

# ICOH REPORT 2022-2023



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

*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*

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ICOH archives

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# ICOH REPORT

## 2022 - 2023





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## ICOH Board and Officers



(standing, left to right) Akizumi Tsutsumi (Japan), Maureen Dollard (Australia), Claudina Nogueira (South Africa), Paul Schulte (USA), Seong-Kyu Kang (Rep. of Korea), Dingani Moyo (Zimbabwe), Sunil Kumar Joshi (Nepal), Shyam Pingle (India), Sandeep Sharma (India), Martin Hogan (Ireland), Diana Gagliardi (Italy), Riitta Sauni (Finland), Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil), Eun-A Kim (Rep. of Korea), Stavroula Leka (United Kingdom)

(front, left to right) Alexis Descatha (France), Olivier Lo (Singapore)

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**Jukka Takala**

*Finland*

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## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OFFICERS

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<b>Respiratory Disorders</b>	Thomas Kraus, Germany	Narufumi Suganuma, Japan
<b>Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts</b>	Sashikala Chandrasekar, India	Stefan Mandic-Rajcevic, Serbia
<b>Shiftwork and Working Time</b>	Stephen Popkin, USA	Claudia Roberta de Castro Moreno, Brazil
<b>Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector</b>	Mahinda Seneviratne, Australia	Somnath Gangopadhyay, India
<b>Thermal Factors</b>	Jason Kai Wei Lee, Singapore	Sirkka Maria Rissanen, Finland
<b>Toxicology of Metals</b>	Natalia Urszula Pawlas, Poland	Veruscka Leso, Italy
<b>Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health</b>	Anna Suraya, Indonesia	Ikenna desmond Ebuenyi, Nigeria
<b>Vibration and Noise</b>	Vacant	Angela Dawn Butkovic, South Africa
<b>Women Health and Work</b>	Igor Jesus Bello, Venezuela	Marcela Paz Henriquez Caballero, Argentina
<b>Work and Vision</b>	Miguel Sergio Kabilio, Australia	Eduardo Costa Sa, Brazil

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and Integration**

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Karen Nieuwenhuijsen,  
The Netherlands

**Work Organisation and  
Psychosocial Factors**

Akihito Shimazu, Japan

Denise Minnie, South  
Africa

## TASK GROUP

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Finance Committee	Shyam Pingle
Scientific Advisory Committee	Claudina Nogueira
Task Group on Constitution, Bye-Laws and Guidelines	Seong-Kyu Kang
Task Group on Information and Communication	Seong-Kyu Kang
Task Group on Membership	Diana Gagliardi

## WORKING GROUP

## CHAIR

Working Group on Future of Decent Work	Paul Schulte
Working Group on the Implementation of the Global Strategy of Occupational Health for All with a special reference to global ban of asbestos and elimination of asbestos-related diseases	Jukka Takala
Working Group on Demographic Changes and Occupational Health	Frida Marina Fischer
Working Group on Occupational Cancer	Jukka Takala
Working Group on Implementation of ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organization	Stavroula Leka
Working Group on Inequalities in Occupational Health	Jorma Rantanen
Working Group on Modernization of ICOH processes and practices	Stavroula Leka

## NATIONAL/AREA SECRETARIES

### COUNTRY/AREA

### NATIONAL SECRETARY

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Guatemala	Ovidio Roberto Hermosilla C.
Jamaica	Janice Alisa Green
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USA	Charles Milton Yarborough

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Peru	César Cano Candiotti
Uruguay	Maria Elena Alpuin
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Portugal	Nuno Augusto Saldanha
Republic of North Macedonia	Dragan Mijakoski
Romania	Claudia Mariana Handra
Russian Federation	Evgeny Evgeniyevich Shigan
The Netherlands	Frederieke Geraldine Schaafsma
Turkey	Buhara Onal
United Kingdom	Kate Jones

## MIDDLE EAST

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Saudi Arabia

Mehdi Jahangiri  
Marwan Ahmed Behisi

## AFRICA

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Kenya  
Mali  
Morocco  
Nigeria  
Senegal  
South Africa  
Tanzania  
Togo  
Uganda  
Zimbabwe

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Issaka Yakubu Akparibo  
Winnie Rabera Makokha  
Birama Diallo  
Rim El Kholti  
Uche Josiah Enumah  
Balla Sy  
Daniel J. Kocks  
Israel Paul Nyarubeli  
Kokou Silvere Kevi  
Marianna Agaba  
Tawanda Nherera

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Japan  
Malaysia  
Nepal  
P.R. China  
Philippines  
Rep. of Korea  
Sri Lanka  
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Ashish Mishra  
Nuri Purwito Adi  
Etsuko Yoshikawa  
Victor CW Hoe  
Youb Raj Bhatta  
Lap Ah Tse  
Edmyr Mercado Macabulos  
Jung-Wan Koo  
Aseni Wickramatillake  
How-Ran Guo

## OCEANIA

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New Zealand

Ross Iles  
Mark G. Boocock

# ICOH 2024

www.icoh2024.ma

## 34<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Occupational Health

28 April to 3 May 2024 - Marrakesh - Morocco



## Enhancing Occupational Health Research and Practices

*Closing the Gaps!*

Hosted by :



## REPORT OF THE ICOH PRESIDENT

*by Seong-Kyu Kang*

### GENERAL

Like many other professional organizations, ICOH has been challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to the traditional Triennial onsite Congress being converted into a digital format. Although the Melbourne team had diligently prepared for the Congress in 2021, the unforeseen circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic posed significant obstacles. With strong engagement from the ICOH Secretariat in Rome, the digital Congress provided an excellent opportunity for members to join together on one online platform. The ICOH Secretariat has made every effort to maintain the continuity of the Congress since its establishment in 1906.



The digital Congress was highly successful, attracting approximately 1400 participants from 98 countries, who held a total of 950 presentations. The Proceedings, featuring 732 abstracts, was published in an online supplement of *Safety and Health at Work* 2022;13: S1-S345. The theme of the Digital Congress, 'Sharing solutions in occupational health through and beyond the pandemic', led to numerous presentations focusing on COVID-19 in occupational health and related topics concerning health care workers.

The recent globalization trend has impacted every aspect of our lives, including workers' health. Although occupational risks can be mitigated within a society, they often shift from one society or country to another. This phenomenon was especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. Another example is the deaths of migrant workers at construction sites in host countries.

There has been a great deal of collaboration between high-income countries (HIC) and low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), and between ICOH and international organizations such as the ILO and WHO. The sustaining members of ICOH in particular, which are public or national institutes of occupational safety and health (OSH) in different countries, have done much work to support occupational health in LMICs. However, the global economic crisis since the late 2010s has limited this collaboration, and the focus on occupational health has experienced a setback. HICs mostly concentrate on mental health, which has led many of their workers to fall into early retirement, which is made possible by their secure social security systems.

This discrepancy within or among countries will hopefully be discussed and addressed by the newly established ICOH Working Group on Inequalities in Occupational Health. The President's strategy for the 2022-2023 Triennium, approved by the Board, focuses on 'Global Responsibility for Workers' Health'.

## PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES IN 2022-2023

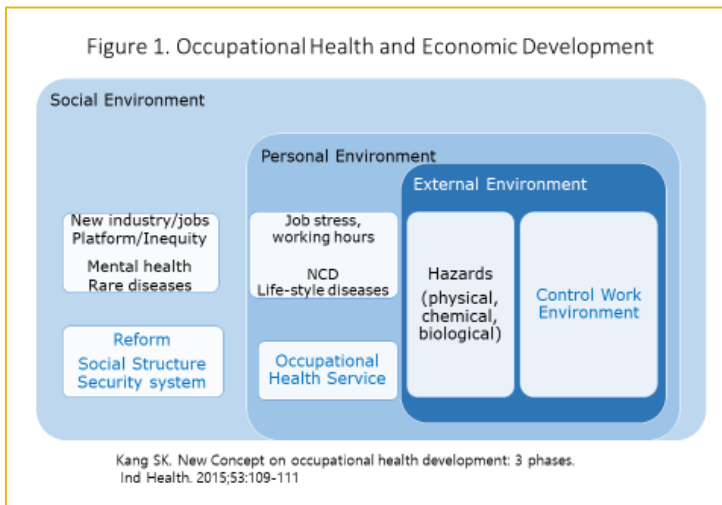
### 1. Global Responsibility for Workers' Health

The definition and concept of work-related diseases have evolved over time. During the Industrial Revolution, only diseases directly resulting from work were considered to be work-related. However, in the last century, the work environment has transformed significantly, extending beyond manufacturing to encompass all industries, including the service sector.

Consequently, the concept of work-related diseases has expanded to encompass any health condition aggravated or caused by work or working conditions.

During the industrialization era, the primary occupational risks included dust, noise, chemicals, and other physical agents. These risks could be mitigated through engineering controls or industrial hygiene measures. Although traditional occupational risks have declined over time, workers still develop various diseases that are exacerbated by job stress, long hours, shift work, and workplace conditions. These diseases encompass cardiovascular problems, strokes, musculoskeletal disorders, and mental illnesses. Addressing these work-related diseases requires a holistic approach to human health. Alongside reducing occupational risks, managing lifestyle diseases is crucial.

There is increasing acknowledgement that occupational risks can contribute to rare diseases, including specific types of cancer, the origins of which nevertheless remain poorly understood. In addition, socioeconomic factors can impact the development of or exacerbate work-related diseases, such as mental illnesses. Presently, social inequality is acknowledged as one of the most significant occupational risks. These work-related conditions can be managed by a robust social security system, but these systems regrettably remain inadequate in many LMICs<sup>1</sup>. (Fig 1)



<sup>1</sup> Kang SK. New Concept on Occupational Health Development: 3 phases. Ind Health. 2015;53:109-111



Most HICs have successfully mitigated numerous occupational risks by implementing engineering controls, prioritizing worker well-being, adopting a holistic approach to worker health, and establishing strong social security systems. However, concurrently, many traditional occupational risks have migrated from HICs to LMICs. This transition can even occur within a country, as workers relocate from high socioeconomic classes or affluent regions to lower socioeconomic classes or impoverished areas.

Professionals in each country strive to enhance workers' health as far as their economic circumstances allow. Moreover, stakeholders from LMICs seek to engage with those from HICs to learn from their past experiences, knowledge, and potential solutions through international platforms such as ICOH. Countries aim to glean insights from the historical experiences of other nations facing situations similar to their current status, rather than solely focusing on immediate challenges. This collaborative exchange fosters cross-country learning and spreads more effective approaches to addressing occupational health issues globally.

To achieve our goal, regional and global communication needs to be facilitated among countries.

Every year, academia conducts thousands of studies on workers' health. Some aim to uncover previously unknown relationships, while others examine issues already present in society. However, translating academic research into practical settings is not always straightforward. The most significant challenge lies in the mismatch between researchers and those encountering occupational risks at their workplaces. This disparity can occur within a country or region, but in today's globalized world, it is increasingly prevalent as traditional occupational risks shift from HICs to LMICs. Research is crucial for protecting and improving the health of the workers at risk but applying research findings at the workplace is often challenging. Thus, there is a pressing need to bridge the gap between researchers and practitioners or workers.

To achieve the goal of the President's theme, the President recommends the following:

- ◆ Scientific Committees (SC) should facilitate international conferences:
  - Each committee is encouraged to recommend discussions aimed at identifying common issues among countries, particularly those related to the direct and indirect transfer of risks from HICs to LMICs. Drafting statements or position papers on these issues is highly recommended.
  - The ICOH Statement on Migrant Workers, released in May 2023, is one of the tools for achieving global responsibility for workers' health.
  - Conferences organized by the SCs should aim to include participants from LMICs. The SCs have largely achieved this goal already.
- ◆ National Secretaries (NS) should facilitate regional and local meetings:
  - To share information locally available among countries.
  - ICOH will collaborate with the Latin American Association on Occupational Health (ALSO) in Latin America, the Asian Association on Occupational Health (ACOH) in Asia, and the African Regional Association on Occupational Health (ARAOH) in Africa.

