



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Meeting of the ICOH Board 2018-2022 Session 1

**February 3, 2022
Online**

Time: Thursday, 3 February 2022, 14:30 – 17:30 CET

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

Participants: **Dr. Jukka Takala (Finland)** – ICOH President
Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) – ICOH Secretary General
Dr. Diana Gagliardi (Italy) – ICOH Acting Secretary General
Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (Rep. of Korea) – ICOH Vice President
Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa) – ICOH Vice President
Prof. Maureen Dollard (Australia) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Mats Hagberg (Sweden) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Martin Hogan (Ireland) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Seichi Horie (Japan) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Stavroula Leka (Ireland) – ICOH Board member
Dr. Rosa Maria Orriols Ramos (Spain) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Shyam Pingle (India) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Kari Reijula (Finland) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Paul Schulte (USA) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Francesco Violante (Italy) – ICOH Board member

Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Ms. Erika Cannone (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Ms. Valeria Boccuni (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Mr. Antonio Valenti (Italy) – ICOH Staff

Apologies: **Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan)** – ICOH Past President (connection failed due to technical problems)
Dr. Eun-A Kim (Rep. of Korea) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Sunil Kumar Joshi (Nepal) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Olivier Lo (Singapore) – ICOH Board member
Prof. Christophe Paris (France) – ICOH Board Member
Ms. Maria Luisa Tupia Gonzales (Peru) – ICOH Board Member



1. Approval of the minutes of ICOH Board Meetings 12-13 February 2020 Rome, 29 April 2021 (online)

The President of ICOH, Dr. Jukka Takala, opened the meeting welcoming all the participants. The minutes of the activities and decisions from the last Midterm Meeting held in Rome (February 12-13, 2020) and online (29 April 2021) were circulated among the ICOH Board members for comments and amendments and then made available on the ICOH website.

Decision:

- The Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Approval of the minutes of the ICOH General Assembly held in Dublin in 2018 (BD0.1, 0.2, 0.3)

The minutes of the ICOH2018 General Assembly were circulated among the ICOH Officers and Board members for comments and amendments and then published on the ICOH website.

Decision:

- The Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. President's Report (BD1)

The ICOH President, Dr. Takala, briefly reported on the activities carried out during the triennium, and he referred to his written report included in the ICOH Report 2018-2021 for a more exhaustive description.

The implementation of ICOH plans and priorities progressed well in terms of engagement and good connection with the key organizations, in particular, the ILO and WHO.

Specific priorities and work plan for the 2018–2021 triennium had been agreed upon by the ICOH Board, and largely followed the former work plan for 2015–2018.

The agreed strategies included Evidence, Ethics and Engagement. ICOH participated in international and national activities by continuing collaboration, such as its close contact with the ILO and WHO, contributing to policy and practices in European Union institutions and bodies, ASEAN, Mercosur, and other regional intergovernmental bodies; contributing to the Global Burden of Disease and Injury estimates.

The ICOH President reported on his experience as Chair, invited by the ILO, of the ILO Meeting of Experts to discuss and adopt the Draft Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Textiles, Clothing, Leather and Footwear in October 2021.

Dr. Takala also stressed the importance of the collaboration with ICOH Institutional, Sustaining and Affiliate members and called for exploring new ways and opportunities to keep active and increase these kinds of partnerships in the next triennium.

Finally, Dr. Takala expressed his cordial thanks to the ICOH Board, Vice Presidents and Secretary General, as well as to the Chairs and members of Task Groups (TGs), Working Groups (WGs) and the ICOH Secretariat staff for the work done during the triennium.

Decisions:

- The President's Report was approved unanimously.



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



4. Report on Scientific Committees (BD2)

Ms. Claudina Nogueira, ICOH Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees (SCs), reported on the key activities of the tenure 2018-2022.

She underlined that, throughout this very challenging triennium, many of the ICOH SCs and members have continued their efforts to remain active in research and make valuable contributions to global occupational health. A good example is the contributions that the SCs have made to the scientific programme of the ICOH 2022 Congress.

Furthermore, she reported that many of ICOH's SCs have produced outputs on various aspects of COVID-19. Various ICOH SCs have organized and presented online events like SC meetings and webinars, especially during the second part of the triennium.

