



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

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## **Minutes of the Joint Meeting of ICOH Officers, Board, Scientific Committees and selected National Secretaries**

**October 20, 2025  
Naples, Italy**

**Time:** Monday, 20 October 2025, 9.00-16.30 CEST

**Venue:** Villa Colonna Bandini, Viale Colli Aminei, Naples

### **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. Naesinee Chaiear (Thailand)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Alexis Descatha (France)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Quentin Durand-Moreau (Canada)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Rim El Kholti (Morocco)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Stefan Esser (Germany)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Begona Martinez-Jarreta (Spain)** – 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  
**Dr. Franca Barbic (Italy)** – SC on Cardiology in OH  
**Prof. Igor Bello (Venezuela)** – SC on Women Health and Work  
**Prof. Alex Collie (Australia)** – SC on Work Disability Prevention and Integration  
**Prof. Rafael E. De La Hoz (USA)** – representing SC on Epidemiology in OH  
**Prof. Hanifa Maher Denny (Indonesia)** – SC on Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts  
**Dr. Nikunj Kumar Ashokbhai Desai (India)** – SC on OH in the Chemical Industry  
**Dipl.-Soz. Michael Ertel (Germany)** – SC on Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors  
**Prof. Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil)** – representing SC on Shiftwork and Working Time  
**Prof. Luca Fontana (Italy)** – SC on Toxicology of Metals  
**Dr. Somnath Gangopadhyay (India)** – SC on OH in Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector  
**Prof. Carel T.J. Hulshof (The Netherlands)** – SC on Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services



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**Dr. Aditya Jain (UK)** – SC on OH and Development  
**Dr. Sibel Kiran (Türkiye)** – SC on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology  
**Dr. Veruscka Leso (Italy)** – SC on Nanomaterial Workers' Health  
**Prof. Jinky Leilanie del Prado Lu (Philippines)** – SC on Mining Occupational Safety and Health  
**Prof. Karen Elizabeth Michell (UK)** – SC on Accident Prevention  
**Prof. Alberto Modenese (Italy)** – SC on Radiation and Work  
**Dr. Rosa Maria Orriols Ramos (Spain)** – SC on Industrial Hygiene  
**Dr. Acran Salmen-Navarro (UK)** – SC on OH for Health Workers  
**Prof. Heidi Johanna Salonen (Finland)** – SC on Indoor Air Quality and Health  
**Dr. Susanne Schunder-Tatzber (Austria)** – SC on Emergency Preparedness and Response in Occupational Health  
**Dr. Gogillan Sevaratnam (Malaysia)** – SC on Occupational Medicine  
**Dr. Deepak Sharan (India)** – SC on Musculoskeletal Disorders  
**Dr. Narufumi Suganuma (Japan)** – SC on Respiratory Disorders  
**Dr. Anna Suraya (Indonesia)** – SC on Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health  
**Dr. Giovanna Tranfo (Italy)** – SC on Occupational Toxicology  
**Prof. Vidhya Venugopal (India)** – SC on Thermal Factors  
**Prof. Hiroo Wada (Japan)** – SC on Allergy and Immunotoxicology  
**Dr. Adriana Jardim Arias Pereira- NS Brazil**  
**Dr. Vandana Shinde- NS India**  
**Ms Claudina M. C. A. Nogueira- NS South Africa**

ICOH2027 delegation participating remotely for the specific agenda item:

**Dr. Shrinivas Shanbhag (India)** - Member of the ICOH2027 delegation  
**Dr. Dharmesh Parekh (India)** - Member of the ICOH2027 delegation  
**Dr. Sudha S. Ramachandran (India)** - Member of the ICOH2027 delegation  
**Dr. T. Rajgopal (India)** - Member of the ICOH2027 delegation

**ICOH Staff:**

**Ms Valeria Boccuni (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Ms Maria Giannitelli (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Ms Adriana Liccardi (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Mr Pasquale Fruscella (Italy)** – ICOH Staff

Apologies:

**Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy)** – ICOH Past Secretary General  
**Dr. Rosylane Rocha (Brazil)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Giovanna Spatari (Italy)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Folashade Olufunke Omokhodion (Nigeria)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Aida Lucia Fajardo Montiel (Mexico)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. José Hernan Alfonso (Norway)**- SC on Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses  
**Mrs Angela Dawn Butkovic (Mauritius)** -SC on Occupational Health Nursing  
**Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez (USA)**- SC on OH in the Construction Industry  
**Mr Jason Glaser (USA)** – SC History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases  
**Dr. Rajiv Kumar Jain (India)** – SC on Education and Training in OH  
**Prof. Albert Nienhaus (Germany)** – SC on Biohazards and Occupational Health  
**Prof. Karin Proper (The Netherlands)** – SC on Aging and Work



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**Dr. Claudio Hernan Taboadela (Argentina)**- SC on Work and Vision

**A/P Ross Iles**- NS Australia

**Dr. Michele Augusto Riva**- NS Italy

**Dr. Wendy Thanassi** – NS USA

**Prof. Won-Jun Choi (Rep. Of Korea)**- Editor in Chief of the ICOH Newsletter

## 1. Opening

All the participants introduced themselves. The president of ICOH, Prof. Kang, welcomed all the attendees to the Joint Meeting of ICOH Officers, Board, Scientific Committees (SCs) Chairs and selected National Secretaries (NSs), emphasizing that this occasion represents an opportunity to assess the progress achieved during the first half of the triennium, to exchange ideas and to identify new modalities of collaboration among all parties within the organization.

Subsequently, INAIL Deputy Regional Director of Campania, Dr. Adele Pomponio, briefly joined the meeting to offer institutional greetings.

## 2. President's Report

During the presentation of his comprehensive Midterm Report, Prof. Kang confirmed that his priorities remain focused on global responsibility for workers' health.

Globalization has contributed to the proliferation of workplace risks, as seen in cases of carbon disulfide poisoning in rayon factories and asbestos-related illnesses. The ICOH President therefore stressed the need to enhance regional and global collaboration in order to safeguard workers' health.

To achieve this goal, the President recommends organization of SC events, organization of local meetings by NSs, network meetings with Sustaining and Affiliate members at ICOH Congresses.

Prof. Kang also recalled the constant collaboration between ICOH and the International Organizations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Additionally, among his major engagements, he mentioned his participation at The Global Initiative on Safety, Health and Well-being (GISHW) held in Osaka at EXPO 2025, the ISSA World Social Security Forum 2025 held in Kuala Lumpur and the GOSH 7 Conference held in Riyadh.

To conclude, the ICOH President gave an overview of the progresses made for the organization of the ICOH 2027 Congress in Mumbai, India. He communicated that the Second Announcement of the ICOH2027 Congress will soon be released and distributed. Valuable candidates for Keynote and Plenary Speakers for ICOH2027 have been identified.

## 3. Report on Scientific Committees

The ICOH Vice President in charge of SCs, Dr. Martin Hogan, gave an overview of the activities carried out by the 37 ICOH Scientific Committees. He emphasized the need for increased participation and strict compliance with deadlines and submission of required documents, noting that



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the level of activity varies across Scientific Committees, and highlighting that SCs lie at the very heart of ICOH's work and mission.

Dr. Hogan then recalled the importance for SC Chairs and Secretaries to use the SC Virtual Office, as numerous resources required for SC functioning are available on this platform.

In order to further facilitate communication and collaboration among SCs, he reported that, since the ICOH 2024 Congress, a significant number of online meetings involving the SC Chairs and Secretaries have taken place. The most recent of these took place in September 2025.

To conclude, the ICOH Vice President outlined that planning the scientific component of the ICOH Congress is largely done by the SCs, who are expected to organise Special sessions, provide a panel of reviewers to assess abstracts submitted for consideration as Free Papers, as well as organise Business Meetings during the Congress.

### **4. Report on activities of National Secretaries**

The ICOH Vice President in charge National Secretaries, Dr. Shyam Pingle, took the floor to present his report. He remarked on the tasks of the ICOH National Secretaries and stressed the importance of the virtual office on the ICOH website which contains information materials useful for promoting ICOH activities.

He informed the participants that a total of 44 National Secretaries have been appointed and remarked on the constant collaboration of ICOH officers in promoting National Secretaries.