- ◆ Sustaining and Affiliate Members will facilitate collaboration
  - Meetings of directors, presidents, or representatives of Sustaining and Affiliate Members will be held during the ICOH2024 Congress.
- ◆ Collaboration with International Organizations and Sister Organizations
  - Meetings of directors, presidents, or representatives of International Organizations and Sister Organizations will be held during the ICOH2024 Congress.

## 2. Occupational Cancers

‘Occupational cancers’ were the focus theme of Dr Jukka Takala's tenure as ICOH President during the 2015-2022 Triennium. This topic remains crucial in occupational health worldwide, given the unidentified carcinogenicity of chemicals, other carcinogens, and the complex multifactorial causality of cancers. ICOH will persist in prioritizing occupational cancer issues, aiming to identify the risk factors and assess the burden of the diseases associated with them.

## 3. Basic Occupational Health Services and Occupational Health Services for All

‘Occupational Health Services for All’ was the theme of Dr Kazutaka Kogi's tenure as President during the 2009-2015 Triennium, following on from the ‘Basic Occupational Health Services (BOHS)’ theme during Professor Jorma Rantanen's tenure from 2003 to 2009. As many countries move towards ageing societies, workforces are also ageing, and this is leading to a higher prevalence of non-communicable diseases, including lifestyle-related illnesses. Although workplaces have made great strides towards safety improvements, many workers, particularly in LMICs, still lack access to adequate occupational health services (OHS). To emphasize workers’ health and safety as a fundamental human right, basic OHS should be universally accessible. NSs are urged to prioritize activities aimed at enhancing OHS in their respective countries.

### Relationship with International Organizations

ICOH is a NGO recognized by the United Nations and has a close working relationship with the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization.

#### *World Health Organization (WHO)*

At the 75th World Health Assembly, held from 22-28 May 2022 at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, an ICOH Statement was submitted as part of Agenda Item 15 - ‘Human resources for health’. The Statement advocated for the incorporation of occupational health and safety services into all health and care facilities. This aims to safeguard the physical and mental health and well-being of health (care) workers.

ICOH delegates took part in the fourth and fifth sessions of the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM), an initiative aimed at ensuring the sound management of chemicals (<https://www.saicm.org/About/Overview/tabid/5522/language/en-US/Default.aspx>). Established in 2006, SAICM serves as a policy framework to

advance chemical safety globally, with the overarching objective of promoting sound chemical management. Periodic meetings are held as part of ongoing efforts to fulfil this mission.

The newly-established SC on Biohazards and Occupational Health (SCBOH) took part in a virtual meeting of the WHO Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Hub on 14 March 2023. The meeting aimed to enhance IPC practices, focusing on areas such as hand hygiene in health care settings. Hand hygiene emerged as a crucial preventive measure during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the meeting, the Chair of SCBOH introduced the draft ILO Technical Guidelines on Biological Hazards (draft) (ilo.org), highlighting the committee's involvement in the ILO task team responsible for their development.

WHO organized a Global Forum on Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Workplaces in Geneva in November 2023, which gathered relevant WHO Officers, experts from international agencies, stakeholders, national governments, businesses, workers' organizations, and health service providers. Professor Jorma Rantanen, Past President of ICOH, delivered a presentation entitled 'Coverage of Occupational Health Services', which aligns with the longstanding goal of ICOH. The Secretary General represented ICOH and delivered a presentation on managing occupational diseases and injuries.

The meeting of the WHO Collaborating Centers (WHO-CC) in occupational health took place alongside the ICOH Congress before the Congress began. WHO's CCs have extended their efforts to promote occupational health in LMICs. As of 2024, 30 institutes or universities are designated WHO-CCs, which is less than half the number 20 years ago. We recommend that more institutes and universities in which international cooperation is already established join the WHO-CCs to enhance their contributions to global occupational health.

### *International Labour Organization (ILO)*

In the opening discussion of the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC 2022), ICOH, as the only non-governmental organization (NGO), gave an online address on the role of OSH in the establishment of the ILO in 1919. The Director-General of the ILO announced that safety and health is a Fundamental Right at Work. The EU, the USA, and many other countries supported both Conventions C155 and C187, and some also supported C161 as 'fundamental' conventions. The Worker Group also expressed its support, but employers only wanted C187 to be referred to as fundamental.

The World Congress on Health and Safety at Work, jointly organized by the ILO, the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and Australia, took place in Sydney, Australia, in November 2023. ICOH was invited to deliver a talk during the technical session organized by the ILO and WHO. The ICOH President participated in the ILO occupational health session and emphasized the significance of occupational health to an audience composed mostly of safety professionals. The Secretary General introduced ICOH at the ILO sessions and delivered a presentation on digital transformation and the human factor. Several ICOH Officers from the SCs and other ICOH members participated in the Congress, delivering presentations on various topics.

ICOH has received an official invitation to attend the ILO General Session scheduled for June 2024. Although no specific topics related to occupational health were discussed in 2023, biohazards - including occupational risks - will be

discussed during the 111th session in 2024. The ILO has released its OSH plan for 2025-2030. ICOH and its members are looking forward to collaborating closely with the ILO on this initiative. Officers will convene during the Congress to discuss the details of the plan and to explore avenues for cooperation.

During the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, a high-level panel of Nordic Countries held a meeting as a side-event, entitled 'Nordic Collaborations to Global Alliances', aligning with the ICOH President's theme. The President was invited to participate in the presentation and panel discussions. During the event, the President delivered a message highlighting the relationship between occupational health status and economic development, and the health of migrant workers.

#### *International Agency for Research on Cancer*

ICOH was invited to the official inauguration ceremony of the 'Nouveau Centre', the new headquarters of WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). The event occurred in May 2023 and the Secretary General represented ICOH at the ceremony. Many ICOH members participated in the drafting of the IARC Monographs. I hope that the opportunity to participate in the IARC Monographs is extended to members who are interested.

#### *International Organization for Migration*

I participated in an online meeting with representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a UN agency. Dr Acran Salmen-Navarro, the Secretary General and Mahinda Seneviratne, Chair of the SC on Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector (SC SSEIS), attended the meeting both in person and online.

Given the worrying incidents involving Qatar migrant workers and the recent ICOH Statement on Migrant Workers, it is evident that the health of migrant workers is at risk due to both their residential conditions and work environments. ICOH and the IOM have agreed to collaborate to enhance the health outcomes of migrant workers. Following our discussions, Dr Salmen-Navarro is mobilizing interested members to further engage in this initiative. Cooperation with the agency for migrant workers is in line with the President's theme of global responsibilities for workers' health. Members who are interested in the health of migrant workers are invited to participate in the study led by Dr Salmen-Navarro.

#### *EU-OSHA Campaign*

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) hosted its first biennial meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic in November 2022. The topic was their campaign aimed at reducing musculoskeletal disorders (Lighten the Load). Representatives from EU countries presented their initiatives for lightening the burden on the musculoskeletal system at the workplace.

EU-OSHA has been conducting campaigns on specific topics over a two-year period to enhance health and safety at workplaces across its member states. The theme of the 2023-2024 campaign is 'digitalization', which may introduce unforeseen health impacts for workers.

The event is summarized on the website. (<https://summit2022.healthy-workplaces.eu/uploads/evento/healthyworkplacessummit2022/hwc2020-22-summit-summary-pdf.pdf?updated=1670244249>)

### *G20 OSH Network*

The G20 OSH Network comprises G20 member countries and international organizations such as the ILO and WHO. ICOH participates as a non-governmental professional organization. Launched in 2015 by Türkiye and the USA, who serve as co-chairs, the network gathers government officials responsible for OSH to discuss their countries' status and explore potential collaboration among nations.

The G20 OSH Network meetings have been held periodically. During the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, ICOH stressed the importance of international collaboration by launching the ICOH Statement on Migrant Workers.

### *Sister Organizations*

ICOH maintains close relationships with its sister organizations: the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), which represents occupational hygiene communities worldwide; and the International Ergonomics Association (IEA), which represents ergonomic communities globally. Three organizations established a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for co-operation in 2008, which is to be renewed during the upcoming ICOH Congress. ICOH will also extend its MOU with IOHA for mutual co-operation.

Each organization has traditionally hosted its own Triennial Congress since its establishment. The scheduling of these Congresses has typically been alternated to avoid conflicts. However, due to the postponement of their Congresses by COVID-19, all three Congresses will be held in 2024 in the following order: ICOH in April (Morocco), IOHA in June (Ireland), and IEA in August (Korea). Each President will deliver a congratulatory address during the opening of their respective Congresses. Although the Congresses will be held in the same year in 2024, they will offer support to one another.

### **Major OSH institutes**

The Sheffield Group, comprising major public or national institutes for OSH, many of which are ICOH Sustaining Members, traditionally held annual meetings until the COVID-19 pandemic. The last gathering was in Montreal, hosted by the Institut de Recherche Robert-Sauvé en Santé et en Sécurité du Travail (IRSST) in 2019, in which ICOH participated as a member. In 2023, ICOH hosted the Sheffield Group meeting with financial backing from Gachon University, Korea in June 2023. Participating members in 2023 included ICOH, INAIL (Italy), OSHRI (Korea), INRS (France), IFA (Germany), NFA (Denmark), SAWEE (Sweden), IWH (Canada), FIOH (Finland), TNO (The Netherlands), WSH (Singapore), and HSE (UK). KSOEM, an ICOH Affiliate Member, took part in the meeting as an observer. Discussions centred on the current status and future plans for occupational health in their respective countries.

### **International Conferences**

The ICOH President has actively participated in various international conferences organized by ICOH Affiliate Members and international organizations, delivering talks either online or in person. These engagements, including keynote speeches

and congratulatory messages, have been requested by NSs or Members of the Board.

*Online Congresses:*

- 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of the Philippines College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM) (Manila, Philippines)
- Workshop of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations)-OSHNET 2022 (Occupational Safety and Health Network) and OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation)-OSHNET 2022 (Bali, Indonesia)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Japan-China-Korea Joint Occupational Health Conference (Kitakyushu, Japan) in 2022
- 2022 Annual Conference of Society of Occupational and Environmental Health Physicians of Nigeria (SOEHPON) (Lagos, Nigeria)
- 2022 ORP International Conference (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia)
- 2022 Latin American ICOH-IEA Webinar Seminar (São Paulo, Brazil)
- 19<sup>th</sup> National Occupational Medicine Association (ANAMT) Congress (São Paulo, Brazil)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Indonesian Occupational Medicine Updates (IOMU) annual conference (Bandung, Indonesia) in 2023
- 2023 Annual National Congress of the Indian Association on Occupational Health in conjunction with SCs on Mining OSH, Rural Health, Chemical Industry, MSDs, and Epidemiology (Mumbai, India)
- Centennial anniversary of the Izmerov Research Institute of Occupational Health in the Russian Federation in June 2023

*Onsite Conferences:*

- An ICOH session on mental health was held during the ORP Conference in April 2023, in Bilbao, Spain, which was organized by the International Occupational Risk Prevention (ORP) foundation. The session was supported by the SC on Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors and the Research Section of Health and Safety Executive, UK.
- ICOH-WOPS conference, organized by the SC on Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors in September 2023, Tokyo, Japan
- 2nd International Conference of Occupational Medicine organized by the SC on Occupational Medicine in September 2023, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 23rd Asian Congress on Occupational Health (ACOH) in November 2023, Daegu, Korea
- 18th Congress of Latin American Association on Occupational Health (ALSO) in November 2023, Santiago, Chile

*GISHW during EXPO2025*

EXPO2025 is scheduled to take place in Osaka, Japan, from April to October 2025. With a theme centred on 'designing future society for our lives', the event aligns closely with the promotion of safety, health and well-being. In conjunction with EXPO2025, the Institute of Global Safety Promotion (IGSAP) in Japan will organize a significant meeting known as the Global Initiative for Safety, Health, and Wellbeing workshops (GISHW). This event will bring together numerous international organizations such as the ILO and WHO, associations, including ICOH, on 16-17 July at the EXPO 2025 venue in Osaka, Japan.