Ms. Nogueira also expressed her satisfaction for the renewed and strengthened collaboration between SCs over the triennium. Before the start of the global pandemic, a flagship event demonstrating the best ever collaboration between SCs was held in Mumbai, India, 28 January to 1 February 2020. It was the 'International Conclave on Occupational Health (OCCUCON 2020)'. The following eight SCs were co-organizers and participants in OCCUCON 2020: Education and Training in Occupational Health; Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services; Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts; Mining Occupational Safety and Health; Occupational Health in the Construction Industry; Occupational Health and Development; Occupational Health in Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector; and Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry.

Decisions:

- The Report on SCs was approved unanimously.

5. Report on activities of National/Area Secretaries (BD3)

Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, ICOH Vice President in charge of the National/Area Secretaries (NSs), informed the ICOH Board of the NSs triennial activities.

A total of 70 NSs were appointed for the triennium 2018-2021. Prof. Kang recalled the main tasks of the NSs and their strategic role in terms of membership recruitment at country level. Special efforts were made by many NSs to promote ICOH and to recruit new members, particularly at the annual conferences of the occupational health associations/societies of their respective countries. Some NSs created a significant increase in new members.

During the triennium, the Officers planned meetings with the NSs on separate occasions to discuss the membership campaign and the promotion of ICOH activities. Regional Meetings were held in Africa and Latin America in 2019, but no Regional Meetings were held in Asia in 2020 due to COVID-19. The Vice President held online meetings for the NSs in each region in 2021.

Decision:

- The Report on activities of National/Area Secretaries was approved unanimously.

6. Report of the Secretary General (BD4)

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli reported on the good results in terms of membership numbers and other activities carried out as Secretary General during the triennium. In concluding his mandate after 19 years as Secretary General, Prof. Iavicoli recalled the main achievements and focuses of his action, leading to the restructuring of ICOH as an organization. Many accomplishments were attained in the long term. ICOH membership has constantly increased since 2003. Resources constantly increased as well, which has made it possible for ICOH to take financial responsibility for the digital congress organization, in the exceptional circumstances of



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



the time. The transparency, accessibility and participation were emphasized, starting with the drafting and adoption of the Good Association Practice (GAP) and ICOH Guidelines for NSs, SCs, and ICOH Congresses. Participation was improved through e-voting, administration of surveys and engagement of young researchers. Another very important result was the progressive increase in ICOH members from low- and middle-income countries from 2003 to 2021. ICOH engagement in advocacy was evident from the work done on migrant workers in the Gulf area since 2015; another recent result was the ICOH contribution at UN General Assembly for the adoption of the UN Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage by Heads of State and Government. ICOH has gained a very clear role and visibility in the international scenario, as evidenced by the presence of high-profile representatives from WHO, ILO, and the Italian Ministry of Health at the ICOH2022 Congress Opening Ceremony.

Prof. Iavicoli stressed that it was a privilege for him to be able to serve as Secretary General in the oldest and largest professional scientific organization in the field of occupational health. Then, he addressed some words of esteem to his successor Dr. Diana Gagliardi as the first female Secretary General in the history of ICOH. Finally, he expressed special thanks to all ICOH colleagues and friends he worked with over the last 19 years.

Decision:

- The Report of the Secretary General was approved unanimously.

7. Financial Update on Budget 2018–2021 and Auditors' Report (Ref: ICOH Report 2018-2021)

Prof. Iavicoli presented the interim budget from November 1, 2017 to May 4, 2018 and the budget 2018–2021. The results were satisfactory, considering the major effort by ICOH of taking the financial responsibility of all the costs related to the congress organization. The ICOH budget was audited by BDO according to international standards. The Auditors' report states: *"In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Commission as of September 30, 2021, and of the result of its operations and its cash flows for the financial period then ended, in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union."*

Then Prof. Iavicoli raised the issue of the appointment of new Auditor and Vice Auditor. Two leading international companies submitted their quotations: BDO and Ernst & Young (EY). On the basis of costs calculation, the Secretary General submitted to the Board the proposal to elect BDO as Auditor and EY as Vice Auditor for the next tenure. The Board agreed with the proposal, which will be presented to the General Assembly for final approval in execution of Article 4, Section 1 of the Constitution. Finally, Prof. Iavicoli gave an update on the interim budget (November 1, 2017 to May 4, 2018).

