



**International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH**  
**Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST**  
*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*



## **Meeting of the new ICOH Board 2022-2024**

**February 28, 2022**

**Time:** Monday, 28 February 2022, 13.30-16.30 CET

**Venue:** online, via Microsoft Teams

**Participants:** **Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea)** – ICOH President  
**Dr. Diana Gagliardi (Italy)** – ICOH Secretary General  
**Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa)** – ICOH Vice President  
**Dr. Martin Hogan (Ireland)** – ICOH Vice President  
**Dr. Jukka Takala (Finland)** – ICOH Past President  
**Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy)** – ICOH Past Secretary General  
**Ms. Gema Arevalo Alonso (United Kingdom)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Alexis Descatha (France)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Maureen Dollard (Australia)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Sunil Kumar Joshi (Nepal)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Eun-A Kim (Rep. of Korea)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Kirsi Lappalainen (Finland)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Stavroula Leka (Ireland)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Olivier Lo (Singapore)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Dingani Moyo (Zimbabwe)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Shyam Pingle (India)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Riitta Sauni (Finland)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Paul Schulte (USA)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Sandeep Sharma (India)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Akizumi Tsutsumi (Japan)** – ICOH Board Member  
  
**Ms. Valeria Boccuni (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Ms. Erika Cannone (Italy)** – ICOH Staff

**Apologies:** **Prof. Francesco Violante (Italy)** – ICOH Board Member

### **1-2. Opening and round table introduction of Board Members**

The President of ICOH, Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, opened the meeting welcoming all the new Board members for the tenure 2022-2024. He also expressed his solidarity with the Ukrainian people for the ongoing tragic situation. A brief round of introduction of all the participants was conducted.

### **3. Action Plan 2022-2024**



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

*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*



ICOH President Prof. Kang presented to the Board the Framework of the Action Plan for the triennium 2022-2024. He stressed the importance of strengthening the results achieved during the past triennia. Prof. Kang proposed the main focus of the triennium to be “Global Responsibility for Workers’ Health”. In this perspective, cooperation with ILO and WHO is particularly encouraged for the adoption of shared solutions. ICOH will continue to collaborate with all interested parties, including the sister organizations of ICOH and other professional organizations. Prof. Kang also emphasized the importance of strengthening the existing collaboration with the ICOH Sustaining and Affiliate members, for a greater involvement of the same in the ICOH activities.

He concluded his introduction by inviting Board members to participate in the activities of the ICOH Scientific Committees, to liaise with National Secretaries in their region, and to submit articles on sensitive and topical issues in occupational health for publication in the ICOH Newsletter. Such initiatives would stimulate engagement of the ICOH membership at different levels.

### **Decision:**

- The Board approved the Action Plan for the triennium 2022-2024.

## 4. Task Groups (TGs), Working Groups (WGs), and Assignments 2022-2024

Prof. Kang briefly introduced the proposal for an update of the membership of TGs and WGs, and assignments of the new Board members. The creation of a new WG was approved, viz ‘Inequalities in Occupational Health’. The ICOH Secretary General, Dr. Diana Gagliardi, showed a draft list of member allocations to TGs, WGs and assignments. The list would be circulated after the meeting for comments and suggestions from the Board members. The final list of assignments will be published in the ICOH website.

## 5. Budget Plan 2022-2023

ICOH Secretary General, Dr. Diana Gagliardi, reported on the budget proposal for the term 2022-2023. She explained that, because of the one-year postponement of the most recent ICOH Congress, the new triennium will actually be a two-year period (i.e., the period separating two ICOH Congresses).

Dr. Gagliardi presented the forecasted income for the new term, mainly from ICOH membership fees and the ICOH 2022 Congress. She also presented some tentative data on the expenses and incomes connected to the organization of the ICOH 2022 Congress. Such amounts are not final, as there are deferred expenses that have not been processed yet. In any case, the digital Congress has exceeded all expectations and has produced an income that is in line with the income that ICOH has received from the organization of previous Congresses, all in-presence.

Dr. Gagliardi also illustrated in detail the expenses that ICOH anticipates incurring during the next term, and the amount allocated to each budget item.

### **Decision:**

- The proposed Budget Plan 2022-2023 was approved.



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

*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*



### 6. ICOH 2024 Congress

Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti joined the meeting for a brief introduction on progress of the organization of the 34<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Occupational Health – ICOH 2024 – in Marrakesh, Morocco. Ms. Mounia Arezki and Mr. Hamid Jaiti, two representatives of “We Mice You”, the PCO of ICOH 2024, were also present. “We Mice You” is the new name of Atlas Events by Atlas Voyages, the company identified as PCO for ICOH 2024 and mentioned as such in the contract between ICOH and the Moroccan organizers that was signed in Rome in February 2020.