Indeed, Dr. Pingle remarked that in some countries such as Italy, India, Philippines and Norway the respective National Secretaries organized meetings in which ICOH Officers supported their activities.

Furthermore, Dr. Pingle expressed his appreciation for the remarkable efforts conducted by National Secretaries in introducing and promoting ICOH during their annual conferences. He emphasized that such initiatives are fundamental to the success of the membership campaign.

Moreover, Dr. Pingle pointed out that the process of electing National Secretaries is challenging in certain countries. He also stated that while collaboration between Scientific Committees and National Secretaries has strengthened, communication needs to be improved.

Finally, Dr. Pingle outlined that new NS appointments are underway, virtual meetings with individual National Secretaries and regional groups are scheduled, alongside the promotion of the ICOH 2027 Congress.

### **5. Report from the Secretary General**

ICOH Secretary General Dr. Diana Gagliardi opened her report providing an overview about the tasks of the ICOH Secretary General. She provided a general overview of the activities undertaken during the first half of the tenure. Dr. Gagliardi reported that membership numbers remain steady, and shared positive feedback about the new initiative introduced at the ICOH 2024 Congress: physical membership cards have been replaced with digital cards accessible via the Private Area on



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the ICOH Website. Since the transition, only 28 physical cards have been requested from the Secretariat demonstrating the good compliance of members with the digital version.

Then, Dr. Gagliardi drew the attention to the ICOH webinar series which have generated significant interest. Five webinars have been already held (including one in French) and two more are scheduled.

The Secretary General also highlighted the release of a new tool: the Scientific Committees' webpages that will allow Scientific Committees to manage their own webpage by uploading news, publications and event announcements. She explained that the SC webpages release is in progress and two Scientific committees are ready for the official launch.

Furthermore, Dr. Gagliardi informed participants about her participation in representation of ICOH at national and international meetings such as the 112<sup>th</sup> and 113<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva, the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) held in New York and the Global Initiative for Safety, Health and Wellbeing (GISHW) held in Osaka.

The Secretary General also focused on the organization of international congresses. After a follow-up on the previous congress, she reported on the preparation of Mumbai congress.

She further outlined the preparatory activities for the ICOH 2030 congress in Rome and provided information about the bidding process for ICOH 2033, in accordance with the ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organisation.

## **6. Report of the Editor-in-Chief of the ICOH Newsletter**

The president of ICOH, Prof. Kang, presented the report of the ICOH Newsletter on behalf of the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Won-Jun Choi. He remarked that the ICOH Newsletter is published three times a year, in electronic form, distributed via email, and posted on the ICOH website. He also highlighted the new format adopted since 2022.

Prof. Kang also reported on the contribution to the ICOH Newsletter. In the three editions of volume 22 and two editions in volume 23, a total of 16 Scientific Committees contributed 27 articles.

Additionally, 10 National Secretaries submitted 13 articles, and 10 collective members provided 23 articles.

Furthermore, interventions from the audience came to evaluate potential strategies to better engage young people both as webinar participants and as members.

## **7. ICOH 2027**

Dr. Desai, representing the ICOH 2027 delegation, informed the participants about the progress reached concerning the ICOH 2027 Congress. At the beginning of the presentation of his report, he introduced the Congress host, the Indian Association of Occupational Health (IAOH), outlining pertinent information, and subsequently informed participants about the key dates. He confirmed that the call for abstracts will open simultaneously with registration and the early bird offer. Moreover, he presented the program schedule noting that the Congress will include 1 Keynote speaker, 10 Plenary sessions and 32 Semi plenary sessions.



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Dr. Desai then highlighted one specific feature of the congress: the Optional industrial Site visits arranged for the purpose of allowing attendees to see Indian workplaces. Furthermore, he presented the proposed themes for the Free Paper Sessions and he remarked the inclusion of the current theme “AI in Occupational Health & Safety” within the topics for Free Paper Sessions.

Dr. Desai also explained what the registration fee covers and outlined the documentation required to qualify for the student rate. Finally, he introduced the ICOH 2027 Committees and National Organizing Committee.