Decisions:

- The budget 2018–2021 and the interim budget from November 1, 2017 to May 4, 2018 were approved unanimously.
- The Board approved the proposal to elect BDO as Auditor and EY as Vice Auditor for the next tenure. The proposal will be presented to the General Assembly for final approval.

8. Voting on the venue for the ICOH2027 Congress

The next agenda item was the Bid Committees' presentation for determination of the venue for the 35th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2027 Congress). ICOH Secretary General, Prof. Iavicoli reminded the ICOH Board members of the decision-making process to determine the venue of the ICOH2027 Congress – three binding criteria, procedure of admission to the voting, Board recommendation, voting by ICOH members – according to the ICOH Bye-Law 7 and the ICOH Guidelines for Congress Organization.



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Three countries submitted a bid for hosting the ICOH2027 Congress: Colombia (Medellin), India (Mumbai), and Spain (Barcelona).

In compliance with ICOH Bye-Law 7, Section 2, a virtual site visit (e-meeting via Microsoft Teams) was held between an ICOH Officer and a Bidding Committee – Ms. Nogueira/Medellin (Colombia), Dr. Takala/Mumbai (India), and Prof. Kang/Barcelona (Spain) – to check the solidity of each candidacy.

As a result of the candidatures' evaluation process, set out in ICOH Bye-Law 7, Section 2, the Board decided to admit all three countries to the voting procedure for the determination of the venue of the ICOH2027 Congress.

As for the Board recommendation (Constitution Article 6, Section 1, Bye-Law 7, Section 3), Prof. Iavicoli reminded the meeting participants of the terms of reference and the criteria to be taken into consideration by the Board, as follows:

- Professional strength, including the local Scientific Community
- Occupational health situation in the country
- Technical facilities, logistics, feasibility
- Economic capacity
- Geographical rotation
- Demonstrated experience in organizing scientific conferences with the involvement of professional conference organizing company with wide experience in the organization of international conferences
- Security and safety of the venue.

The Bidding Committees from the three venues were invited to present a summary of their individual bids to the Board.

In the weeks before the Board Meeting, each Bidding Committee was requested to provide the ICOH Secretariat with the names and contact details of the components of the delegation attending the meeting. The meeting link was sent directly by the ICOH Secretariat only to the indicated people allowed to enter the meeting room. Each Bidding Committee was allowed to join the discussion only for their presentation, then it had to quit the meeting in order to leave the floor to the next Bidding Committee.

The time allocated for each Bidding Committee was 10 minutes for the presentation and 3 minutes for discussion.

The Bidding Committees, in alphabetical order by country, were asked to join the meeting for their respective bid presentations, as follows:

- Medellin, Colombia
- Mumbai, India
- Barcelona, Spain

The presentations of the Bidding Committees were followed by a discussion among the Board members. Then, Dr. Gagliardi explained the online voting procedure through SurveyMonkey. The voting for the Board recommendation took place by secret ballot.

The results of the voting by Board members were:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| ▪ Colombia (Medellin) | 3 votes |
| ▪ India (Mumbai) | 12 votes |
| ▪ Spain (Barcelona) | 2 votes |

Decision:

- The Board decided to recommend Mumbai, India as the venue for the ICOH2027 Congress, based on number of votes;
- The Board agreed to appoint a Scrutineers Committee to oversee the electronic voting of the ICOH2027 Congress venue as follows: Prof. Ruddy Facci (Chairperson), Dr. Elia Enriquez, and Prof. Kang, with the assistance of ICOH Acting Secretary General, Dr. Gagliardi.

•



9. Proposal for Scientific Committees and Working Groups

Prof. Iavicoli recalled the discussion had at the ICOH 2020 Midterm Meeting about reviewing the existing SCs and WGs structures to identify solutions for improved interaction and integration. In particular, the Board agreed to postpone the decision on the conversion of the WG on Occupational Infectious Agents (OIA) into a SC until the ICOH2022 Congress. This process was delayed due to the pandemic outbreak. On the other hand, a significant contribution was made by the WGOIA to the COVID-19 focus area during the second half of the triennium. Therefore, the Officers submitted to the Board the proposal to convert the WGOIA into a SC. The Board agreed with the proposal.

