



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 2015-2018

June 6, 2015
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Time: Saturday, June 6, 2015, 8.30 – 12.30

Venue: 201 (ASEM Hall) COEX Convention Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Participants: **Dr. Jukka Takala (Singapore)** - ICOH President
Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) - ICOH Secretary General
Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea) - ICOH Vice President
Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA) - ICOH Vice President
Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan) – ICOH Past President
Prof. Andrew Curran (United Kingdom) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Elia Enriquez (Mexico) – ICOH Board member
Prof. Monique Frings-Dresen (The Netherlands) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Martin Hogan (Ireland) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Seichi Horie (Japan) – **ICOH Board Member**
Dr. Dingani Moyo (Zimbabwe) – ICOH Board Member
Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Robert Orford (USA) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Rosa M. Orriols Ramos (Spain) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Kari Reijula (Finland) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Edoardo Santino (Brazil) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Malcolm Sim (Australia) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Christophe Paris (France) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Jukka Vuori (Finland) – ICOH Board Member

Mr. Carlo Petyx (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy) - ICOH Staff

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President of ICOH, Dr. Jukka Takala, opened the meeting welcoming all the new Board Members for the tenure 2015-2018.

2. Welcome of new Board Members

The Board Members and Officers introduced themselves and briefly described their professional backgrounds and previous ICOH activities. Dr. Takala thanked the participants for this brief introduction and stated that it would be necessary to appoint two more Board Members in order to balance gender and geographical distribution within ICOH Board.



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3. Action Plan 2015-2018

ICOH President Dr. Takala presented to the Board his strategic priorities for the tenure 2015-2017. He stressed the importance to strengthen the results achieved during the past triennia and to guarantee the continuity of ICOH action.

ICOH will operate to reach two important objectives: zero harm and equal and universal health and safety at work and through work. To reach these goals, it is important that ICOH cooperates with partners and fundraisers to gather resources for the activation of more equal occupational health services worldwide. Furthermore, cooperation with ILO and WHO should be strengthened promoting new campaigns and programmes. Enhancing ICOH credibility and visibility is another important issue to be taken into account. After a lively discussion, it was proposed to focus on health risk communication and risk assessment and to develop dedicated tools, in particular for developing countries, possibly with the help of IEA and IOHA.

The situation of voting procedures and the possibility to introduce electronic vote was also discussed. In this regard, ICOH Vice-President Dr. Kang mentioned his experience as Editor in Chief of ICOH Newsletter and the fact that members from developing countries are having difficulties to access the electronic version of the ICOH Newsletter. For this reasons, he invited to reflect and investigate on what system would be more appropriate and accessible for those countries. He also mentioned the problem of translating into other language from English. The most difficult problem of the Korean Editing office of the Newsletter is translation into French. Thus, it is impossible to use more languages in the Newsletter. For solution, the Newsletter allows ICOH members to translate into regional languages if it is necessary. Continuing with the reflection on linguistic issues, ICOH Vice President Dr. Fingerhut invited to consider having at the Congresses some regional sessions in languages other than English. Furthermore, in consideration of the difficulties that students have with English for their own posters, they may be divided into groups by language and not by topics. Dr. Hogan highlighted that for the ICOH Congress 2018 other languages will be considered. The Board agreed that the use of other languages will facilitate accessibility and necessary measures will be considered, especially for translation of main contents on ICOH website.

On the basis of the inputs received at the General Assembly from Dr. Ringen, Secretary of the ICOH SC on OH in the Construction Industry, regarding the happenings connected to the construction of football facilities for FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar, Dr. Orford proposed the Board to adopt a statement presenting the ICOH position on this case. It was agreed to appoint a dedicated Working Group in charge of redacting the statement. It will be composed of Dr. Orford (Chair), Dr. Enriquez, Prof. Sim and Prof. Frings-Dresen. Prof. Sim, Dr. Enriquez and Prof. Curran proposed to elaborate a formal strategy to manage more effectively similar cases. They also expressed the need for an evidence based investigation with Occupational Health and Safety professionals directly involved.

The statement will be developed by the Working Group taking in consideration comments and inputs from National Secretaries of the involved countries and from the Officers of relevant Scientific Committees including Dr. Knut Ringen from the SC on Construction. ICOH President Dr. Takala pointed out the opportunity to invite to cooperate with sister organizations (particularly IALI and ISSA) that may endorse the statement.

The reviewed text will be sent to the ICOH Officers and Board for final approval. After that, the statement will be published on ICOH website and Newsletter and sent by ICOH President to relevant authorities.