After the report, some participants intervened to ask for clarification regarding the keynote speakers and the process of selection. The Secretary General, Dr. Gagliardi, explained that the Officers have selected the keynote speaker who will deliver a lecture during the Congress Opening Ceremony; 10 plenary speakers have been selected among all the proposals submitted to the Secretariat from different ICOH components (SCs, NSs, Officers, Board members and collective members) trying to ensure the best possible balance across regions, gender and topics. The Keynote and Plenary speakers will be announced in the Second Announcement. Furthermore, Dr. Gagliardi declared that the selection for semi-plenary speakers is in progress, following the same principles of regional, gender and topic balances. These will be announced in the Third Announcement.

To conclude this agenda item, Prof. Kang expressed appreciation to the Indian delegation for providing their update and for the progress in the Congress organisation.

### **8. Breakout sessions**

Dr. Gagliardi introduced the topics of the three breakout sessions:

- A. How to increase collaboration among ICOH components (SCs, NSs, Collective Members)  
Chair: Dr. Shyam Pingle  
Rapporteur: Dr. Ashish Mishra
- B. How to increase the visibility of SCs work  
Chair: Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang  
Rapporteur: Prof. Alexis Descatha
- C. Optimization of management for SCs  
Chair: Dr. Martin Hogan  
Rapporteur: Prof. Quentin Durand-Moreau

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

### **9. Welcome from Central Director for Research, INAIL**

Dr. Giovanni Contenti, The Central Director for Research of INAIL, intervened remotely to deliver a welcome address to participants at the Midterm Meeting.

He remarked the importance of research which is a real and relevant basis for legislation to support OSH in improving life and productivity of workers. Dr. Contenti recognised ICOH as the most ancient organization with members in 110 countries. He also highlighted that ICOH creates a global



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community where it is possible to share and expand research and results. Dr. Contenti concluded his speech by giving to the attendees his best wishes for the Mumbai Congress.

## **10. Report from breakout sessions**

### *A. How to increase collaboration among ICOH components (SCs, NSs, Collective Members)*

Dr. Mishra presented the report as spokesman of the group. The report focussed on the importance of strengthening collaboration between different SCs and cooperation with NS. Dr. Mishra stressed that a defined action plan and clearly defined roles for the Scientific Committees Chairs and National Secretaries could be a possible solution. He noted that emphasizing results could enhance collaboration, suggesting periodical reviews of each Scientific Committee's work and related progress. He emphasized the need for strong connections with collective members and encouraged their active involvement. The group also suggested the creation of a more direct link between Board Members and Scientific Committees to help the latter meet their objectives and to support the engagement of National Secretaries. Finally, he recalled the importance for Scientific Committees to have a website and the use of journals and promotional campaigns as an important communication tool.

### *B. How to increase the visibility of SCs work*

Prof. Descatha reported conclusions from group B. The group highlighted the importance of clarifying key areas, including SC membership, commitments, and the action plan. They also emphasized the role of international conferences, satellite meetings with national associations, and collaboration with sustaining members as important opportunities for enhancing the visibility of SC work. Prof Descatha also remarked on the collaboration and practices with other ICOH components. Turning to publications, Prof. Descatha remarked the importance of Conference proceedings for the international events that SCs may organize, even if the costs related to Article Processing Charges could be problematic for the economies of a SC. Finally, the importance of SCs website was acknowledged also as a means of communication, promotion and distribution of SCs' achievements for the benefit of the ICOH members community and beyond. The use of social media was as well discussed, underlining the great support they can provide for visibility of SCs and their activities.

### *C. Optimization of management for SCs*

Dr. Durand-Moreau was the rapporteur of the group. He started his report by defining that a performing Scientific Committee is characterized by an active participation in hosting webinars, submitting the Midterm and Final reports, proposing topics and Special Sessions as well as providing reviewers for the International Congress. As regards underperforming Scientific Committees, group C suggested establishing a review process to evaluate their continuity and fostering collaboration to support smaller Scientific Committees that struggle to meet the requirements. Group C suggested the organization of joint conferences of various Scientific Committees, also with the involvement of ICOH affiliate members, to improve collaboration. The group also noted that cross-topics like AI or new technologies could enable committees to work together on shared outputs.



