



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

*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*



## **Second Meeting of the ICOH Board**

**March 28, 2009**  
**Cape Town, South Africa**

**Time:** Saturday, 28 March 2009 at 9.00 hrs

**Venue:** Cape Town International Convention Centre, 1 Lower Long Street, Cape Town – South Africa

**Participants:** **Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan)** - ICOH President  
**Dr. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy)** - ICOH Secretary General  
**Ms. Suvi Lehtinen (Finland)** - ICOH Vice President  
**Prof. Bonnie Rogers (USA)** - ICOH Vice President  
**Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Giovanni Costa (Italy)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. John Harrison (United Kingdom)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Timo Leino (Finland)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Norito Kawakami (Japan)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Thomas Kieselbach (Germany)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Seong Kyu-Kang (Republic of Korea)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Jorge Morales (Mexico)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Antonio Mutti (Italy)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Mary Ross (South Africa)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Claudio Taboada (Argentina)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Frank Van Dijk (The Netherlands)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Harri Uolevi Vainio (Finland)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Peter J.M. Westerholm (Sweden)** - ICOH Board Member  
  
**Prof. Jorma Rantanen (Finland)** – ICOH Past President  
  
**Mr. Carlo Petyx (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy)** - ICOH Staff

### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

The President of ICOH, Dr. Kazutaka Kogi, opened the meeting greeting all the new Board Members. He firstly recommended everybody to fill in and to return the Declaration of Interest Form for the tenure 2009-2012 as prerequisite for the acceptance of the charge.



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ICOH Secretary General listed ICOH Board Members duties as stated in the Constitution (art. 5 section 7). Prof. Jorma Rantanen, who attended the meeting as ICOH Past President, congratulated the Board Members for the election. He pointed out that the previous triennium was pretty successful but more has still needs to be done.

Afterwards, the President of the ICOH 2009 Organizing Committee, Prof. Daan Kocks, briefly joined the meeting. Daan Kocks summarized some of the outcomes of the first ICOH Congress held in the sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Iavicoli informed the ICOH Board on the meeting had with the ICOH 2009 Organizing Committee in order to facilitate the money transfer of the Interest Free Loan and the Extra Fees to ICOH, as stated in the contract and in the ICOH regulations.

### **Decision:**

- The Agenda of the Meeting was accepted.

## 2. Welcome of new Board Members

The Board Members and Officers introduced themselves and briefly described their professional backgrounds and previous ICOH activities.

## 3. Action Plan 2009-2012

The President presented the current situation of the ICOH strategic priorities. The Triennium 2009 - 2012 will be a sort of continuation and consolidation of the previous term; so all the results achieved should be strengthened. Thus, President Kogi briefly confirmed the priorities set by the previous leadership and emphasized the following priorities in the Action Plan for the Triennium 2009 - 2012:

- Advancing proactive Risk Assessment and Control at Work;
- Extending Occupational Health Services for all workers in all countries;
- Reinforcing ICOH network for a most effective worldwide action;
- The importance of any ethical aspects related to Occupational Health.

The organizational priorities will comprise the organizational development of the networking by implementing the role of the Scientific Committees along with National Secretaries on regional/area basis. Secondly, the development of collaboration with the allies, WHO and ILO and sister NGO's. ICOH President left the floor to the discussion for comments. The proposed strategic priorities aroused much enthusiasm and discussion. The reaction was positive. Prof. Harri Vainio was happy with the 2009 – 2012 priorities and proposed to carry out a SWOT analysis in order to focus also on weaknesses and opportunities. This would be useful to reinforce some areas. Finally, Prof. Vainio proposed to publish ICOH 2009 presentation on the ICOH website in order to increase the spread of knowledge also to those ICOH members which did not have the possibility of participating in the Cape Town Congress. In future – continued Prof. Vainio – the possibility of having audio recordings of presentations should be considered. Frank Van Dijk, ICOH Board Member from the Netherlands, proposed to increase ICOH visibility and scientific outputs. He pointed out that a better connection between membership and scientific committees would be necessary. With regards to this, the new ICOH website might be instrumental in order to share scientific research articles, etc. Dr Timo Leino took the floor and declared to be satisfied with the list of priorities but the objectives should be spelled out better.

From his side, Seong Kyu-Kang reminded of the need for linking ICOH to a scientific journal, while Giovanni Costa focused on the improvement of the collaboration among the Scientific Committees. Then, Prof. Norito Kawakami made his intervention and proposed a better connection with the other international societies. ICOH President replied remarking that ICOH already has good connections after the final release of the



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Memoranda of Understanding with the other sister organizations. Prof. Jorma Rantanen replied to the question asked by Dr. Seong Kyu Kang and specified that several years ago ICOH was to set up its own magazine. This was not realized though. Thereafter several international journals have contacted ICOH in order to become an ICOH journal. However, after a careful evaluation, we came to the conclusion that it is better to collaborate with all of them rather than having one of them as an ICOH official journal.

Prof. Vainio put forward the idea of making available scientific papers on the ICOH website. Dr. Sergio Iavicoli, ICOH Secretary General informed the Board that ICOH 2009 abstracts will be uploaded and made available on the ICOH website. In addition, thanks to the "Clinica del Lavoro" all the proceedings of the previous congresses may be consulted and they are downloadable from the ICOH website. Furthermore, Dr. Iavicoli highlighted that Scientific Committee outputs must be made available. Dr. Leino also proposed to create closer ties between ICOH and National Associations. For instance, ICOH might link National Associations' websites to the ICOH web. At the end of the general discussion on the Action Plan 2009 – 2012, Prof. Kieselbach suggested to create a link between the old members knowledge and young members expectations by setting up in the Scientific Committees specific groups dedicated to young Occupational Health professionals.