GISHW has scheduled several workshops and symposia at EXPO2025. ICOH will host a symposium entitled 'Climate change and workers' health: construction and migrant workers' in the afternoon of 16 July 2025. Other hosting agencies are the ILO, WHO, EU-OSHA, ISSA and IALI (International Association of Labour Inspection). Other associations will participate in the symposia, including IOSH (Institute of Occupational Safety and Health), ENSHPO (European Network of Safety and Health Professionals Organizations), ENETOSH (European Network Education and Training in Occupational Safety and Health), the WEF (World Economic Forum), OSH-AFRICA, IOHA, INSHPO (International Network of Safety and Health Professional Organizations), and APOSHO (Asia Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organization).

GISHW has requested that each association organize international conferences during EXPO2025. Given that ICOH was founded during the Milan EXPO1906, which holds significant symbolic meaning for the organization, we hope that our SCs will consider the opportunity to hold their conferences during that time, although the venue has not been decided yet. Those interested in discussing themes are encouraged to inform Officers now of their plan. Also, members planning to visit EXPO2025 are advised to adjust their schedules for the week of 16-17 July 2025.

### **ICOH Statement on Migrant Workers**

During the ICOH 2015 Congress, some members raised concerns about the fatalities of the Nepali workers at the construction site for the World Cup2022 in Qatar, which was also reported on international news media. ICOH found that most of the deaths were caused by hyperthermia due to poor living conditions that were unacclimated for the workers. ICOH then urged the Qatari government to improve both working and living conditions in collaboration with ILO. Later, before the ICOH2022 Melbourne-Rome Digital Congress, the SC on Thermal Factors (SCTF) again raised the issue of migrant workers in Qatar dying from hyperthermia and developing chronic renal failure. The ICOH Board decided to make a recommendation for migrant workers, with a particular emphasis on living conditions that may differ significantly from those in their home countries. The Working Group on the Future of Decent Work, the SCTF and the SC on Small-scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector have worked together to develop an ICOH Statement on this issue.

ICOH declared the ICOH Statement on Protecting the Occupational Safety and Health of Migrant Workers by approval of the Board on 29 May 2022, and it was published on the ICOH website

(<https://www.icohweb.org/site/multimedia/news/pdf/Occupational%20health%20of%20migrant%20workers.pdf>) and in an SCIE journal, Safety and Health at Work (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2093791122001159>).

The final wording was the result of a joint effort by the ICOH Working Group on the Future of Decent Work, the SCTF and the SC for Small-scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector. ICOH recognizes Dr Acran Salmen-Navarro and Dr Paul Schulte for their dedicated work to finalize the Statement and all other members who initiated this issue and contributed to the Statement.

I would like to ask members to disseminate the Statement in your country to protect and promote migrant workers' health, especially those who are living in

countries hosting migrant workers. ICOH agrees with the IOM, which is part of the United Nations System for the further collaboration of migrant workers' health and safety.

## **ICOH Congresses**

### *ICOH2022 Digital Congress*

Although the ICOH 2022 Congress had to be changed into a digital format for the first time in history, it still had 1454 delegates, including 615 ICOH members from 98 countries. In addition, 107 members from LMICs were awarded grants to enable their attendance. A total of 984 abstracts were presented by oral or poster presentation. These abstracts were published as a supplement of the Journal of Safety and Health at Work (SH@W), which had an impact factor of 4.045 in 2021 and is ranked 59 out of 182 in Public, Environmental & Occupational Health.

### *ICOH2024 Marrakesh Congress*

The preparation for the ICOH 2024 Congress is in full swing and local organizers are doing their best to prepare for the event, which is expected to be historical. In February 2024, the third announcement of the ICOH2024 Marrakesh Congress was released and distributed. Members of the Board, SC Officers, NSs and local organizers have proposed valuable candidates for plenary and semi-plenary speakers for ICOH2024. The local organizing committee and Claudina Nogueira, Vice President for the SCs have worked closely together and discussed the keynote and plenary speakers with officers.

Elisabete Weiderpass, Director of IARC, has accepted an invitation to deliver the keynote speech. She is an experienced expert administrator, who has worked at the IARC and cancer institutes in Norway and Sweden. Her speech, which is scheduled for the opening on 28 April 2024, will focus on the perspectives of occupational cancer. In addition to Weiderpass' keynote speech, many internationally renowned scientists from diverse areas will quench the intellectual thirst of the participants.

### *ICOH2027 Mumbai Congress*

Preparations for the ICOH 2027 Mumbai Congress are also underway, and the dates for the Congress are 14-19 February 2027. These were chosen to avoid the hot temperatures in India and the start of the fiscal year for many countries. Indian colleagues will prepare the Congress with their ample experience in organizing both national and international conferences.

### *Publication of the Proceedings*

It is ICOH policy not to have an official journal due to the diversity of the areas it covers. However, ICOH has formed partnerships with several journals, such as Occupational & Environmental Medicine (OEM), the Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health (SJWEH), Safety and Health at Work (SH@W), and many others. Publishing Congress abstracts in an SCIE journal would be beneficial for the presenters, as it would enable quick, effective dissemination of their work to other scientists and serve as proof of academic achievement in their organizations. The Proceedings of ICOH2018 were published in OEM and the Proceedings of ICOH2024 will be published in an online supplement of



Occupational Medicine, which had an impact factor of 5.629 in 2021 and is published by Oxford University Press.

## **Conclusion**

This Triennium is unique in ICOH's history as it only spans two years, unlike previous ones, which have typically lasted three years. The digital Congress and online conferences have also posed challenges to maintaining membership continuity and resulted in a decrease in the number of potential Members in Good Standing and Congress participants, despite the Secretariat's considerable efforts to maintain ICOH.

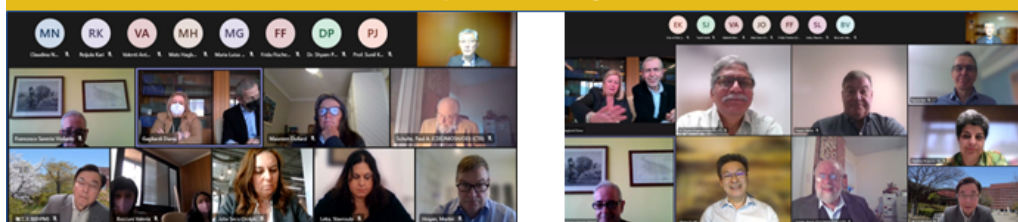
Despite these challenges, the ICOH Statement was released with the co-operation of the SCs and the Working Groups, in line with the President's theme. Furthermore, relationships with international organizations and sister organizations has been actively revitalized after the pandemic. For the first time, Sustaining and Affiliate Members' meetings are to be held during the Congress. The need for further improvements may require discussion on the following items in the future.

### ***How can ICOH***

- ◆ bring Institutional, Sustaining and Affiliate Members back to be active and supportive of LMICs?
- ◆ activate some SCs that are somewhat passive in organizing conferences and secure their members within ICOH?
- ◆ improve members' activities through SMS that are not well developed?
- ◆ strengthen its membership, especially from HICs, and increase the membership of young professionals?



The Auditorium hosted the Scientific Sessions, made accessible by clicking on the different buttons: Opening and closing ceremonies, Plenary Sessions, Semi-Plenary Sessions, Global Policy Forum.











**First Meeting of the ICOH Board**

The scrutineers committee met online on 9 February 2022 to evaluate the candidate proposals for the ILO Master Fellowship Award



82nd International Congress on Occupational Health

Global Policy Forum  
Work as a key dimension of the COVID-19 pandemic: Sharing experiences and solutions in occupational health.

 Jukka Takala ICOH	 Joaquim Pintado Nunes International Labour Organization	 Ivan Ivanov World Health Organization	 Spo Kgalamono Africa
 Mai Anh Luong Asia	 Sergio Iavicoli Europe	 Julieta Rodriguez Guzman Latin America	 Margaret Heilard Oceania and the Pacific

The Global Policy Forum "Work as a key dimension of the COVID-19 pandemic: Sharing experiences and solutions in occupational health" was live-streamed on Tuesday, 8 February 2022

## Midterm meeting in Angers, France



## REPORT OF THE ICOH SECRETARY GENERAL

*by Diana Gagliardi*

The current triennium has been my first term as ICOH Secretary General.

Thanks to Professor Sergio Iavicoli, who held the post of the Secretary General for almost 20 years with admirable dedication and commitment, I inherited a healthy organization and an efficient management infrastructure.

My commitment is to walk Sergio's path and continue his work to ensure that ICOH remains in good shape, maintains its financial solidity, and keeps its role as a key international organization in the field of occupational health.

In addition, I would like to bring some innovation and modernize some aspects of the general management, looking as much as possible at the sustainability and impact on efficiency, finances and the environment.

To this end, during the Mid-Term meeting, held in Angers, France, in May 2023, a new Working Group on Modernization of ICOH Processes and Practices was established, to support the Secretary General and the ICOH Secretariat in modernizing the organization also by providing new tools to facilitate collaboration among the Secretariat and Scientific Committees / National Secretaries and to improve the visibility of ICOH across the large number of scientific events that are organized during a triennium.



### **ICOH Secretariat**

The activities of the Secretariat General aim at assuring the daily management of the ICOH, an NGO that currently has more than 1800 professionals from over 110 countries worldwide. It is in charge of all the tasks set out in the ICOH Bye-Laws 5, Section 3. These include the following main activities:

- ◆ coordinating actions for membership recruitment and sustainability during the triennium;
- ◆ liaising with Officers, Board Members, Scientific Committees and National Secretaries to carry out all the activities in accordance with the triennial plan of action;
- ◆ keeping regular contacts with ICOH members and supporting them in all membership matters;
- ◆ taking care of ICOH financial management;
- ◆ fostering close working relationships with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other international organizations (IOHA, IEA, ISSA, IALI, IOM);
- ◆ implementing and constantly updating the ICOH website contents and tools.

## Membership

The membership activities carried on during the tenure 2022-2024 were developed in compliance with the assignments settled by the ICOH President. The membership campaign started in March 2022 after the ICOH2022 global digital Congress. Four reminders were sent out in June and September 2022, and in January and April 2023. By the end of the tenure, we registered a total of 1807 members in good standing.

