important fixed deadlines as follows:

- **August 31, 2014.** Abstract submission deadline
- **September 30, 2014.** Early bird registration deadline
- **November 15, 2014** Deadline for presentation paper selection

Dr. Kogi thanked the ICOH 2015 National Organizing Committee delegation and invited the SCs to continue to contribute to the formulation of the scientific programme of the Congress.

ICOH President concluded the meeting by thanking all the participants for the very useful discussion.