Decision:

- The ICOH Board approved the President Address and the Strategy for the triennium 2015-2018.
- ICOH Board agreed to work on health risk communication and on risk assessment, also with the creation of OHS tools for developing countries.
- ICOH will work on spreading its outputs in languages other than English and French so as to facilitate dissemination and accessibility.
- ICOH Board will investigate the possibility to introduce the electronic vote and to initialize the process of editing ICOH Constitution for this purpose.



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- ICOH Board agreed to appoint a Working Group in charge of redacting the ICOH Statement on Qatar 2022 World Cup and migrant workers. The group will be chaired by Dr. Orford and the other members will be Dr. Enriquez, Prof. Sim and Prof. Frings-Dresen. The WG will send the reviewed text to the ICOH Officers and Board for final approval. After that, the statement will be published on ICOH website and Newsletter and sent by ICOH President to relevant authorities.

4. Task Groups, Working Groups and Network 2012 – 2015 and Assignments

Firstly, the Board discussed the opportunity to introduce the electronic vote for the election of ICOH Officers and Board Members and for the venue of ICOH Congresses. ICOH Secretary-General Prof. Iavicoli recalled that the introduction of a new voting system requires editing ICOH Constitution and then approval of amendments by the General Assembly. The next General Assembly will take place at the ICOH Congress 2018 in Dublin therefore, if approved, the electronic system will be effective for the following election. Prof. Sim and Dr. Hogan suggested to open voting for the venue of future ICOH Congresses to all ICOH members and not only to those attending the Congress.

For what concerns the Task Group on Membership, it will be composed of Prof. Iavicoli (Chair), Dr. Enriquez, Dr. Moyo, Dr. Santino, Dr. Horie, Dr. Orriols, Prof. Frings-Dresen.

The Board reflected upon regional, professional, age and gender distribution among its own members and considered the possibility to co-opt one or two more Board members to better balance distribution. Dr. Takala invited to suggest possible candidates for his consideration.

Coming to the Ethics and Transparency committee, it will have to focus especially on the implementation, translations and promotion of the new ICOH Code of Ethics.

ICOH will also examine the possibility to act with respect to the reduction of occupational cancer. ICOH President will discuss an action program in collaboration with ILO and WHO. No Working Group on this topic will be established at this stage.

Dr. Santino proposed that every Scientific Committee prepares one paper of state of the art at the end of the triennium to facilitate dissemination. The Board accepted the proposal.

It was also proposed to prepare a survey for the Scientific Committees to know their opinion on the academic program of the Congress and suggestions for the next one.

Decisions:

- ICOH Officers will take care of the process for the revision of ICOH Constitution in order to introduce the electronic voting system. Meanwhile, ICOH Secretariat will undertake all the actions required to facilitate the process: postal ballots will be sent more in advance and a stronger involvement of the National Secretaries will be encouraged in order to permit maximum accessibility to voting.
- Based on the comments and suggestions, the Assignments will be reviewed by the President and circulated among ICOH Officers and Board members for final agreement.

5. ICOH 2018 Congress

Dr. Hogan briefly reported on the advances and progress of the organization of the 32nd International Congress on Occupational Health – ICOH 2018 to be held in Dublin, Ireland.

Special support to developing countries will be provided as done for the Seoul Congress. The amount of the funds to support developing countries is € 65,000 as defined in the contract. The registration fees will remain the same as for the Seoul Congress.



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Dr. Takala thanked Dr. Hogan and all the ICOH Congress 2018 Organizing Committee for their precious work. ICOH Officers and Board will be directly involved and will collaborate for the development of the Scientific program in order to have a successful congress.

6. Budget Plan 2015 - 2017

ICOH Secretary General reported on the budget proposal for the triennium 2015-2017. He started sharing with the new ICOH Board Members the results and the reserves of ICOH financial management of the previous term. Based on the constant increase of ICOH savings in the last tenures and on the positive report of the Auditors, Prof. Iavicoli proposed to actively invest in ICOH activities in the new triennium aiming at the best use of the resources and also considering the non-profit making profile of ICOH.

Prof. Iavicoli showed the forecasted incomes for the new term coming mainly from ICOH membership fees and from ICOH 2015 Congress. Then Prof. Iavicoli illustrated in detail the expenses to be faced by ICOH in the next triennium and the amount allocated for each budget line.

Decision:

- The proposed Budget Plan 2015 – 2017 was approved.

7. Other issues

No other issue was presented for discussion.

ICOH President Dr. Takala closed the meeting thanking all the participants and the Organizing Committee of the ICOH Congress 2015.