Below is a list of the countries with the highest number of members:

Country	Number
1) India	217
2) Morocco	105
3) USA	101
4) Italy	90
5) Japan	74
6) Brazil	66
7) South Africa	54
8) P.R. China	48
9) Australia	43
10) Finland	43
11) Peru	42
12) Kenya	41
13) Indonesia	40

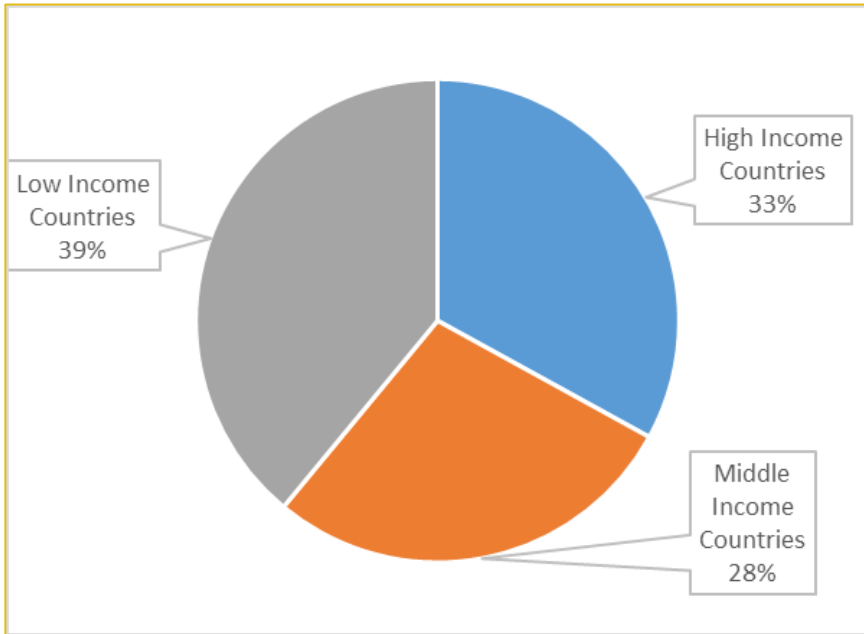
The shorter duration of this term (2 years and 2 months) produced slightly lower numbers at the end of the period compared to the previous term, which covered a much longer time window (over 3 years). This is mostly because with the Melbourne-Rome Digital Congress in 2022 we lost the share of renewals that traditionally take place at a physical, onsite Congress, where the membership campaign normally starts. For ICOH2022, the impossibility of having an onsite Congress affected also the membership campaign, which was conducted entirely online.

However, considering the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic situation that affected the whole term, the results can be considered satisfactory.

The composition of the ICOH membership for the triennium 2022-2024 follows the trends observed in previous triennia, with a constant improvement in diversity.

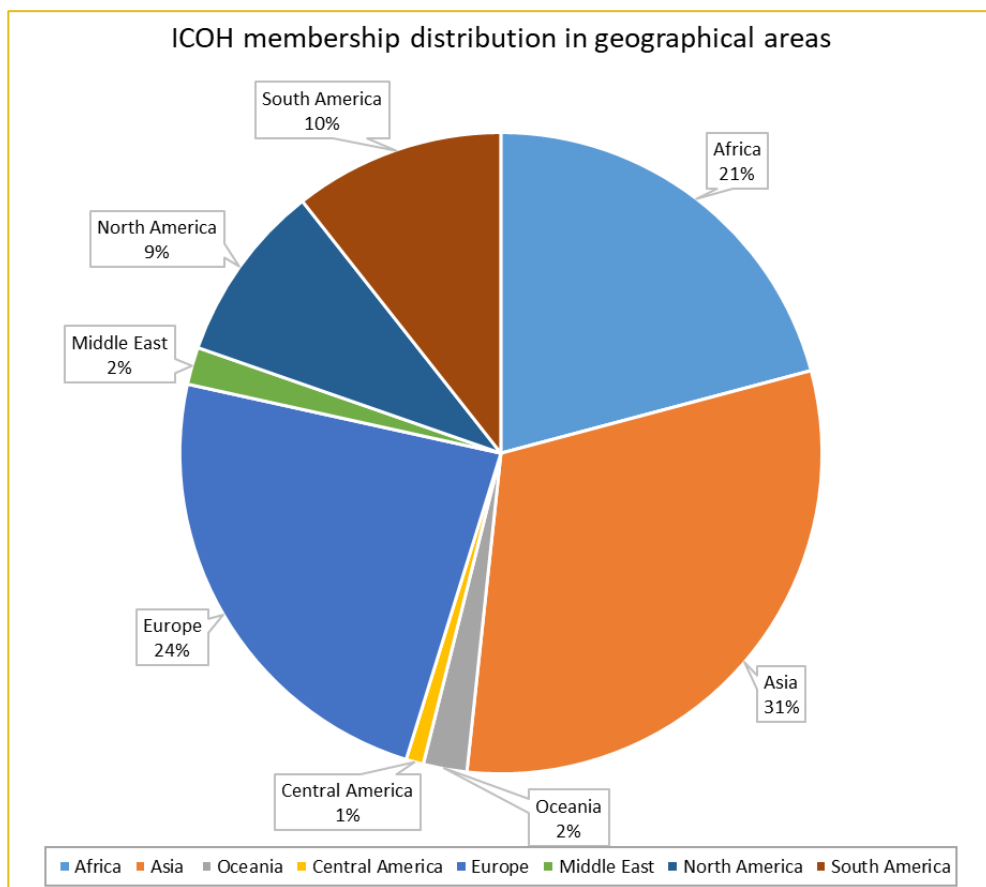
Accessibility for members from Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) has traditionally been a priority for ICOH, even more so for the last few triennia. A new fee system was approved unanimously during the ICOH2015 General Assembly in Seoul and adopted on an experimental basis for the term 2015-2017, precisely for that purpose. Members' distribution for the term 2022-2024 shows the positive effects of such measure over time, with markedly increased representation of members from LMICs, now reaching 67% of the total ICOH membership (Fig.1). The active role of the National Secretaries in those countries in support of the membership recruitment

campaign conducted by the Secretariat has certainly contributed to this achievement.



*Fig. 1 - ICOH members' distribution across countries, by income.*

Asia is the best-represented region (31%), followed by Europe (24%) and Africa (21%). The overall figures reflect the good results attained by India, Japan and other leading countries in terms of membership numbers. The involvement of other regions is growing. In particular, it is important to note that Africa confirmed its positive trend after the growth registered during the previous triennium, also thanks to the preparation of the ICOH2024 Congress in Morocco. Figure 2 below shows the complete picture of the distribution of ICOH members in the various geographical areas.



*Fig. 2 - Distribution of ICOH members in the various geographical areas.*

One of the focuses of the membership campaign has been the involvement of young members. The recruitment of new members, including students and early-career researchers, has indeed produced a positive effect on average age data. At the end of the previous triennium (17 November 2021), the average age of active members was 52 years. For the current term, the average age of active members decreased, now being 51 years. Such achievement is important for ICOH, especially considering the aging of ICOH members. Furthermore, this important result reflects the collaboration between the Secretariat General and the National Secretaries in membership promotion.

Regarding gender distribution, female representation has remained stable during the term 2022-2024 (40%), in line with the previous triennium. I would like to emphasize the active role of women in ICOH at every level, from individual members to National Secretaries, Scientific Committee Officers, Board Members and Officers. Over the last few triennia, there has been a constant increase in the involvement of women at high-level roles in ICOH and we expect and hope that this trend will also continue in the future.

## **New tools for members**

The ICOH Secretariat has been active in the identification and planning of new strategies and tools to promote ICOH membership during the triennium 2022-2024 and beyond.

To boost the membership in the forthcoming triennium, simplified payment methods will be made available to try to reduce the difficulties met by members in some countries.

We are also committed to reducing our carbon footprint by moving from plastic membership cards to a Digital Membership Certificate which can be downloaded on the ICOH website in the member's private section once the membership fee payment has been completed. In addition to contributing to the elimination of plastic, we will eliminate the mailing process, with immediate savings for the organization and a reduction in CO2 emissions generated by the air shipment of cards all over the world.

## **ICOH website**

The ICOH website is one of our internal information channels together with the Newsletter and the information disseminated through the scientific publications by our members. It offers constantly updated contents and useful tools in the Virtual Offices (presentations, brochures and application forms), which the National Secretaries and SCs Leadership can use on the occasion of national meetings and SCs' events to promote ICOH membership and activities.

In addition, a proposal to offer a centralized website for Scientific Committees has been elaborated, taking into consideration the need to preserve the security of the ICOH website and to avoid increasing the burden of work for the Secretariat staff on one side, and to offer an easy to use and standardized tool at no cost for the Scientific Committees. This implementation will progressively take place during the next triennium, with the support of the Working Group on Modernization of ICOH Processes and Practices.

## **Voting procedure**

The introduction of the electronic vote was proposed at the second General Assembly, held in Seoul on 5 June 2015, and the ICOH Secretariat was charged with the task of exploring such a possibility through a deep analysis of regulatory and procedural levels of action.

At the regulatory level, in order to introduce the electronic vote, the ICOH General Assembly and the ICOH Board approved the changes to the ICOH Constitution during the ICOH 2018 Congress. The tenure 2019-2021 focused on the electronic vote system setup with the support of ELIGO, a professional company with extensive experience in the field of electronic voting. The election process to renew ICOH leadership for the 2022-2024 tenure was held in electronic format for the first time and on an experimental basis, in conjunction with the ICOH2022 digital Congress.

Considering the good results in terms of participation, with a proportion of voters slightly higher than that of the paper ballot system, it was decided that the electronic voting system becomes the official voting system for ICOH elections of Officers and Board Members.



## Representation at national and international meetings

In addition to the activities described above, the Secretary General carries out other strategic initiatives and participates as ICOH representative in many national and international meetings. At the national level, the Secretary General is usually involved in ICOH meetings organized by the Italian National Secretary and other events promoted by Scientific Committees or attended by ICOH members. At the international level, the Secretary General participates in meetings and conferences, which are strategic for implementing both the ICOH work plan 2022-2024 and the ICOH triennial collaboration plan with the World Health Organization (WHO). A brief summary of the main international events attended by the Secretary General in the first half of the current tenure is reported below.

- ◆ *75th World Health Assembly, Geneva (Switzerland), 22-28 May 2022*

ICOH, as an NGO in official working relations with the World Health Organization, participated in the 75th World Health Assembly. In collaboration with Dr. Ivan Ivanov (WHO, Occupational and Workplace Health, Environment, Climate Change and Health Department, Division of Healthier Populations, Designated Technical Officer for ICOH/WHO relations) a statement was drafted to be presented by the Secretary General. The ICOH Statement, submitted under the Agenda item 15 (Human resources for health. Global strategy on human resources for health: workforce 2030) promoted safe working conditions for health and care workers and supported the implementation of policies, regulations and services for occupational health and safety in all health and care facilities, placing worker safety in the centre of quality and safe health care.

- ◆ *WHO expert meeting on the global strategy for infection prevention and control, Geneva, 29-31 August 2022*

On 29-31 August 2022, ICOH Secretary General Dr. Diana Gagliardi participated in the first WHO expert meeting on the global strategy for infection prevention and control (IPC). The scope of the meeting was to undertake strategic discussions on and gather critical input for the development of the Global Strategy on IPC and to discuss the plan of work for 2022-23 of the Global Infection and Prevention Control Network, including strengthening country capacities in Education and Training, as well as Emergency outbreak response and readiness. During the Meeting, ICOH, as the sole stakeholder representing the world of work, underlined the importance of workplaces as sites where infection and prevention controls can be effectively implemented and where collaboration with and support to the public health system actions can produce wide and positive impact on workers' health protection with possible expansion to the community at large.

- ◆ *Working meeting with the Health Division of the International Organization for Migration, Geneva, 16 September 2022*

On 16 September 2022, the Secretary General participated in a working meeting with representatives of the Health Division of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to discuss the possible collaboration among the two Organizations to promote health, safety and well-being of working migrants.

The meeting allowed the participants to get to know each other and to discover the

potential areas of collaboration based on the main activities, and on the vision and mission of the two Organizations. It was agreed that a practical collaboration in specific activities would be more useful and effective than a formal agreement. The importance of reciprocal participation in international events organized by the two organizations was acknowledged and will be followed on by inviting IOM representatives to attend and contribute to the 34th ICOH Congress in Marrakesh.

