



Minutes of the Joint Meeting

February 3, 2011
Milan, Italy

Time: Thursday, 3 February 2011, 9.00 - 18.00

Venue: University of Milan –Hall of Graduation

Participants:

Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan) - ICOH President
Prof. Bonnie Rogers (USA) - ICOH Vice President
Ms. Suvi Lehtinen (Finland) - ICOH Vice President
Dr. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) - ICOH Secretary General
Prof. Jorma Rantanen (Finland) - ICOH Past President

Prof. Giovanni Costa (Italy) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Michel Guillemin (Switzerland) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. John Harrison (United Kingdom) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Norito Kawakami (Japan) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Timo Leino (Finland) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Jorge A. Morales (Mexico) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Antonio Mutti (Italy) - ICOH Board Member
Mrs. Uche Ojomo (Nigeria) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Mary Ross (South Africa) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Shrinivas Shanbhag (India) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Claudio Taboada (Argentina) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Frank Van Dijk (The Netherlands) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Sheng Wang (P.R. of China) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Peter Westerholm (Sweden) - ICOH Board Member

Mr. Keith Scott (United Kingdom) – Chair of Accident Prevention
Dr. Su Wang (United Kingdom) – Secretary of Accident Prevention
Prof. Mario Di Gioacchino (Italy) - Chair of Allergy and Immunotoxicology
Prof. Akizumi Tsutsumi (Japan) - Chair of Cardiology in Occupational Health
Dr. Carel Hulshof (The Netherlands) – Chair of Health Services Research and Evaluation in OH
Dr. Michele Riva (Italy) - Chair of History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases
Ms. Daniela Fano (Italy) - Secretary of History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases
Prof. Giacomo Muzi (Italy) – Chair of Indoor Air Quality and Health
Prof. Paolo Carrer (Italy) – Secretary of Indoor Air Quality and Health
Dr. Nils Plato (Sweden) – Secretary of Industrial Hygiene
Prof. Yves Roquelaure (France) – Chair of Musculoskeletal Disorders
Dr. Eun-A Kim (Republic of Korea) - Secretary of Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology



Prof. Pietro Sartorelli (Italy) - Chair of Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses
Dr. Shyam Pingle (India) - Chair of OH and Development
Dr. Diana Gagliardi (Italy) - Secretary of OH and Development
Mrs. Marie Claude Lavoie (USA) - Secretary of OH for Health Care Workers
Ms. Susan Randolph (USA) - Secretary of OH Nursing
Dr. Paula Naumanen (Finland) - Secretary of OH in Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector
Prof. Maurizio Manno (Italy) - Chair of Occupational Toxicology
Prof. Fabrizio Maria Gobba (Italy) - Secretary of Radiation and Work
Prof. Yukinori Kusaka (Japan) - Chair of Respiratory Disorders
Dr. David Sherson (Denmark) - Secretary of Respiratory Disorders
Prof. Claudio Colosio (Italy) - Chair of Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts
Dr. Hannu Rintamaki (Finland) – Representative of Thermal Factors
Prof. Lars Barregard (Sweden) – Chair of Toxicology of Metals
Prof. Jukka Vuori (Finland) - Chair of Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health
Dr. Roland Blonk (The Netherlands) - Secretary of Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health
Dr. Mats Hagberg (Sweden) - Chair of Vibration and Noise
Prof. Bruno Piccoli (Italy) - Secretary of Work and Vision
Prof. Kaisa Kauppinen (Finland) - Chair of Women, Health and Work
Prof. Helena Taskinen (Finland) - Chair of Occupational Medicine

Ms. Valeria Boccuni (Italy) - ICOH Staff
Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy) - ICOH Staff
Mr. Carlo Petyx (Italy) - ICOH Staff
Mr. Pasquale Fruscella (Italy) - ICOH Staff

1. Opening

The President of ICOH, Dr. Kazutaka Kogi welcomed all the participants to the Joint Meeting of the ICOH Officers, Board and Scientific Committees. Mr. President informed the attendees about ICOH 2012 Congress and specifically about Monterrey security concerns, which led the Board to change the Congress venue from Monterrey to Cancun. However, further and detailed information will be provided in the afternoon. Everybody introduced themselves.

