



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST
Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Informal Meeting of ICOH National/Area Secretaries

in connection with the Work, Well-being and Wealth Conference 26–28 August 2013, Helsinki, Finland

Date 27 August 2013, 12.30–13.30
Venue Hotel Crowne Plaza, Helsinki, Finland

Participants Professor Guy Ahonen, ICOH member, Finland
Professor Jasminka Godnic-Cvar, NS for Austria
Professor Leon Guo, ICOH Secretary for Taiwan
Professor Hans-Martin Hasselhorn, NS for Germany
Ms. Suvi Lehtinen, ICOH Vice President
Dr. Timo Leino, ICOH Board Member, Finland
Dr. Nguyen Bich Diep, NS for Vietnam
Dr. Nguyen Duy Bao and Mrs. Bao, ICOH member, Vietnam
Dr. Jukka Takala, ICOH member, Singapore

Topics discussed

1. Welcome

Suvi Lehtinen bid all participants welcome to the informal lunch meeting of ICOH National and Area Secretaries and active ICOH members.

2. Introduction of participants

All participants briefly introduced themselves and their background and affiliations to make everybody acquainted with the expertise available.

3. ICOH Vice-President Report

Suvi Lehtinen briefly informed the participants of the forthcoming ICOH Mid-Term meeting that will be organized on 8–10 February 2014 in Helsinki, Finland. She also informed that the preparations for the next ICOH Triennial Congress, scheduled 31 May–5 June 2015 in Seoul, Republic of Korea are well underway. She continued by mentioning that the ICOH Code of Ethics for Occupational Health Professionals is under review. It has been decided to make as few changes as possible but definitely include those that are needed. This is because many countries have utilized the ICOH Code as a basis for their own legislation and regulations, and the aim is to keep the Code as much the same as it has been, but revise, where needed. She concluded by saying that the NS Information Letter 2/2013 is due at the end of August.

4. Brief Reports of ICOH National/Area Secretaries

Prof. Hans-Martin Hasselhorn informed us that he has prepared a brief article for a German Journal about ICOH in order to inform German occupational health and safety experts and thereby encouraging them to join ICOH. Suvi Lehtinen promised to check with the ICOH Secretariat how the Sustaining Membership Card can be allocated to a representative of the Sustaining Member.

Dr. Jukka Takala emphasized that for membership recruitment it is also important to check whether National Institutes would be willing to join. He is checking the Singapore situation.

Dr. Nguyen Bich Diep mentioned that she has informed about ICOH in Vietnam in several occasions. They try to recruit also young researchers to become members. She confirmed that the package of ICOH benefit leaflets has arrived and can be utilized.

Dr. Nguyen Duy Bao continued by informing that in several events ICOH has been described, but the English language is still a challenge for occupational health and safety experts in the country.

Dr. Leon Guo mentioned that students find especially the Scientific Committee membership a benefit, like joining EPICOH. At the same time, it was mentioned that being a member reduces the ICOH Congress fee and also in many cases the conference fee of many symposia and conferences organized by ICOH SCs.

Prof. Jasminka Godnic-Cvar, appointment in the process, said that she can encourage the young students at the University to consider joining ICOH.

Prof. Guy Ahonen mentioned that also the National Occupational Health Convention in Finland can be utilized for ICOH membership recruitment.

Dr. Timo Leino reported on a lunch meeting that was organized last year in connection with the National Convention by ICOH NS, Board Members and VP in Finland. All professional associations in Finland in the field of occupational health and safety (occupational health physicians, nurses, ergonomists, psychologists, occupational hygienists, and safety engineers) were invited to attend the lunch meeting. There was a lot of enthusiasm towards ICOH.

5. Other issues

As there were no other issues, Suvi Lehtinen thanked all participants for active input and closed the meeting.

Notes by SL