- ◆ *Thematic Workshop on Mental Health and Well-being in Workplaces, Buenos Aires, 6 October 2023*

During the Global Summit on Mental Health, hosted by the Ministry of Health of Argentina on 5-6 October 2023, ICOH in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Health organized one of the 9 thematic workshops on the theme “Mental Health and Wellbeing in Workplaces”. Chaired by the ICOH Secretary General, a panel of international experts from the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Argentinian Red Cross (CRA), Columbia University (USA), University of Sao Paulo (Brazil) and the Italian Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work (INAIL) discussed the comprehensive approaches to address mental health issues in the workplace, particularly violence and harassment among health care workers and emergency responders. Objectives of the workshop were to take stock of the importance of connecting mental health protection activities in the workplace with public health services to manage and safeguard employees’ well-being; to reflect on how collaboration among different sectors allows for a better understanding of risk factors, long-term effects, and effective prevention strategies related to workplace violence and harassment; and, analyse relevant data to identify high-risk areas and guide targeted interventions.

- ◆ *Working meeting of the Health in the World of Work Network (H-WOW). Geneva, 21 November 2023*

ICOH, as an NGO in official relations with WHO, is a member of the Health in the World of Work Network (H-WOW), and took part in an in-person meeting of the network during which the Terms of Reference were discussed and refined. In particular, the network is committed to conducting advocacy activities that increase support to WHO public health objectives and raise awareness around the importance of prioritizing health (Obj 1) and to strengthen networking and knowledge sharing, including among the network members and with relevant stakeholders.

The network will also work toward strengthening the global architecture for health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience.

- ◆ *WHO Global Forum “Towards healthier and safer workplaces”, Geneva, 22-24 November 2023*

ICOH Secretary General was invited to attend the meeting and to deliver a presentation on Managing occupational diseases and injuries. The aims of the meeting were to share experience from international agencies, countries and about implementing comprehensive workplace health programmes; outline the principles and strategies for health action in workplace settings; and, define the role of work and workplaces in achieving global health goals along with a set of time-limited global actions for health at work. Expected outcomes were a set of strategies to achieve healthy, safe and

resilient workplaces for all in the context of universal health coverage and to create a basis for establishing a WHO global platform on preventing disease, protecting and promoting health at the workplace.

◆ *23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, Sidney, 27-30 November 2023*

ICOH Secretary General attended the Congress and participated inside events organized by the G20 OSH Network and the Organizing Committee of the 2025 EXPO. She was also invited to contribute to the Symposium “Together for a better future: a new pact for workplace life and health protection” organized by the ILO. The panel of international experts from IOSH, IALI, WHO, IOHS, ENSHPO, ITUC and BusinessEurope discussed the contribution that each one can provide to the ILO in implementing and bringing forward the new ILO Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health, that was developed to effectively support the recognition of safe and healthy working environment as a new fundamental right at work.

### **Activities related to ICOH International Congress organization**

The Secretariat also coordinates the activities related to the organization of the ICOH triennial international Congress, including the follow-up of previous congresses, planning of future congresses, agreement on congress fees, contract, preparation and management of elections and bid submission processes, preparation of ICOH business meetings to be held in conjunction with the Congress, etc. During the current tenure the Secretary General has been dealing with:

- ◆ the outcome of the ICOH2022 financial management;
- ◆ regular contacts with ICOH2024 organizers through the organization of several conference calls and three face-to-face meetings held in Marrakesh, Morocco, in June 2022, September 2022 and January 2024. The latter activities were mainly addressed to set the Congress committees, logistics, scientific programme, definition of congress fees and release of congress announcements;
- ◆ joint work with ICOH2027 organizers and signing of the contract between the National Organizing Committee of the ICOH2027 Congress and ICOH President and Secretary General. The ICOH2027 Congress will be held in Mumbai, India, on 14-19 February 2027, with the theme ‘Sustainable Occupational Health in the Era of Globalization’;
- ◆ preparatory activities for ICOH2030 bidding process in compliance with the updated Guidelines on Congress Organization.

### **Acknowledgements**

The ICOH Secretary General expresses her sincere thanks to all members of ICOH, including our Sustaining and Affiliate Members, for their stimulating inputs and support. Special thanks also go to the ICOH Secretariat staff for their continued commitment, dedication and support which ensure the continuous operation of the organization.

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF ICOH SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

*by Claudina Nogueira, ICOH Vice President*

The current ICOH Triennium (2022 to 2024) started just after the very successful 33rd International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2022), which was the first triennial congress organized by ICOH in a fully virtual format, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Originally planned to be held in Melbourne, Australia, ICOH2021 was postponed for a year and then held as the ICOH2022 Melbourne-Rome Global Digital Congress, 6 to 10 February 2022, with a revised theme that was better aligned with the global pandemic: 'Sharing Solutions in Occupational Health through and beyond the Pandemic'. The Congress was run through a visually rich digital platform, recreating the environment of an in-presence congress. The platform accommodated all sessions and main



events that are traditionally part of the ICOH Congress format, to which the ICOH Scientific Committees (SCs) and Working Groups (WGs) are main contributors, as well as some ICOH Task Groups (TGs). Amidst the ongoing turmoil and uncertainty of the global pandemic, there were advantages to holding the ICOH2022 Congress in a digital format, viz. wider accessibility, giving the whole OSH community the opportunity to attend; this novel congress approach was particularly beneficial for participants from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs); participants enjoyed 24/7 on-demand access to the pre-recorded sessions and content through the Congress digital platform; the Plenary Sessions and the Global Policy Forum were broadcast live on two stages, taking into account different time zones ('Rome stage' and 'Melbourne stage'); the Semi-Plenary Sessions included the opportunity for live discussion at the end of each session; and the Special Sessions, and Oral Free Paper and Interactive Poster Sessions were available on-demand at any time during the Congress and for four months after the Congress dates. We thank and congratulate the three Congress Presidents - Dr Jukka Takala and Profs. Sergio Iavicoli and Malcolm Sim - and the congress organizer committees, for delivering a highly successful congress under very trying circumstances.



**International Commission  
on Occupational Health**



**ICOH 2022**  
33rd International Congress  
on Occupational Health

Fast facts on the ICOH2022 Congress:

- 1454 participants (615 ICOH members, 839 ICOH non-members)
- 98 countries represented across six continents
- Registration fee waivers granted to 107 presenters (ICOH members in good standing) from LMICs
- One opening keynote address, 11 plenary presentations, 23 semi-plenary presentations

- Global Policy Forum - 'Work as a key dimension of the COVID-19 pandemic: Sharing experiences and solutions in occupational health - prediction, prevention and preparedness for emergencies at work with special reference to the risk of pandemics'
- 56 special sessions (reduced from an initial 85) with 223 presentations
- 146 oral presentations and 581 e-posters across 38 free paper session topics, corresponding to the names of the 37 SCs, plus an extra topic, viz. 'Occupational Health and COVID-19', which received the lion's share of abstract submissions, as expected
- Dr Kazutaka Kogi (Japan), ICOH President 2009-2015, was honoured with the ICOH Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his longstanding commitment, dedication, and support to the ICOH community.

In the post-COVID era, the current triennium has continued to be challenging, but many of the ICOH SCs and members have continued their efforts to remain active in research, advocacy, advisory, and service delivery endeavours and to make valuable contributions to global occupational health, even in the face of so many constraints and barriers.

A new ICOH SC was created in the current triennium (2022 to 2024), bringing the total number of ICOH SCs to 38. The SC on Biohazards and Occupational Health (SC BOH) arose from the conversion of the ICOH Working Group on Occupational Infectious Agents (WG OIA), which had been in existence and very active for many years, developing guidance documents and awareness-raising materials.

The ICOH Board approved an ICOH Statement on Protecting the Occupational Safety and Health of Migrant Workers on 27 May 2022. The final wording is the result of a joint effort by the ICOH WG on Future of Decent Work, two ICOH SCs, viz. Thermal Factors, and Occupational Health in Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector, and the ICOH Officers and Board members. The ICOH Statement can be accessed at: <https://www.icohweb.org/site/multimedia/news/pdf/Occupational%20health%20of%20migrant%20workers.pdf>.

I am particularly grateful to the SCs that have engaged with me and invited me to participate in their events. I appreciate how they included me in their activities throughout the triennium - I found them to be very enriching experiences and learned valuable lessons. Examples of my welcome addresses and other presentations at events organized by ICOH SCs are listed below:

- ◆ MEDICHEM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and International Conference Dresden, Germany, 5 to 6 September 2023 (virtual presentation)
- ◆ 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health for Health Workers, New York City, USA, 25 to 27 October 2023 (virtual welcome address)
- ◆ 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History of Occupational and Environmental Health, organized by the ICOH SC on the History and Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases), Durban, South Africa, 15 to 17 November 2023 (in presence presentation)

# Summary Report on ICOH Scientific Committees

## Introduction

This Final Triennial Report summarizes the key activities of the 38 ICOH SCs during the 2022 to 2024 triennium (a shorter period of only two years instead of three, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic which impacted the previous triennium, extending it to four years).

SCs prepared Final Triennial Reports, which were posted in the SC 'Reports and Events' section in the 'SC Virtual Office' on the ICOH website.

SCs were requested to include outputs and activities for the reporting period March 2023 to January 2024 in their Final Triennial Reports. SC activities and outputs from the first part of the current triennium, i.e. from February 2022 to March 2023, were reported in the individual SC Midterm Reports submitted for tabling at the ICOH Midterm Meeting in Angers, France, in May 2023. The composite SC Midterm Report (dated April 2023) can be accessed in the 'SC Virtual Office' on the ICOH website.

## Status and Activities of the Scientific Committees

There are currently 38 SCs in ICOH, some more active than others. The SCs provide scientific support for ICOH and contribute to advancing the health and safety of workers globally. All ICOH members are grateful for their hard work and dedication, on behalf of ICOH. Thirty SCs provided Final Triennial Reports by 15 February 2024. For the reporting period of March 2023 to January 2024, eight SCs did not submit Final Triennial Reports.

Many SCs have collaborated with other SCs to produce scientific products of a high standard and to organize scientific events such as conferences, symposia, training courses, seminars and webinars. Many SCs have established and/or strengthened their collaborations with non-ICOH organizations at international, regional, and national levels. The vast amount of work that has been carried out by the SCs during the 2022 to 2024 triennium is incorporated into three addenda (available as supplementary documents to this report); the information presented in the different sections was obtained from the individual SC Midterm and Final Reports:

- **Addendum 1 - 'Highlights' - Examples of Major Projects, Outputs, and Focus Areas of Scientific Committees** (February 2022 to February 2024), with a special focus on publications, as many SCs have listed publications of their members as SC outputs.
- **Addendum 2 - Summary of conferences of ICOH SCs held during the full triennium** (February 2022 to February 2024). For other events such as seminars, workshops, courses, and webinars please refer to the SC Composite Midterm Report (dated April 2023) and the individual SC Final Triennial Reports (Addendum 3). During the previous triennium there was an increasing trend for various SCs to combine efforts and co-organize/co-host/co-sponsor conferences in various geographical locations. This trend has continued beyond the COVID-19 era, and, increasingly, SC conferences are also being held in partnership/collaboration with non-ICOH organizations, e.g. national occupational health associations and universities.
- **Addendum 3 - Final Triennial Reports of individual SCs.** The information provided in the individual SC Final Triennial Reports is useful for sharing amongst all SCs, as valuable lessons can be learned from each SC's experiences during the

reporting period, and various opportunities for potential new collaboration amongst SCs may be more easily identified.

