



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 2024-2027

May 4, 2024
Marrakesh, Morocco

Time: Saturday, 4 May 2024, 9.00-12.00 CET

Venue: Mogador Menara Hotel, Moroccan Room

Participants: Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea) – ICOH President
Dr. Diana Gagliardi (Italy) – ICOH Secretary General
Dr. Martin Hogan (Ireland) – ICOH Vice President
Dr. Shyam Pingle (India) – ICOH Vice President
Dr. Jukka Takala (Finland) – ICOH Past President
Prof. Alexis Descatha (France) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Quentin Durand-Moreau (Canada) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Rim El Kohlti (Morocco) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Stefan Esser (Germany) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Dongmug Kang (Republic of Korea) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Ashish Mishra (India) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. R. Rajesh (India) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Riitta Sauni (Finland) – ICOH Board Member
Mr. Mahinda Seneviratne (Australia) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Akizumi Tsutsumi (Japan) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Charles Milton Yarborough (USA) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Kamal Wifaq (Morocco) – ICOH Board Member

Ms. Claudia Campisano (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Ms. Erika Cannone (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Ms. Maria Giannitelli (Italy) – ICOH Staff

Apologies:

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) – ICOH Past Secretary General
Prof. Naesinee Chaiear (Thailand) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Aida Lucia Fajardo Montiel (Mexico) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Rosylane Rocha (Brazil) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Giovanna Spatari (Italy) – ICOH Board Member



1. Welcome of Board Members

The President of ICOH, Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, officially opened the meeting by welcoming all newly appointed Board members for the 2024-2027 tenure. He provided an overview of the organizational structure, noting that ICOH comprises 4 Officers, 2 Past Officers and sixteen Board members, making a total of twenty-two individuals. Prof. Kang emphasized the vital role of the Board members in the decision-making process, and he encouraged active participation. He urged all members to engage in discussions and openly express their views to effectively support the mission and objectives of ICOH.

Following the President's address, a brief round of introduction was conducted, allowing all participants to present themselves.

2. Action Plan 2024-2027

The President of ICOH, Prof. Kang, presented to the Board the Framework of the Action Plan for the 2024-2027 triennium. He emphasized the importance of consolidating and building upon the achievements of previous triennia and proposed that the guiding theme for the current term be "Global Responsibility for Workers Health". In this context, he strongly encouraged enhanced cooperation with ILO and WHO to foster the adoption of shared solutions. Prof. Kang noted that the previous triennium was particularly significant in this regard, marked by the signing of two key statements:

- ICOH Statement on improving OSH of Migrant Workers
- ICOH Marrakesh Declaration for Global Responsibility for workers' health

ICOH will continue to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, including its sister organizations and other professional associations. Prof. Kang also highlighted the need to strengthen existing partnerships with ICOH's Sustaining and Affiliate Members, aiming to enhance their engagement in ICOH's ongoing initiatives. In conclusion, Prof. Kang formally closed the ICOH 2024 Congress and reminded the Board of the upcoming international ICOH Congresses: ICOH 2027, to be held in Mumbai from 14 to 19 February, and ICOH 2030 scheduled to take place in Rome, as determined by the recent elections.

He concluded his address by encouraging the Board members to actively participate in ICOH conferences, seminars and Scientific Committees-led activities. He also urged them to maintain communication with National Secretaries within their countries and regions and to contribute articles on relevant and emerging topics in occupational health for publication in the ICOH Newsletter. These initiatives are intended to foster greater engagement across all levels of the ICOH membership.

Decision:

- The Board approved the Action Plan for the triennium 2024-2027.

3. Task Groups (TGs), Working Groups (WGs), and Assignments 2024-2027

Dr. Gagliardi provided a brief overview of the distinction between Task Groups (TGs) and Working Groups (WGs). She explained that Task Groups are primarily focused on the organizational and administrative management of ICOH, whereas Working Groups are more closely aligned with scientific development and outputs. She informed the newly elected Board members that, based on their professional background and expertise, the Officers will propose appropriate group assignments to everyone, inviting them to join either a Task Group or a Working Group.

Subsequently, Dr. Martin Hogan, Vice-President for Scientific Committees took the floor to present a proposal regarding the launch of ICOH webinars. These webinars will be free of charge for ICOH members



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in good standing, while a nominal fee will be applied for non-ICOH members. The initiative is designed to encourage active involvement of Board members, each of whom is warmly invited to organise at least one webinar during the triennium, in collaboration with a Scientific Committee and involving participation from collective members.

To conclude, Dr. Hogan called upon the academic members of the Board to volunteer in establishing an active international scientific committee. This Committee will support him, in his capacity as Vice-President of SCs in organizing the Scientific Programme for ICOH 2027.

4. ICOH 2027 Congress

Dr. S. M. Shanbhag joined the Board meeting to provide a brief update on progress of the organization of the 35th International Congress on Occupational Health – ICOH 2027 – in Mumbai, India. He introduced the Local Organizing Committee delegates present at the meeting, Dr. T. Rajgopal, Dr. B. Paul, and Dr. Sudha Ramachandran.

A discussion took place among the ICOH Officers, Board members and the Local Organizing Committee regarding the Scientific Program, including Special Sessions, Free Papers, abstract submissions and logo branding. Practical aspects related to the organization of the Congress were also addressed. In this context, Dr. S.M. Shanbhag offered his availability for regular meetings with the ICOH Officers and Staff to begin planning the scientific program and other necessary organizational elements.

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.

5. Budget Plan 2024-2026

ICOH Secretary General, Dr. Diana Gagliardi, presented the budget proposal for the 2024-2026 term.

Dr. Gagliardi reviewed the outcomes of the previous budget, providing projections that compare income and expenditures from the prior term.

Dr. Gagliardi also presented the forecasted income and expenditures for the new term, primarily sourced from ICOH membership fees and Congress-related revenues. She outlined projected expenses, including those related to Officers travel for official representation, Secretariat General operations and office administration, support for Scientific Committees particularly (in-presence conferences, events, and activities) and the Board Meeting, including the Midterm Meeting.

Finally, Dr. Gagliardi highlighted cost-cutting measures implemented by the Secretariat during the current triennium, such as the discontinuation of physical membership cards in favor of digital certificates.

Decision:

- The proposed Budget Plan 2024-2026 was approved.



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6. Other issues

One issue was presented for discussion.

Global Estimates on Biological Risks at Work

Dr. Jukka Takala reported about the Global Estimates on Biological Risks at Work, emphasizing the value of international collaboration through participation in the ILO Conference which served as a significant opportunity for ICOH to engage as a cohesive group. The ICOH estimates encompass a substantial volume of data, incorporating not only figures from Tampere University but also from the Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health. Regarding biological risks, two papers were authored by Prof. Descatha and colleagues, contributing important insights into the field. Given the high contribution provided by ICOH to this project, Dr. Takala submitted the proposal to continue and strengthen the organization's commitment in this area. The Board agreed with the proposal.

No other issue was presented for discussion.

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