### **Decision:**

- The ICOH Board approved the President Address and the Strategy for the triennium 2009-2012.
- To increase ICOH visibility and ICOH scientific outputs by making them available on the website and by enhancing the production of Position Papers, Fact Sheets, etc.

## 4. Task Groups, Working Groups and Network 2009 – 2012 and Assignments

Dr. Kazutaka Kogi went through the Task Groups, Working Groups and Network and Assignments 2009 - 2012. He suggested confirming the Task Groups which were established during the previous triennium and proposed to add two new groups: the Scientific Advisory Committee in order to assist Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees; and the Task Group on Employment in order to consider all the problems related to the employment (unemployment, works not regulated, etc.). Prof. Van Dijk expressed the idea that ICOH should have liaison to the Health Care Organizations such as WONCA. Whereas, Vainio proposed to develop tighter relations with the International Organization of Toxicologists.

Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang proposed to establish a new Working Group on the economic benefits. Prof. Vainio pointed out that in setting up this new group it would be appropriate to take into consideration the cost effectiveness. After a brief discussion, the ICOH Board agreed on the foundation of this new group to be called "Working Group on cost effectiveness in Occupational Health". Prof. Westerholm, appointed by the President as new Chair of the Task Group on Ethics and Transparency, indicated a need to expand the committee due to its several charges : the evaluation of cases of misconduct as a regular routine task and the major task of reviewing of the ICOH Code of Ethics. One possibility to explore is to seek affiliation of selected external non elected ICOH-MEMBERS to the Working Committee. Dr Leino recommended to include in the Task Group on Ethics and Transparency the ICOH President and declined the proposal of being the Editor in Chief of the ICOH newsletter. ICOH Past President, Jorma Rantanen explained that the group has to be deemed as independent. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to include the ICOH President in this body.

President Kogi proposed the Board Mary Ross as Chair of the Working Group on Biological Agents and Infectious Diseases and Marilyn Fingerhut as Chair of the Working Group of Child Labour whose name changed into WG on Young Workers and Child Labour. Prof. Kieselbach took the floor and invited the ICOH President to include in the Task Group on Employment topics such as enterprise research, the flexibility, etc. The ICOH Board agreed on renaming the Working Group on Restructuring and Occupational Health. Dr.



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Iavicoli also proposed to change the wording of the Task Group on Ethics and Transparency into Ethics and Transparency Committee. This would increase the legal value and the importance of this body. Dr. Seong Kyu Kang was invited to look into the possibility of committing the Korean Occupational Safety and Health Agency in the funding and publication of the ICOH Newsletter. Dr. Kang will explore this possibility. In the meanwhile, Suvi Lehtinen promised to continue as Editor for the first number of 2009.

### **Decisions:**

- The Assignments in the view of the comments and suggestions, will be reviewed accordingly;
- ICOH Board decided to set up two new Task Groups: Scientific Advisory Committee and the Task Group on Employment that after the Board discussion was renamed TG on Restructuring and Occupational Health;
- The Task Group on Ethics and Transparency will become Ethics and Transparency Committee;
- The Working Group on Child Labour will change into WG on Young Workers and Child Labour;
- The first number of the ICOH Newsletter will be issued by FIOH; in the meantime, Dr. Seong Kyu Kang will ask for the availability of KOSHA in taking over from the Finnish Institute the publication of the Newsletter.

## 5. ICOH 2012 Congress

Dr. Jorge Morales briefed the participants about the advances and progress of the organization of the 30<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Occupational Health – ICOH 2012. He introduced the Organizing Committee and remarked that the most important Mexican Universities were involved in the organization. Dr. Claudio Taboadela proposed Spanish as one of the official languages of ICOH 2012.

Harri Vainio, Board Member from Finland, put forward the idea of encouraging the organizers to consider the option of having “Continued Educational Courses” on topics of importance. He also promoted the idea of having top class key notes, poster presentations and the “Continued Educational Courses” as the main structure of the programme. Dr. Mary Ross suggested to organize workshops for young members and students.

## 6. Budget Plan 2009 - 2012

ICOH Secretary General reported on the ICOH economies and perspectives. He started showing the ICOH reserves. Such funds might be used taking into account that incomes from ICOH 2009 are expected to be lower. The excess of incomes over expenditures will be – 76,000 CHF. Thus, this forecasted loss might be covered by the reserves accumulated during the past two terms. Dr. John Harrison asked if ICOH is required to have minimum reserves. Dr. Iavicoli replied by affirming that ICOH rules do not have this provision; in addition to this, ICOH has a control system according to which expenses not budgeted must be authorized by the Finance Committee. However, Dr. Iavicoli ensured the Board that membership campaign will be speeded up in order to get more revenues and to cope with expenses without drawing on reserves. This aims at avoiding reductions in terms of activities.

### **Decision:**

- The Budget Plan 2009 – 2012 was approved;



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## **Closing**

The approval of the budget plan brought the Board to the end of the Meeting. ICOH President reminded that the last decision to be taken was about the timing of the next Mid Term Meeting. Dr. Iavicoli proposed, as possible time of the meeting, the last quarter of 2010 or the first quarter of 2011. The President expressed his thanks to the Officers and the Board and closed the meeting.

### **Decision:**

- The ICOH Mid Term Meeting will be organized during the last quarter of 2010 or the first quarter of 2011;