Further to a prior preliminary discussion with Dr. Takala and Prof. Jorma Rantanen, Prof. Iavicoli submitted to the Board a proposal to establish a WG on Inequalities in Occupational Health chaired by Prof. Rantanen with the support of Dr. Antonio Valenti as Secretary. The Board agreed on the relevance of this transversal topic, which could also benefit from the input of various ICOH SCs.

Decision:

- The Board agreed to convert the WGOIA into a SC.
- The Board agreed to establish a WG on Inequalities in Occupational Health.
- The Board agreed to review the status of the existing SCs in the next tenure, in order to consider possible merging of SCs and the termination of dormant/inactive SCs.

10. Report of the Task Group on Constitution, Bye-Laws and Guidelines (BD5.1)

Dr. Takala made a follow up of the main issues dealt with by the TG during the triennium 2018-2021:

- The main activity of the TG aimed at updating the 'Guidelines for the organization of the ICOH Congress' through the assistance of the WG on the Revision of ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organization chaired by Dr. Martin Hogan. As a result of this joint work, amended versions of the Guidelines on Congress Organization and of ICOH Bye-Law 7 have been adopted and are available on the ICOH website for consultation.
- The second General Assembly and ICOH Board held during the ICOH Dublin Congress on 4 May 2018 approved the proposals related to electronic voting and the system is in force starting from the triennium 2018-2021. At regulatory level, in order to introduce the electronic vote, ICOH Constitution (Article 5 – Section 1) and Bye-Laws (Bye-Law 4 - Section 1, Bye-Law 4 - Section 4, Bye-Law 6 - Section 3) have been changed.
- During the ICOH Midterm meeting held in Rome on February 12-13, 2020, an amendment to the 'National Secretaries Guidelines' was also discussed and approved by the Board. The updated 'National Secretaries Guidelines' are available on the ICOH website for consultation.

Finally, Dr. Takala submitted to the Board a proposal for amendments to the ICOH Constitution aimed at including the immediate Past Secretary General as a member of the ICOH Board.

Dr. Takala referred to the Articles of the Constitution, to be amended and implemented as follows:

Article 5, Section 6

The Board of the ICOH shall be elected by postal and/or electronic ballot and shall consist of the Officers, the immediate Past President, **the immediate Past Secretary General**, and 16 other members in good standing so as to represent as far as possible the different disciplines and a balanced geographical distribution. No more than two of these 16 members may be citizens of the same country. If necessary, no



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



more than two further members of the Board chosen for their ability, or to represent a geographical region or a discipline, may be proposed by the President and co-opted by the Board. The Editor of the Quarterly Newsletter shall be an *ex officio* member of the Board.

Article 5, Section 7

The Board is empowered to implement the purposes of the ICOH as defined in this Constitution, and shall to this effect:

- (a) Review the programme of work of the ICOH and its Scientific Committees;
- (b) Assist the Officers, in particular by means of administrative working groups or committees;
- (c) Amend the Bye-Laws whenever necessary;
- (d) Recommend the venue of future International Congresses on Occupational Health to the General Assembly;
- (e) Recommend the election of honorary members;
- (f) Expel members under the circumstances of Article 2, Section 7;
- (g) Make recommendations to the President for submission to the General Assembly for its approval;
- (h) If necessary, co-opt up to two additional Board members as proposed by the President;
- (i) Approve any additional language used at an International Congress;
- (j) Review the accounts.

The Board shall meet at least once in each triennium and at any other time which the President may consider necessary. A special meeting of the Board can also be convened at the request of a majority of its members. A Board meeting is valid when out of its **22** members (Section 6), the President or another Officer representing him and ten other Board members are present.

(The amendments in the above articles are herein marked in bold.)

Decision:

- The Board agreed with the Constitutional changes for the inclusion of the immediate Past Secretary General as a member of the ICOH Board. The proposal will be submitted to the General Assembly at the ICOH2022 Congress for approval.

11. Issues related to the Elections of ICOH Officers and Board

Prof. Iavicoli described to the Board members the procedure related to the election of ICOH Officers and Board members 2022-2024. He quickly went through the list of candidates for the various positions. The electronic voting system was developed by Eligo, which guaranteed the absolute uniqueness, secrecy and security of the vote expressed with a simple and intuitive procedure.