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Dr. Hogan expressed his appreciation for the presentations, noting their value in facilitating improvements and necessary changes. He acknowledged that the Scientific Committee system is functioning quite well and emphasised that certain Scientific Committees demonstrate exceptional productivity. Dr. Hogan further stated that the aim moving forward is to broaden the scope of this success.

## **11. Proposal of ICOH-sponsored course modules on Working Hours Sleep and Fatigue**

On behalf of the Chair of the ICOH SC on Shiftwork and Working Time, Dr. Imelda Wong, who was unable to attend the Midterm Meeting, Prof. Frida Fischer presented a proposal to organize ICOH-sponsored course modules on working hours, sleep and fatigue. The rationale for the proposal includes alignment with ICOH's longstanding role in developing international guidelines (e.g., Ergonomics); the increasing prevalence of non-standard working hours and the resulting need for enhanced safety guidance; and the anticipated loss of funding (e.g., US NIOSH), which would discontinue the current provision of free education and training.

Prof. Fischer further outlined that the proposed courses would consist of the development of concise, easy to understand videos, slides, and infographics addressing key aspects of working hours, sleep and fatigue.

She clarified that all modules could be completed collectively in order to receive continuing education credits from Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Alternatively, individual modules could be adopted into company-specific (e.g., Chevron), industry-specific (e.g., Nursing unions), or special interest groups (e.g. National Sleep Foundation) as part of their training and education.

It was also emphasized that the intention is for the modules to be the result of a collaborative effort involving ICOH, its ICOH Board members and Scientific Committees, whose participation is welcomed and of which at least one (SCOM) has already expressed interest, the Working Time Society (WTS) and additional non-profit societies like the National Sleep Foundation. All are therefore invited to contribute by proposing specific topics, participating in the review process to ensure alignment with ICOH's standards and objectives, broadening the network, and assisting with advertising and dissemination.

The floor was then opened for discussion among the participants. During the discussion, several points were raised, including the scope of the proposed modules and potential collaboration with other SCs and societies. The key points highlighted during the discussion will be reported to Dr. Wong, with a view to clarifying specific matters and facilitating subsequent actions.

## **12. Report on pilot test SCs webpages**

Prof Kang thanked Prof. Fischer for her presentation and introduced the next topic, concerning the report on the pilot test of the SC web pages.



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Dr. Sevaratnam, Chair of SCOM, presented his report by providing his review based on two perspectives: one of the users and the other of the manager of the webpage. According to the first viewpoint, he affirmed that the website has a simple and direct navigation. Dr. Sevaratnam also highlighted the ease of the key sections with clear pathways and the good optimisation of the website for mobile devices as well. Furthermore, he suggested the creation of the Archive section which could group all the past contents uploaded.

Regarding the manager's perspective, he expressed satisfaction with his experience. Specifically, he declared that the interface is clear and the functionality of login and logout along with the menu navigation does not present any errors. Moreover, he pointed out some issues regarding the uploading function of attachments. Finally, he suggested to create an update schedule for upcoming news and events with a label for recent contents to draw the attention of the users.

Dr. De la Hoz, on behalf of the Chair of EPICOH, who was unable to attend the meeting, focused his intervention on two main aspects. First, he highlighted the need to update the sections of the ICOH Private Area related to the SCs. This should be done in parallel with the work carried out on the SC web pages and should incorporate the most recent reports and content. Second, he addressed the management of requests during the initial phase of the project. Before the SC had the ability to update their page content independently, requests were mediated by a webmaster, which required additional time.

Dr. Gagliardi reiterated the ICOH Secretariat's availability and willingness to accommodate the requests of the SCs interested in the project and involved in the development of their respective SC webpages. The ICOH Secretary General specified that this represented an initial implementation phase, conceived as a pilot test for the two SCs that presented their feedback during the meeting, highlighting both strengths and areas for further improvement. The Secretariat will continue working on the implementation, relying on the collaboration of all parties involved.

To conclude, Prof. Kang highlighted how crucial ICOH is for future generations and the future of Occupational Health, as participation in its activities represents an excellent opportunity to connect with a multidisciplinary range of professionals, share information and become involved in activities, events and projects.