### **Scientific Committee Virtual Office on the ICOH Website**

We are all grateful to the ICOH Secretariat and ICOH Web staff who support the ICOH website at [www.icohweb.org](http://www.icohweb.org). They update the links and SC information on a web space for each SC on the SC public webpage <http://www.icohweb.org/site/scientific-committees.asp>

At the top of each SC's webpage, space is provided for a description of the SC, before the listing of the names and contact details of the SC leadership (usually Chair and Secretary, but in some cases also information on SC Steering or Management Group members).

Not all SCs have provided descriptions of their SCs on their webpages, such as aims and objectives, work focus areas and main activities. These SCs are encouraged to submit this information to the ICOH Vice President and the ICOH Secretariat ([icoh@inail.it](mailto:icoh@inail.it)) to be uploaded on their SC webpage. The SCs that do not have SC descriptions or own websites have no public access channel to share information on their objectives and work, which means that current or new ICOH members who are considering which SCs they would like to join (ICOH members can join a maximum of three SCs) don't have access to information to make their decisions.

Among the 38 SCs, around 50% have their own websites, and they provide the links to their SC-managed websites on the space provided on their ICOH webpage. Having a description of the SC is particularly recommended for all the SCs who do not have their own managed websites.

The ICOH Secretariat and Web staff also develop and maintain the 'Virtual Office for SCs' at <http://www.icohweb.org/site/member-corner-scientific-committees-virtual-office.asp>.

The 'Virtual Office for SCs' is accessed through the 'Private Area' on the ICOH website, and the SC leadership members need to have a valid username and password for access.

It is important for the SC leadership to access and use the 'Virtual Office for SCs' during their terms of office, as numerous resources required for SC functioning are available on this platform. Examples are reports and official communications from/for ICOH meetings and events, template forms for preparing the SC documents that are requested during the triennium, sponsorship funding forms for SC events, and very importantly, the 'Guidelines for Scientific Committees' which all SC leadership need to be aware of; this document is also available under the 'ICOH Core Documents' section on the public ICOH website. There are also other useful tools in the 'Virtual Office for SCs' which can be used to market ICOH at SC meetings and events, such as presentations on ICOH, the membership brochure, and application forms.

At the top of the 'Virtual Office for SCs' is a link to 'SC Reports and Events', for access to reports and notifications of upcoming SC events, listed per SC. The intention is to provide information for other SCs and to encourage collaborations among SCs.

### **Midterm Meeting of ICOH Officers, Board Members and Scientific Committee Chairs**

The ICOH Midterm Meeting was held in hybrid mode in Angers, France (15 to 17 May 2023) at the Angers Congress Centre. The meeting was graciously hosted by the University of Angers. For the first time, selected ICOH National Secretaries (NSs) were invited to participate (one from each region). The meeting was well attended by

approximately 50 participants representing ICOH leadership - Officers, Board members, the Secretariat, selected NSs, SC Chairs (or Secretaries), and other invited guests.

The Midterm Meeting started with the joint meeting of the ICOH Officers, Board and SCs. Following the Officers' reports, and a short presentation by Dr Won-Jun Choi, editor-in-chief of the ICOH Newsletter, the meeting participants then broke into groups for discussion and feedback on three topics, viz. i) increasing collaboration among SCs and with NSs, ii) increasing the visibility of SC work, and iii) optimisation of management for SCs. A general discussion on the way forward for SCs followed, emanating from the ideas that emerged.

A half-day international scientific event in hybrid mode on 'Translational Epidemiology in Occupational Health', co-organized by ICOH and the University of Angers and Hospital, was held in association with the ICOH Midterm Meeting.

Epidemiology constitutes a crucial aspect of occupational health, involving research and evaluation with the ultimate aim of generating evidence-based recommendations. Translational aspects of epidemiology aim to transfer scientific responses studied by researchers to field practitioners for workers and decision-makers, to be adapted to a wide range of workplaces. The international scientific event gathered high profile presenters who shared their expertise and experience on a wide range of topics.

**Scientific Committee Contributions to ICOH2024 Congress**  
(<https://www.icoh2024.ma/>)



**ICOH 2024**

**Enhancing Occupational Health  
Research and Practices**

*Closing the Gaps!*

The 34<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024) will be held in a fully in-presence, on-site format, in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 28 April to 3 May 2024. The six-day Congress programme will focus on the theme: "Enhancing Occupational Research and Practices: Closing the Gaps!" and judging by the submission of abstracts across Special and Free Paper Sessions, combined with delegate registrations, more than 1500 participants are expected to attend the ICOH2024 Congress. The third and final announcement was launched at the end of February 2024 and included the list of Semi-Plenary speakers and their presentation titles, as well as a list of Special Sessions and the respective organizers.

During the triennium, the SCs contributed extensively and enthusiastically to the development of the scientific content of the Congress in various ways:

- SC members recommended plenary and semi-plenary speakers - one opening keynote, 10 plenary keynotes, and 32 semi-plenary presentations have been scheduled
- Most of the Special Sessions (which involve invited speakers and are not peer reviewed) were organized by the majority of the SCs, although some Special Sessions were proposed by non-ICOH organizations
- SC members peer reviewed abstracts that were submitted to Free Paper Session topics, for oral and poster presentations.



ICOH2024 Congress proceedings - Accepted abstracts for both Special Sessions and Free Paper Sessions (oral and poster presentations) will be published in an online supplement of 'Occupational Medicine', a key international journal in its field and part of the Oxford Academic, Oxford University Press platform, with an impact factor of 5.1 (Source: Journal Citation Reports, Clarivate, 2023).

The CME accreditation process of the ICOH2024 Congress by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, an institution of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS EACCME®), has been successfully completed and 28 CMEs have been recognised for the Congress.

## Special Sessions

Seventy-four (74) Special Sessions have been scheduled. The Congress Organizers endeavoured to grant at least one Special Session to all SCs that submitted proposals, and preference was given to Special Sessions organized collaboratively by more than one SC and/or WG and/or other entity. Details of the 74 accepted Special Sessions are listed in Table 1, below.

*Table 1. Special Sessions, ICOH2024 Congress*

<b>Special Sessions organized by ICOH SCs, WGs and other entities, solely or in collaboration</b>	
<b>Special Session Title</b>	<b>Topic / Organizer(s)</b>
SS01 - OSH research in the European PEROSH network and the global Sheffield network	Partnership for European Research on Occupational Safety and Health (PEROSH)
SS02 - Occupational disease coverage system in Morocco and international market perspectives ( <i>Session in French</i> )	Moroccan Federation of Insurance and Reinsurance Companies (FMSAR)
SS03 - Climate changes and occupational safety and health	WG on Demographic Changes and Occupational Health + WG on the Future of Decent Work
SS04 - Integration of a psychological health prevention programme in business: From theory to real commitment	Mathieu Campbell (Canada) + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS05 - Emerging and continuing biohazards in the workplace	SC on Biohazards and Occupational Health (SC BOH)
SS06 - Effective delivery of occupational health services: Promoting safety and health as a universal fundamental right at work	SC on Occupational Health and Development (SC OHDev) +WG on Inequalities in Occupational Health + SC on Effectiveness of Occupational Health Services (SC EOHS)
SS07 (Parts 1 and 2) - Guidelines for emergency preparedness and management: Learnings from situations like the 9/11 disaster and the COVID-19 pandemic	SC on Emergency Preparedness and Response in Occupational Health (SC EPROH)
SS08 - Adverse human health and safety impacts of chemical use among small-scale miners, and their households and community, and interventions	SC on Mining Occupational Safety and Health (SC MinOSH)
SS09 - Building global consensus for Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) management through ISO standardization	ISO TC283 OHS Management Systems + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS10 - Prevention of exposure to radiation risks: Current updates and implications for workers' health	SC on Radiation and Work
SS11 - Occupational and environmental medicine in Africa	Janvier Gasana (Kuwait University)
SS12 - The organization of Moroccan crafts and	Chakib El Houssine Laraqui Hossini (Morocco)

<b>Special Sessions organized by ICOH SCs, WGs and other entities, solely or in collaboration</b>	
<b>Special Session Title</b>	<b>Topic / Organizer(s)</b>
government policy in the artistic crafts sector ( <i>Session in French</i> )	+ National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS13 - Occupational cancer: What are we missing?	SC on Occupational Medicine (SC OM) + SC on Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services (SC EOHS)
SS14 - Nanomaterial workers' health: State of the art, perspectives, and challenges	SC on Nanomaterial Workers' Health
SS15 - Proactive approach to accident prevention through risk management	SC on Accident Prevention (SC AP) + Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), UK
SS16 - Risk management related to external companies ( <i>Session in French</i> )	Interprofessional Group for Prevention and Industrial Safety (GIPSI), Morocco + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS17 - 'Silver Linings': Enhancing occupational health of informal workers	SC on Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector (SC OHSSEIS) + Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO, an NGO)
SS18 - Mental health and violence issues in health workers	SC on Women, Health and Work (SC WHW) + SC on Occupational Health for Health Workers (SC OHHW)
SS19 - Nordic and global collaborations for OSH impact: Integrating 'Vision Zero', climate change and NCD prevention to create safe, sustainable and healthy workplaces for all	Nordic Labour Inspections (Nordic Future of Work Group for OSH Practice) + WG on the Future of Decent Work + European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) + International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI) + ILO
SS20 - Climate change challenges and its impact on occupational safety and health	International Social Security Association (ISSA) - Section Research
SS21 - New developments in pesticides: Enhancing occupational health and safety	SC on Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts + International Centre for Rural Health Milan, Italy
SS22 - Innovations in occupational health policy and practice: Promoting the fundamental right to a safe and healthy working environment	SC on Occupational Health and Development (SC OHDev) + WG on the Future of Decent Work + ILO
SS23 (Parts 1 and 2) - Building knowledge capacities for the future of work in the chemical industry	SC on Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry + MEDICHEM
SS24 - IARC Monographs update: Opportunities and challenges in occupational epidemiology and exposure characterization	International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS25 - Health literacy and occupational health	National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS26 - Prevention strategies and current challenges in occupational safety and health (OSH) across various countries	Seong-Kyu Kang (ICOH President)
SS27 - Core values at work – Everyday tools for the workplace	SC on Education and Training in Occupational Health (SC ETOH) + SC on Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector (SC OHSSEIS)
SS28 - The future of work after the COVID-19 pandemic: Ethical issues and proposed solutions	WG on Inequalities in Occupational Health + WG on the Future of Decent Work + WG on Demographic Changes and Occupational Health
SS29 - The history of occupational health on the African continent	SC on History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases
SS30 - Road safety programme in the Moroccan	Professional Association of Cement Manufacturers