2. President's report

ICOH President described the four priority actions agreed upon at Cape Town:

1. advancing proactive risk assessment and control at work;
2. extending occupational health services to all workers in all countries;
3. developing action-oriented ICOH toolkits;
4. strengthening ICOH network for worldwide action through SCs, NSs, Board Committees and Task Groups;

Then, he also focused on the ICOH organizational development and on the President assignments. Dr. Kogi reported back the main achievements of various objectives and tasks. Particular attention was paid to the internal and external communication. The President of ICOH pointed out that a new set of activities has to be developed by ICOH as an independent organization in view of the Cancun Congress.



Decisions:

President's Report was approved.

3. Report on Scientific Committees

Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees, Bonnie Rogers, took the floor and made her presentation. She reported that 33 ICOH Scientific Committees have been active, while SC on Fibres has not been active for a long time and the SC on Education and Training in Occupational Health has not been active. She reminded that 32 Scientific Committees provided excellent Mid-term reports and she thanked for their efforts and work on behalf of ICOH.

Prof. Rogers pointed out that Scientific Committees should be more involved in the determination of ICOH 2012 Scientific Committee programme. In the meanwhile, many of them agreed to participate in oral and/or special sessions. The list of ICOH 2012 Special and Oral Paper Sessions were presented. Finally, Prof. Rogers praised once again the Scientific Committees for the excellent work done in organizing the scientific meetings, conferences, etc. Dr. Kogi thanked Bonnie Rogers for the presentation.

Decision:

The Report on Scientific Committees was approved.

5. Report on activities of National Secretaries

Ms Suvi Lehtinen, Vice President in charge of National Secretaries, reported on the results achieved. She briefed everybody on the possibility of having National Secretaries in all countries in which ICOH has members (even countries with 1-4 members). This will aim at helping the ICOH growth in terms of members. Ms Lehtinen also described the list of National Secretaries appointments: ICOH has 57 National Secretaries worldwide. After their appointment, National Secretaries have been requested to complete a Work Plan 2009-2012 and to report back once a year on their activities.

Ms Lehtinen focused on the improvement of the ICOH communication. In this view, a leaflet for the ICOH promotion was developed and printed. A questionnaire survey was also sent out in order to collect information on the OHS status in different countries. Finally, she concluded that the collaboration between National Secretaries and Scientific Committees has been proposed to be improved with several measures included in the NS reports.

Decision:

The Report on National Secretaries activities was approved.

5. Reports on Membership

Dr. Sergio Iavicoli reported on membership recruitment excellent results achieved in comparison with the objectives forecasted. Secretary General also reminded about the slowness in performing the membership payment. He reported on the step forward made in the website development and updated everybody on the status of the ICOH



campaign for the partnership with journals. Finally, he set a major goal for the future: the Scientific Committees have to be more efficient in the membership campaign especially during the events they organize. So, promotional material has been produced to promote ICOH.

Mrs. Lavoie asked for the figures about the gender balance. Secretary General provided the percentages: 34% female and 66% males; however the women participation is improving.

Decision:

The Report on Membership activities was approved.

Peter Westerholm, Chair of the TG on Ethics and Transparency, briefed on the work done in reviewing the ICOH Code of Ethics.

6. Breakout sessions A-B-C

Dr. Iavicoli presented the breakout sessions by listing them:

- A) Membership campaign including young member recruitment
(Chair Carel Hulshof)
- B) Interaction and integration among SCs
(Chair Shyam Pingle)
- C) SCs outputs and dissemination strategy
(Chair Helena Taskinen)

The groups will report after lunch to the assembly on the outputs produced.

Afternoon

7. Report from breakout sessions

A) Membership campaign including young member recruitment

Carel Hulshof made the presentation as spokesman of the group. He firstly started analyzing the problem assessment and the organization. The group also investigated the ICOH added value, which is the main way to attract new members. He also pointed out that the relation between fee and benefits is not clear and it should be clarified. The leaflet recent production is a good start. Finally, the difference between Affiliate and Sustaining members has to be spelled out. The group also presented proposals to improve ICOH membership campaign:

- to organize special sessions / awards young researchers / practitioners;
- to increase OH family, including nurses, other OH professionals;
- to organize special campaigns and to intensify relations with national societies in OH.