The congress website is live: [www.icoh2024.ma](http://www.icoh2024.ma)

Prof. El Kholti presented other members of the Local Organizing Committee: Dr. Kamal Wifaq, Chair of the ICOH 2024 Scientific Committee, Prof. Loubna Tahri, Chair of the ICOH 2024 Organizing Committee, and Dr. Rim El Kholti, the upcoming National Secretary for Morocco, who will also be involved in the team responsible for developing countries’ participation.

Prof. El Kholti expressed his availability for periodic meetings with the ICOH Officers to start planning the scientific program and other organizational aspects as required. The tentative Congress theme proposed by the local organizers is “Enhancing occupational health research and practice: Closing the gaps”. This proposal will be discussed in a meeting between the ICOH Officers and the Local Organizing Committee for a final decision on the exact theme.

#### **Decision:**

- The Officers and Local Organizers will follow up on roles and responsibilities between the parties in accordance with the ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organization. They will also start close contacts and virtual meetings for the planning of the scientific program and all other organizational aspects.

### 7. Other issues

Three issues were presented for discussion.

#### **(i) ICOH Statement on Migrant Workers**

Firstly, Prof. Kang reported on a proposal from the ICOH Scientific Committee on Thermal Factors for the drafting of an ICOH Statement on migrant workers in Qatar. Prof. Kang reminded all present that ICOH has carried out many activities on this particular issue since 2015, when the issue was raised at the Second General Assembly in Seoul. An ICOH Statement on Migrant Workers in Qatar was published in 2015 and contacts were undertaken with local authorities. Prof. Iavicoli also reported on his visit to Qatar in 2015 for an OSH conference. On that occasion, he had the opportunity to present some data on fatality rates among migrant workers in the construction industry in Qatar. He illustrated the issue to the Board members, with a presentation showing data on fatality rates among migrant workers not only in Qatar, but in the entire Gulf area and other Asian countries. Prof. Kang underlined that a focus on Qatar might be too narrow, and proposed the adoption of a broader approach for addressing the issue of improving the health of migrant workers in the host country, not only in Qatar. He proposed that an ICOH Statement be prepared on migrant workers, with specific reference to work environments, working conditions and living conditions, with the support of the ICOH Scientific Committee on Thermal Factors. The ICOH Board members agreed on this proposal.

Dr. Schulte, in his capacity of Chair of the ICOH Working Group on Future of Decent Work, proposed that the sub-committee on Migrant Workers be involved in the drafting of the statement. The sub-committee is chaired by Dr. Acran Salmen-Navarro.

Dr. Lo and Prof. Joshi also offered to participate in this initiative.



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

*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*



Dr. Gagliardi proposed that a team be created for the drafting of the statement in collaboration with the ICOH Scientific Committee on Thermal Factors, which drafted the original text. The WG on Future of Decent Work and its sub-committee on Migrant Workers will also contribute.

**(ii) Letter from the Barcelona Bidding Committee (ICOH 2027)**

Another important issue was presented by Prof. Kang for discussion: the letter received from the Barcelona Bidding Committee, contesting the voting procedure for the ICOH 2027 venue and accusing the ICOH Board of malpractice and lack of transparency. The ICOH Board members agreed on the inappropriateness of the content of such letter. They expressed their understanding for the Spanish team's frustration over not winning the bid. However, they all agreed that the accusations and allegations made in the letter are by no means acceptable, as ICOH acted in full respect of the ICOH Constitution, Bye-Laws and Guidelines on Congress Organization. The content of the letter reveals the Spanish team's poor knowledge of the ICOH rules, practices, and Core documents.

Prof. Kang invited Ms. Gema Arevalo, ICOH Board member and one of the signatories of the letter, to express her view and explain the reasons for such a letter. She explained that her signature was added to the letter as a way of showing support for the Spanish team. However, she explained she was not very well informed on the issue in general and suggested contacting Dr. Araceli Santos, National Secretary for Spain, and Dr. Rosa Orriols, former member of the ICOH Board and Chair of the Barcelona Bidding Committee, for further clarifications.

**(iii) ICOH Collaboration with ILO and WHO**

The last issue for discussion was presented by Dr. Takala. He gave an update on the collaboration between ICOH and ILO leading to the drafting of the ILO Code of Practice. He also reported on his recent discussion with the ILO Director General Mr. Guy Ryder, who confirmed the ILO willingness to continue their collaboration with ICOH.

**Decisions:**

- An ICOH statement on migrant workers will be drafted by a team composed of selected members of the ICOH Scientific Committee on Thermal Factors, Dr. Schulte, Dr. Salmen-Navarro, and the ICOH Officers. The statement shall focus on work environments, working conditions and living conditions of migrant workers in the host country.
- ICOH Officers will prepare a written reply to the letter received from the Barcelona Bidding Committee.

No other issue was presented for discussion.

ICOH President Prof. Kang closed the meeting thanking all the participants.