**Special Sessions organized by ICOH SCs, WGs and other entities, solely or in collaboration**

<b>Special Session Title</b>	<b>Topic / Organizer(s)</b>
cement industry ( <i>Session in French</i> )	(APC), Morocco + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS31 - The African perspective of occupational health and safety	OSHAfrica
SS32 - Management of occupational poisonings in Morocco ( <i>Session in French</i> )	Poison Control and Pharmacovigilance Center of Morocco (CAPM) + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS33 - Recognised occupational CVD risk factors: Time to start a prevention Total Worker Health approach?	SC on Cardiology in Occupational Health
SS34 - Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB), its mission and impact: OSH projects and training across the globe	Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB) - International
SS35 - The impact of working from home on older workers	SC on Ageing and Work
SS36 - Electronic waste (E-waste) and informal work in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)	SC on Unemployment, Job insecurity and Health (SC UJIH) + SC on Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector (SC OHSSEIS) + International Ergonomics Association (IEA) + Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES)
SS37 - Occupational safety and health and decent work	WG on the Future of Decent Work + WG on Demographic Changes and Occupational Health
SS38 - Subcontractors' health and safety support in the Moroccan cement industry ( <i>Session in French</i> )	Professional Association of Cement Manufacturers (APC), Morocco + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS39 - How to publish your work on workers' health: Insights from the Editors- in-Chief of several OSH journals	Seong-Kyu Kang (ICOH President)
SS40 (Parts 1 and 2) - Bottlenecks and solutions in starting and progressing Basic Occupational Health Services (BOHS)	SC on Education and Training in Occupational Health (SC ETOH) + SC on Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services (SC EOHS) + SC on Small-Scale Enterprises and Informal Work (SC OHSSEIS) + SC on Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts
SS41 - Occupational health for migrant workers: Research gaps, interventions and the future ahead	WG on the Future of Decent Work + SC on Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector (SC OHSSEIS) + International Organization of Migration (IoM) + Migration Health and Development Research Initiative (MHADRI)
SS42 - Global Network for Evidence Synthesis in Occupational Safety and Health	SC on Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services (SC EOHS) + Global Network for Evidence Synthesis in OSH + Cochrane Thematic Group 'Work and Health and Social Security'
SS43 - Health and retirement	SC on Ageing and Work
SS44 - Stay-at-work for workers with chronic pain conditions	SC on Work Disability Prevention and Integration (SC WDPI)
SS45 - Towards the implementation of occupational health and safety legislation tailored to the specificities of emerging countries	Omar Benbada (Morocco) + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS46 - Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Occupational Health	Ivan Ivanov, WHO
SS47 - Role of the association of occupational	Association of Occupational Medicine of the Eastern

Special Sessions organized by ICOH SCs, WGs and other entities, solely or in collaboration	
Special Session Title	Topic / Organizer(s)
doctors of the Eastern region of Morocco (AMETRO) in the promotion of health and safety at work in this region ( <i>Session in French</i> )	Region of Morocco (AMETRO) + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS48 - Occupational health of the fisherman	Moroccan Society of Maritime Medicine (SMMM) + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS49 - Neuropsychiatric effects of the 9/11 terrorist attacks	SC on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology
SS50 - Climate change and occupational health: International perspectives and highlights from the EU INTERCAMBIO project	Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain
SS51 - Combating occupational heat stress: Moving towards a global approach	SC on Thermal Factors + La Isla Network, Washington DC, USA + Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore + FAME Lab, University of Thessaly, Trikala, Greece + Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai, India
SS52 - Vaccination and personal protective equipment (PPE) issues and mandates for health workers	SC on Occupational Health for Health Workers (SC OHHW)
SS53 - Crisis communication in the time of uncertainty and misinformation: Report from four countries and lessons learned for workers, and our community of practice	TG on Information and Communication
SS54 - The jigsaw of job insecurity	SC on Unemployment, Job insecurity and Health (SC UJIH)
SS55 - Women, health and work in post-pandemic times: Honoring the memory of Dr Julietta Rodriguez-Guzman	SC on Women, Health and Work (SC WHW)
SS56 (Parts 1 and 2) - 'Vision Zero' for promoting a culture of prevention in construction - Role of leadership, stakeholders and technology ( <i>Mini-symposium</i> )	SC on Occupational Health in the Construction Industry + ISSA Construction Section
SS57 - Solar UV radiation exposure and occupational skin cancers	SC on Radiation and Work + SC on Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses (SC OED)
SS58 - Shift work, health and the individual: Challenges and opportunities for research and prevention	SC on Shiftwork and Working Time + SC on Epidemiology and Occupational Health (SC EPICOH)
SS59 - Occupational health for Indigenous and migrant workers: Challenges and opportunities	SC on Occupational Medicine (SC OM)
SS60 - The future of work: Emerging risks and opportunities for health and wellbeing	Sandeep Sharma (India, ICOH Board Member)
SS61 - Screening and surveillance for work-related asthma (WRA)	European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Taskforce on Work-related asthma questionnaires and algorithms for screening and surveillance (WAQASS)
SS62 - Ergonomics and musculoskeletal disorders in health workers and healthcare settings	SC on Occupational Health for Health Workers (SC OHHW) + SC on Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs)
SS63 - How to translate into practice the new knowledge in the field of occupational health and safety (OHS): A European example	Occupational Medicine Section of the European Union of Medical Specialties (EUMS) + European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine (EASOM)
SS64 - New frontiers in auditory function damage prevention: Combined exposure assessment and effects, biomarkers, and digital audiometry	SC on Vibration and Noise

Special Sessions organized by ICOH SCs, WGs and other entities, solely or in collaboration	
Special Session Title	Topic / Organizer(s)
SS65 - SDG 8 Decent Work: Healthy workplaces for vulnerable workers	SC on Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector (SC OHSSEIS) + SC on Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health (SC UJIH) + Core Values Working Group of the SC on Education and Training in Occupational Health (SC ETOH)
SS66 - Occupational health in Latin America: Postgraduate student presentations (Session in Spanish)	Society of Occupational Medicine of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina (SMTBA) - ICOH Affiliate Member <i>Sociedad de Medicina del Trabajo de la Provincia de Buenos Aires (SMTBA)</i>
SS67 - Climate change, air pollution and organic dust issues in rural populations and the need for sustainable agriculture	SC on Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts
SS68 - Development of guidelines in France for occupational practitioners	French Society of Occupational Health
SS69 - Occupational health in the automotive industry sector in Tangier (Northern Morocco) <i>(Session in French)</i>	Association of Occupational Medicine and Ergonomics of the Northern Region - Morocco + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS70 - Workers' exposure survey on cancer risk factors - Discussion on findings	EU-OSHA
SS71 - Psychosocial risks and mental health promotion in Colombia	Colombian Society of Occupational Medicine <i>(Sociedad Colombiana de Medicina del Trabajo)</i> + ICOH National Secretary for Venezuela +Colombian Association of Disability Rating Boards <i>(COLJUNTAS)</i>
SS72 - Occupational health training and education in LMICs: Overcoming challenges and developing solutions <i>(Workshop)</i>	Shyam Pingle (India, ICOH Board Member) + SC on Occupational Health and Development
SS73 - Ergotoxicology	Alain Garrigou (France) + National Scientific Committee ICOH2024
SS74 - Off-job experiences and wellbeing	SC on Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors (SC WOPS) + SC on Shiftwork and Working Time

## Free Paper Abstract Sessions

Free Paper Sessions were allocated according to the list of 51 topics that were available for the submission of abstracts via the ICOH2024 Congress website. The very popular topics were granted multiple oral sessions, and topics which received very few or no abstract submissions were merged into combined sessions - either oral or poster, or both. All the abstracts were peer reviewed by the respective SCs and their allocated reviewers. The list of Free Paper topics is below.

- ◆ Ageing and Work
- ◆ Allergy and Immunotoxicology
- ◆ Biological Hazards in Occupational Health - Research and Practice
- ◆ Cardiology in Occupational Health
- ◆ Collaborations in Occupational Health in the Post-COVID Era
- ◆ Determinants in Work Ability
- ◆ Education and Training in Occupational Health
- ◆ Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services
- ◆ Emergency Preparedness for Organisations - New Developments and Worldwide Examples
- ◆ Epidemiology in Occupational Health
- ◆ Evidence-Based Prevention in Occupational Health
- ◆ History of Prevention of Occupational Exposure, Injury, and Disease
- ◆ Human Resources Management, Strategies and Practices for Promoting Wellness in the Workplace
- ◆ Indoor Air Quality and Health
- ◆ Industrial Hygiene and Aerosol Measurements in Evaluating Worker Exposures
- ◆ New Technologies in Information and Communication in OSH - Learnings from COVID-19
- ◆ Nanomaterials Workers' Health
- ◆ Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses - Status Quo, Novel Findings and Future Challenges
- ◆ Occupational Health for Health Workers
- ◆ Occupational Health in Small-Scale Enterprises
- ◆ Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry
- ◆ Occupational Medicine
- ◆ Occupational Toxicology, Human Biomonitoring, and Neurotoxicology
- ◆ OSH in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) - Sharing Good Practices
- ◆ OSH in Mining, and Prevention and Control Strategies in Small and Large Enterprises
- ◆ OSH in Morocco
- ◆ OSH Management in the Construction Industry - Technologies and Strategies for High-Risk Activities
- ◆ OSH Performance Management
- ◆ OSH, Sustainability, and the SDGs
- ◆ Positive Mental Health, Work Engagement and Wellbeing
- ◆ Prevention and Rehabilitation of Work-Related Diseases in Healthcare Workers - An ISSA Session
- ◆ Proactive Accident Prevention
- ◆ Promoting Sustainable Work and Development through Excellence in OSH

- ◆ Psychosocial Risks - Regulation and Policies from an International Comparative Perspective
- ◆ Qualitative and Micro-Level Interventions to Improve Work Organisations
- ◆ Radiation and Work
- ◆ Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace
- ◆ Respiratory Disorders
- ◆ Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts
- ◆ Safety Culture in the Workplace
- ◆ Shiftwork and Working Time
- ◆ Substance Use, Addictive Disorders, Doping and Work
- ◆ The Burden of Occupational Diseases and Injuries
- ◆ The Occupational Health Nursing Practitioner
- ◆ Thermal Impacts on Workers and Work in a Warming World
- ◆ Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health - Work in a Post-Pandemic Future
- ◆ Vibration and Noise
- ◆ Women, Health and Work
- ◆ Work and Vision
- ◆ Work Disability Prevention - Policies, Intervention Strategies, and Implementation Issues
- ◆ Work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders - The New Ways of Working, and Prevention among Informal Workers

Other highlights of the scientific programme include:

- A total of 350 scientific content hours to be provided by the plenary and semi-plenary speakers and across 150 Special and Free Paper Sessions, as well as 12 e-poster sessions
- An active programme focusing on early- and mid-career delegates, including a prize for the best student poster and the ILO Master Fellowship Award
- The ICOH2024 Student Poster Competition, chaired by Claudina Nogueira (ICOH Vice President for Scientific Committees, 2018-2024), in collaboration with Marilyn Fingerhut (immediate past ICOH Vice President for Scientific Committees), and Garrett Burnett of National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), USA
- The National Organizing Committee will award the “Jaouad El Jaï Prize” for the best Moroccan poster presentation
- Delegates from LMICs who are ICOH members in good standing and whose abstracts submitted to Free Paper topics (for oral or poster presentations) were accepted, were able to apply for a grant to support their participation. Just over 100 ICOH members in good standing from LMICs met the eligibility criteria and received registration fee waivers
- The Global Policy Forum, on ‘Strategies to improve occupational health and safety policies and implementation in low- and middle-income countries’ will build on the lessons learned from high-income countries as well as from LMICs. Leading experts in the fields of occupational health research and practice from international organizations, well-known public institutes and representing all continents, will interactively discuss the challenges for translating into practice the wealth of science and knowledge produced globally by researchers on occupational health and safety. Proposals will be formulated on how to best use the research results and strategies for priority actions and programmes for protecting and improving

workers' health in the globalization era.

## Conclusion

Throughout this triennium, many of the ICOH SCs and their members have continued their efforts to remain active in research, advocacy, advisory, and service delivery endeavours, and to make valuable contributions to global occupational health, even in the face of ongoing constraints and barriers. Many SCs continued to use online platforms to hold virtual meetings, conferences, seminars, and webinars. The SCs collaborated to hold joint events and contributed to the upcoming ICOH2024 Congress in various ways. Over the triennium, the ongoing perseverance of the SCs and their members has ensured that valuable outputs have arisen from their collaborative work with other SCs, as well as non-ICOH organizations, such as WHO and ILO, e.g. the publication of scientific papers, book chapters, position statements, survey findings, and technical notes; the drafting of conference declarations; the development of handbooks and guidelines; and presentations at many conferences.