B) Interaction and integration among SCs

Diana Gagliardi presented the report on interaction and integration among SCs. As for Interaction, three main points came out from the discussion: the mentoring between Scientific Committees, through which more active SCs can give advice and / or support the less active for major engagement; the organization of contacts on a more formal



basis, since most of the collaborations are born on a «friendly» basis; a better use of the website. The second part of the discussion was focussed on the integration among SCs. On this side the group spelled out that ICOH priorities have to be considered as «guidelines» for action and in order to get more involved at any level (at individual, SCs and Board level). Furthermore, the networking between / among SCs on shared issues has to be encouraged and the visibility has to be strengthened. Diana Gagliardi presented the proposal of organizing a dedicated meeting for SC officers during ICOH 2012.

C) Scientific Committee outputs and dissemination strategy

The Group work results were reported by Helena Taskinen and Marie-Claude Lavoie. The group started discussing the Scientific Committees outputs and pointed out the need for a more systematic access and use of the ICOH materials produced. They also highlighted that all documents published under ICOH require to be reviewed by the Secretariat and more information on this is needed. The future goals, according to the group, will be:

- Dissemination of information via ICOH newsletter
- Use of ICOH website- Scientific Committee
- Need to create a standardized and easy format to disseminate the information from SC
- Need advice on ICOH publication system
- Recommendation - creation of a task group on ICOH dissemination, use of social media especially Twitter.

Dr. Piccoli proposed to look into the possibility of using Skype, which is an excellent way to keep in touch. The proposal to organize a Communication Task Group came up. Dr. Lum pointed out that guidelines are needed as the use of social media will increase. Dr. Fingerhut proposed to organize a special session in the middle of the next Congress, where the old and the new elected Board members along with new and old SC Officers and NSs can discuss about outputs and future goals. The meeting approved by a show of hands. Dr. Iavicoli remarked on the breakout session reports: ICOH developed the new website giving many possibilities to members to upload documents and to share information, even though the use of it is still limited; he also asked for a formal proposal regarding the young member needs. ICOH President concluded the discussion and requested a formal report by the three groups to be published on the ICOH newsletter and website.

8. Future of Scientific Committees

Prof. Rogers reported on the future of Scientific Committees. She recalled the goals set by the President and pointed out that a reflection is needed on how ICOH goals are matched by the Scientific Committee activities. She listed the future challenges for Scientific Committees:

- Proactive risk assessment and work control;
- Compiling guidance materials related to primary prevention and BOHS particularly small (and medium) sized enterprises, agriculture, self-employed, informal sectors;
- Developing and evaluating the effectiveness of action-oriented tool-kits;
- Strengthening ICOH communication networks
 - Collaboration across SC



- More involvement in the organization of the Congresses
- ICOH Code of Ethics

- Fostering membership
 - General
 - Young professionals

- Quality research;
- Technology;

9. Task Group on Ethics and Transparency

Prof. Peter Westerholm briefed on the ICOH Code of Ethics review. Firstly, he reported on the terms of reference for review: the review aims at orienting the Code as a practical guideline in professional occupational health practice and at addressing subjects and challenging themes towards the ethical awareness and the moral competence of occupational health professionals. The general idea is to organize the Code contents in order to make it a universally accessible and usable tool in enhancing moral awareness and ethical work practices of occupational health professionals. He also identified the strategy followed by the Working Group:

- To update the present text, adding supplementary articles or texts, as appropriate;
- To retain the present structure of the Code basically unchanged for easy recognition of the ICOH core messages;
- To introduce and explain fundamental set of ethical values in a separate memo to be annexed to the code;
- Seeking to adapt it to the changing moral landscape;
- Seeking the participation of the SCs and the ICOH members.

Finally, he provided the provisional schedule for the review process after mid-term meeting in Milan: the final draft of the reviewed Code will be delivered to the ICOH Secretary General by the 15th December 2011.

Dr. Kogi, ICOH President, specified that the proposal will be discussed during the second Board Meeting.

10. ICOH 2012

Dr. Jorge Morales, President of the ICOH 2012 Congress, reported on the security situation and concerns about Monterrey. He communicated the Board decision of moving the Congress venue and explained the criteria followed in taking the decision of choosing Cancun: there are currently not security issues, a convention centre suitable for the Congress and huge availability in terms of accommodation. Dr. Jorge Morales urged Scientific Committees to participate and to promote the ICOH Congress 2012. The ICOH President also showed the reasons which led the Board to such a decision. Secretary General asked SCs for the cooperation in the dissemination of the information among the Scientific Committees. He recommended to take into consideration the guidelines for abstract presentation in view of the tight schedule.

10. ICOH 2015

Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang reported on ICOH Congress 2015 progress and a video was projected.

ICOH President concluded the meeting by thanking all the participants.