In order to ensure accessibility to voting procedures for all ICOH members entitled to vote, the following special measures were adopted: communication to verify email addresses of voters (sent in August 2021); mass emails and communications on the ICOH website and Newsletter; regular updates of contact information of voters; voting instructions published on the ICOH website; reminder to all voters. Each voter received their unique login credentials by email on January 10, 2022. The voting took place between 11-31 January 2022.

As a result, the voting rate was 36.9%.

The ICOH Secretary General informed the Board members about the scrutiny planned for February 3, 2022 (immediately after the Board meeting). The scrutiny will be managed by Eligo and will be in the presence of the Scrutineers Committee.

Decision:

- The Board unanimously agreed to appoint the Scrutineers Committee as follows: Dr. Jorge A. Morales Camino (Chairperson), Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut, Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti, and Dr. Elia



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Enriquez, with the assistance of ICOH Acting Secretary General, Dr. Gagliardi and Returning Officer, Dr. Antonio Valenti.



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Meeting of the ICOH Board 2018-2022 Session 2

**February 4, 2022
Online**

Time: Friday, 4 February 2022, 12:00 – 13:30 CET

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

Participants: **Dr. Jukka Takala (Finland)** – ICOH President
Dr. Diana Gagliardi (Italy) – ICOH Acting Secretary General
Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (Rep. of Korea) – ICOH Vice President
Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa) – ICOH Vice President
Prof. Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Martin Hogan (Ireland) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Seichi Horie (Japan) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Eun-A Kim (Rep. of Korea) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Sunil Kumar Joshi (Nepal) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Stavroula Leka (Ireland) – ICOH Board member
Dr. Olivier Lo (Singapore) – ICOH Board member
Dr. Rosa Maria Orriols Ramos (Spain) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Shyam Pingle (India) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Kari Reijula (Finland) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Paul Schulte (USA) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Francesco Violante (Italy) – ICOH Board member

Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Ms. Erika Cannone (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Ms. Valeria Boccuni (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Mr. Antonio Valenti (Italy) – ICOH Staff

Apologies: **Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan)** – ICOH Past President (connection failed due to technical problems)
Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) – ICOH Secretary General
Prof. Maureen Dollard (Australia) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Mats Hagberg (Sweden) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Christophe Paris (France) – ICOH Board Member
Ms. Maria Luisa Tupia Gonzales (Peru) – ICOH Board Member



1. Report of the Task Group on Membership (BD5.2)

Dr. Gagliardi, Acting Secretary General, reported on the achievements of the Task Group (TG) on Membership and on the main tasks carried out during the triennium according to the 2018–2021 work plan. In addition to the information provided by Prof. Iavicoli in the overall Report of the Secretary General (ref: Board Meeting Session 1, agenda item 6), she pointed out the most relevant figures on membership results. The overall figures, indicating a total number of 2107 ICOH members in good standing at the end of the triennium, showed a continuous growth of the membership (+6.7% with respect to the previous term). Dr. Gagliardi showed the leading countries in ICOH membership and highlighted the best results achieved in India, USA, Japan, Italy, Brazil, and others. She also remarked a more balanced distribution of membership among the continents, where members from low and middle-income countries represent 58% of the total membership. Such a positive result was gradually achieved thanks to the actions taken to increase the participation of ICOH members from developing countries in various ICOH events.

Decision:

- The Report of the TG on Membership was approved unanimously.

2. Report of the Finance Committee (BD5.3)

Dr. Hogan reported on the activities of the Finance Committee.

The remittance of the ICOH2018 Congress extra fees was executed in accordance with the institutional rules. The amount transferred to ICOH was 123,855 CHF.

The current fee system - approved by the General Assembly during the ICOH2015 Congress and developed in order to increase accessibility for developing countries - confirmed its positive impact in terms of geographical distribution: members from low- and middle-income countries now represent over half (58%) of the total membership.

Dr. Hogan reminded the special measures taken in relation to ICOH2022 Congress organization within the COVID-19 pandemic context:

- 1) To postpone the closure of the ordinary budget from October 31, 2020 to September 30, 2021;
- 2) To increase by 20,000 CHF the total amount allocated for expenditures of the current triennial budget from 567,000 CHF to 587,000 CHF;
- 3) To set the interim budget period from October 1, 2021 to February 10, 2022.
- 4) To allocate 75,000 CHF for the interim period instead of 70,000 CHF, being the new interim period one month longer than the previous one.

The 2018-2021 budget shows that as of September 30, 2021 incomes reached 104.5% of the estimated budget, whereas expenditures were about 86.6%. This result was satisfactory if we consider the major effort by ICOH of taking the financial responsibility of all the costs related to the congress organization.

General trends are secure as they reflect those of previous triennia. In January 2022, BDO completed the audit process and expressed a positive opinion about the ICOH accounting.

Decision:

- The Report of the Finance Committee was approved unanimously.

3. Report of the Task Group on Information and Communication (BD5.4)

Prof. Kang reported on the goals and activities of the TG on Information and Communication. He provided an overview of the main information tools such as the website, the Newsletter and the social network service. The Vice President also reminded the ICOH statements presented during the ICOH Congresses in 2015 and 2018, and the ICOH statement on Tuberculosis Elimination in workers (2018).



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



After Prof. Kang's report, the Board briefly discussed the issue of fraudulent or fake emails, which from time to time are being sent using the name of the ICOH President. It was reaffirmed that ICOH Officers will never contact ICOH members asking for support with personal matters. Therefore, such fraudulent emails must be ignored.

Decision:

- The Report of the TG on Information and Communication was approved.

4. Report of the Task Group on Ethics and Transparency (*BD5.5*)

Prof. Kari Reijula, Chair of the TG on Ethics and Transparency, gave an update of the main activities of the TG carried out in the triennium. During 2018-2021, the TG worked on the application and further dissemination of the 3rd edition of the ICOH Code of Ethics. In addition, the TG focused on the following four major areas:

- 1) Globalizing world of work with new challenges to occupational safety and health (OSH);
- 2) Increasing inequalities concerning OSH and OH services among ICOH member states (and others outside the ICOH family);
- 3) Ethical aspects related to research, OSH practices and training of professionals;
- 4) Collaboration between professional associations in OSH

Objectives and actions for each area were detailed in the TG Final Report (*BD5.5*)

Decision:

- The Report of the TG on Ethics and Transparency was approved unanimously.

5. Reports of Working Groups

(Ref: background documents 6.1 – 6.6)

Future of Decent Work (*BD6.1*)

Dr. Paul Schulte reported on the activities of the WG on the Future of Decent Work. The WG was very active during the triennium. The major work product for the triennium was a white paper on the future of decent work, developed in close collaboration with the WG on Demographic Changes and Occupational Health. A draft of the white paper is under review by all the co-authors. In the next triennium, communication materials will be derived from the white paper, including: 1) Practical advice for OSH specialists, 2) Research needs to identify aspects of decent work, 3) Policy prescriptions to foster decent work. Dr. Roberto Lucchini, WG member, made a presentation on the importance of OSH at the United Nations in New York on May 1, 2019. Dr. Schulte also participated on behalf of ICOH in a plenary panel session on 'Technology and well-being' at the 6th Regulatory Decent Work Conference of the ILO in Geneva in July 2019. Earlier that year, in January 2019, the WG established a subgroup on migration. This effort was coordinated by WG member Dr. Acran Salmen-Navarro. The subgroup initiated two efforts: 1) A literature review of migrants and OSH and 2) Collaboration with various international organizations to increase the visibility of OSH in activities related to migrant workers.

Decision:

- The Report of the WG on the Future of Decent Work was approved.



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Demographic Changes and Occupational Health (BD6.2)

Prof. Frida Marina Fischer summarized the aims and the actions of the WG. The main aims were to establish collaborative goals with the WG on the Future of Decent Work; to mediate actions among several ICOH SCs on the joint topics and to suggest to the ICOH SCs to organize joint sessions in the events held during the triennium and the main ICOH Congress. At the beginning of the triennium, initial attempts were made to add professionals to this WG. The main joint activities were reported by Prof. Fischer. There was a fruitful collaboration with Dr. Schulte and some colleagues, in the area of decent work and aging and work, which led to the publication of a manuscript "Aging and the Future of Decent Work". Online meetings were held during the triennium, mainly during 2018-2019. The pandemic situation caused by SARS-Cov-2 stopped this collaboration/interaction among experts. The pandemic situation associated with the new coronavirus was a major obstacle to a number of actions that could have been developed in this technical group. Nevertheless, a number of important outputs (publications, presentations in scientific/professional meetings, online discussions, plans for action, etc.) were achieved. Several issues related to demographic changes and occupational health still remain to be carried out. Perhaps in a more favourable time during the next ICOH biennial term (2022-2024), a follow up of this WG on demographic changes and workers' health, should continue in a number of areas, such as informal and migration workers, women and work, unemployment and underemployment.

Decision:

- The Report of the WG on Demographic Changes and Occupational Health was approved.

Implementation of the Global Strategy of Occupational Health for All, with a special reference to the global ban of asbestos (BD6.3)

Due to some technical problems, Dr. Kazutaka Kogi was not able to connect to the meeting. In any event, the Report of this WG was included in the background documents of the meeting and shared with Board members.

Decision:

- The Report of the Working Group on Implementation of the Global Strategy of Occupational Health for All, with a special reference to the global ban of asbestos was approved.

Revision of ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organization (BD6.4)

Following the decision taken by the ICOH Board in Dublin on May 5, 2018, a WG on the Revision of ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organization was established. This WG was proposed because the old guidelines were not truly reflective of everything that happens in the organization of the Congress. Dr. Hogan reported that WG worked in cooperation with the President, Officers and the Secretariat of ICOH.

Given the travel restrictions due to the global pandemic, all meetings were in the form of teleconferences/Skype calls. As a result of this joint work, an amended version of the Guidelines on Congress Organization and of ICOH Bye-Law 7 were proposed and were unanimously approved by the Board and are now available on the ICOH website for consultation. The main change was the establishment of three binding criteria for the organization of the congresses. The important point was that these criteria will apply from before the bidding process all the way to the actual Congress. A significant change was that only bidders who have the capacity to meet the criteria will be allowed to go forward to the election for the venue of the Congress.

The criteria were clear and transparent; as before, there will still be a Board recommendation but the final decision on the venue of the Congress will as always remain with ICOH members in good standing participating in the Congress, who are eligible to vote.



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Decision:

- The Report of the WG on the Revision of ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organization was approved.

Occupational Cancer (BD6.5)

Dr. Takala reported on the activities carried out by this WG, established as a result of discussions held at the ICOH2015 Congress and ICOH General Assembly in Seoul in 2015. The objective was to widen and deepen the knowledge and actions to eliminate exposures at work which are known to cause cancer. The goal would be to establish a global programme to reduce and gradually eliminate occupational cancer. In addition to the WG members, several ICOH individual and institutional members significantly contributed to this effort. Occupational cancer was prominently on the agenda of the ICOH2018 Congress in Dublin. The ICOH2018 Congress had occupational cancer as an over-arching theme and the Dublin Statement highlighted measures necessary to eliminate and reduce occupational cancer burden. Actions and outputs until 2021 have included research, scientific and other papers, editorials, posters and publications, conferences and presentations, contacts and discussions held at WHO, ILO, EU, and with their stakeholders, as well as with all interested institutions and policy makers. Dr. Takala presented a comprehensive overview of figures and data on this specific matter.

Decision:

- The Report of the WG on Occupational Cancer was approved.

Occupational Infectious Agents (BD6.6)

Due to some technical problems, Prof. Mary Ross was not able to connect to the meeting. Prof. Reijula quickly reported on the activities of the WGOIA on her behalf. The WG focus areas were: 1) Priority Groups of Workers and ICOH SCs; 2) Occupational Travel Medicine; 3) Support for National and International Organizations; and 4) Priority Infectious Agents. Objectives and actions for each area were detailed in the WG Final Report.

A wide discussion followed among the Board members to stress the importance of converting the WGOIA into a SC. (ref: Board Meeting, Session 1, agenda item 9), especially in the light on the ongoing global pandemic.

Decision:

- The Report of the WG on Occupational Infectious Agents was approved.

6. Proposal for Honorary members appointment

Dr. Takala presented the two ICOH members to be proposed to the ICOH General Assembly for election as Honorary members, in recognition of their long-standing contributions to ICOH and occupational health.

- Dr. Kent Anger, USA
- Prof. Jorma Rantanen, Finland

Decision:

- The Board agreed to submit the two proposals to the General Assembly for the election.



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



3. Other issues presented by Board members

The Board members presented no additional issues. The ICOH President closed the 2nd Board Meeting expressing his thanks to all the participants for their active contribution to the meetings, and particularly to the outgoing Board members who concluded their two-term mandate.