“

The ICOH Scientific Committees (SCs) play a vital role in supporting and advancing the health and safety of workers globally, especially during these challenging times brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been significant and irreversible changes in the way we live and work, and these changes are expected to persist in the "new normal". The past three years have underscored the vital importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing to address the health and safety needs of workers. Despite obstacles and constraints, the SCs and their members have shown remarkable resilience. They have persevered and continued their efforts in research, advocacy, advisory roles, and service delivery to make valuable contributions to global occupational health.

ICOH is committed to proactive engagement with its members and SCs, for the ongoing improvement and maintenance of occupational health and safety. The organisation remains dedicated to its mission of supporting the health and safety of workers, ensuring that these important issues continue to be addressed and advanced.

”



**MS. CLAUDINA NOGUEIRA**  
ICOH Vice-President: Scientific Committees  
(2018-2024)





Farewell to ICOH Officers and Board members of the previous triennium 2018-2022, and respective service awards





## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF ICOH NATIONAL/AREA SECRETARIES

*by Martin Hogan, ICOH Vice President*

It has been a privilege to serve as ICOH Vice President responsible for the National Secretaries in this triennium.

National Secretaries (NSs) represent the very heartbeat of ICOH. They are a link between the organization itself, the Officers, the Board and the members in the respective countries. They aid communication in both directions, that is from ICOH and its Scientific Committees (SCs) to members, but also importantly from members to the organization.

As well as having an important communication function, they are also responsible for encouraging new members to join, and often organize local groups and events.

We have had several Zoom meetings with the NSs. What follows is just an example of the activities in the various countries, just a sample of what was received, but I think it represents the work of the NSs really well.

The words are those of the NSs but in some cases, they have been edited for inclusion purposes.



### **Nigeria's National Secretary, Uche Enumah**

ICOH African (Nigerian) Regional Sideline Meeting, held during the National OH Society Annual Scientific Conference

Continuous efforts have constantly been made to speak about, and answer questions about, ICOH and occupational health development, at various forums in the country.

The ICOH WhatsApp group, created in 2018 for Nigerian members, has over 76 active participants to date and continues to provide a platform for interaction and knowledge-sharing on OH and ICOH affairs.

Efforts to reach out to new members are ongoing, and we are re-awakening the consciousness of old members. However, the severe difficulty of direct online payment for registration is a recurring challenge.

Nigerian members and intending members of ICOH have been mobilized for massive attendance of the Triennial Congress in Marrakesh, Morocco in April 2024. Sixty-eight members and intending members' names have been compiled on the Marrakesh LOC for possible bulk discount for accommodation and air travel costs. Some neighbouring African countries have willingly joined the chariots. The list was sent to the LOC.

### **Belgium's National Secretary, Lode Godderis**

In the past three years, Belgium has made significant contributions to ICOH's activities through a diverse range of initiatives. Belgium has actively provided scientific advice to national authorities, organized seminars, and conducted webinars on crucial occupational health topics. These include addressing the impact of COVID-19 on occupational health and exploring the epidemiology and occupational risks in Belgium. Belgium has also focused on updating knowledge of occupational diseases, prevention strategies, and OSH (Occupational Safety and Health) vigilance in collaboration with the Belgian Fund of Occupational Diseases (Fedris). Seminars have covered a wide array of themes such as fertility, in relation to the workplace, risks associated with chemical agents, holistic perspectives on teleworking, burnout and engagement, communication strategies for

infectious diseases, and the role of exoskeletons and ergonomic tools. These efforts highlight Belgium's commitment to advancing scientific understanding and promoting health and safety in the workplace through diverse, comprehensive ICOH activities.

#### **USA's National Secretary, Charles Yarborough**

In order to continue the recent increasing ICOH membership trend in the US, I encouraged active ICOH involvement at the annual meeting of the International Section of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) held in April 2023 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There are currently 202 members from 21 countries/areas in this group: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Singapore, Taiwan, China, the UK and the US.

A co-sponsored presentation was given at AOHC on 'Global Warming in Africa: Decreased Arable Land, Food Security, and Changes in Vector-Borne Diseases', which is currently of tremendous global health concern. The speakers were Kushinga Bvute, MD and Warren Silverman, MD. Dr Bvute received the Bill Bunn Award for his international health efforts.

The 2023 meeting of the ICOH Scientific Committee on Occupational Health for Health Workers was held in the New York Academy of Medicine, New York City on 24-27 October 2023. It informed health researchers and practitioners in the US that ICOH is a premiere global organization for the health and safety of all workers.

#### **Ireland's National Secretary, Ciarán Bohane**

In March last year, I had the honour of jointly presenting, alongside Prof. Ken Addley OBE, the new strategy of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, entitled 'Advocating for the Value of Occupational Health in Ireland 2023-2026,' to the international ICOH membership.

On 8 December 2023, ICOH Ireland members gathered for their annual end-of-year meeting at the Irish Department of Finance, continuing a long-standing tradition. This in-person meeting, skilfully facilitated and co-hosted by the Phoenix Park Study Group, marked a positive trend that had resumed the previous year after the pandemic-induced hiatus. Special thanks go to Dr Donal Collins, Chairperson of the Phoenix Park Study Group, for steadfastly upholding this tradition, and appreciation is extended to Dr Tom Donnelly, the group's secretary, for providing delightful festive refreshments during the evening.

Dr Colm Kirby, Consultant Rheumatologist at Tallaght University Hospital, took centre stage as the keynote speaker. Delivering a comprehensive update on Fibromyalgia, Dr Kirby explored various facets, including presentation, novel diagnostic tests, and management processes.

Looking ahead, ICOH Ireland aims to further strengthen its community by actively increasing its membership and enhancing the frequency of these informative and engaging meetings. The enthusiasm generated by these gatherings underscores the commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing within the ICOH community in Ireland.

### **Russian Federation's National Secretary, Evgeny Shigan**

As of January 2024, the Russian Federation had 22 specialists in ICOH, in the field of occupational hygiene and physiology, industrial ecology, occupational pulmonology, neurology, otorhinolaryngology, dermatology and rehabilitation, work-related diseases of the cardiovascular system, clinical and laboratory diagnostics and IT areas. They represent various scientific, practical and educational institutions in the Russian Federation regions of Siberia, the Urals, the Far East, the Volga region, and the central part of the country.



All ICOH members from Russia are also members of the national specialized community - the Occupation Health Physicians and Specialists Association (President Igor Bukhtiyarov, Executive Director Evgeny Shigan).

Under the auspices of the Occupation Health Physicians and Specialists Association, the following works were published in 2021-2024: New coronavirus infection COVID-19: professional aspects of maintaining the health and safety of medical workers: methodological recommendations, 2021-2022, 136 p.; Occupational diseases of the ENT organs: a guide for doctors, 2023, 552 p.; Guidelines for assessing occupational health risks for workers. Organizational and methodological foundations, principles and evaluation criteria, 2023, 77 p.; Occupational pathology: national guide, 2024, 904 p.

In 2021-2024, the Occupation Health Physicians and Specialists Association organized and conducted more than 50 scientific, practical and educational events, among which the largest were international forums - the Russian National Congress 'OCCUPATION and HEALTH' (Vladivostok, 2021 and Nizhny Novgorod, 2023); Youth Forum 'OCCUPATION and HEALTH' (Svetlogorsk, 2022), Minsk, Belarus (2021, 2022, 2023); as well as conferences in Kemerovo, Krasnoyarsk, Nizhny Novgorod, St. Petersburg, Naberezhnye Chelny, Rostov-on-Don (all 2021); Yekaterinburg, Irkutsk, Moscow, Rostov-on-Don, Novosibirsk, Omsk (all 2022); Moscow, Angarsk, Perm, Krasnoyarsk and Novosibirsk (all 2023) and Kazan (2024) and many others.

### **Romania's National Secretary, Claudia-Mariana Handra**

I actively promote ICOH within the professional society of occupational medicine doctors and occupational safety specialists in Romania.

On 27 May 2023 at the XXI Congress of the Romanian Society of Occupational Medicine I presented a paper session on 'Priorities of the International Commission of Occupational Health', together with Dr Liliana Rapas and Dr Carmen Busneag, my predecessors as National Secretary for Romania. After this event we were joined by two new members. Efforts to reach new members and reawaken the awareness of old members are ongoing.

I disseminated ICOH events that could be accessed online to my colleagues, medical specialists and medical residents, enabling them to connect with occupational safety and health specialists from around the world.

### **Zimbabwe's National Secretary, Tawanda Nherera**

In Zimbabwe, we embarked on a massive recruitment drive to boost membership. This was done through social media and campaigns during annual national safety conferences. This yielded positive results, as Zimbabwe managed to get new recruits of significance during 2023.

### **Saudi Arabia's National Secretary, Marwan Behisi**

In Saudi Arabia, members maintain communications through a WhatsApp group. On 14 December 2023 we (three ICOH members) held a symposium in collaboration with the Occupational Health Program at Imam Abdulrahman University, both virtually and live, to address best practices of fitness-to-work assessments and disability evaluations.

2023 was a year of growth as we saw a significant increase in the number of new ICOH members.



### **North Macedonia's National Secretary, Dragan Mijakoski**

We have two new ICOH members from North Macedonia (one Doctor with ongoing specialization in occupational medicine, and one Doctor specialized in occupational medicine - who is also an Assistant Professor and the Chair of Occupational Medicine, Faculty of Medicine in Skopje).

ICOH activities and ICOH membership were promoted during the lectures aimed at doctors specializing in occupational medicine. These activities have been also promoted in the meetings of the Macedonian Society of Occupational Medicine.

As an additional consideration, I would like to mention a study (survey) currently ongoing in our country. It aims to analyse job resources as predictors of the levels of job engagement and job satisfaction in a random population of workers (please find attached the abstract that is accepted for oral presentation at the ICOH 2024 Congress). The study is conducted by the Chair of Occupational Medicine, Faculty of Medicine in Skopje and has been approved by the Ethics Committee at the Faculty of Medicine. Maybe we could ask NSs whether they are interested in conducting the survey in their respective countries? If there is interest, we could prepare a manuscript for publication after the data collection. The activity could be presented as an activity of the network of ICOH's National Secretaries.

### **Argentina's National Secretary, Adolfo Hernandez**

The National Secretaries of Latin America have held webinars in Spanish, as a successful initiative to approach medical associations, professionals, academia, and industry in the area of industrial health and safety. Altogether 2500 Occupational health and hygiene and safety colleagues participated as listeners or watched the videos on YouTube.

In September we welcomed the following speakers: Ricardo Turenko from Brazil, Dr Cesar Candiotti from Peru and Dr Ruddy Facci from Brazil who presented 'History and future of ICOH in Latin America'. Dr Agueda Munoz del Capio from Peru talked about the ethics of occupational health professionals in the COVID-19 pandemic. In October, the webinar was led by Drs Diana Cuervo, Astrid Garrido and Yohama Caraballo Arias, who gave presentations on migrant workers, agricultural work and mental health. Safe and healthy work is a right for everyone.

After this second event, the preparation for the third webinar scheduled for November began. The following presentations were given: 'The prevention of intoxicant consumption in the workplace' by Dr Maria Elena Alpuin from Uruguay, 'How health begins with safe labor, hygiene and safety' presented by Dr Aida Lucia Fajardo Montiel representing Mexico with the participation of Dr Adolfo Hernández from Argentina. The cycle closed with a presentation of Wellness programs in the financial system.

Following this good practice, in April a webinar will be held on the World Day of Safety and Health at Work, topics of which are yet to be established.

### **Canada's National Secretary, Quentin Durand-Moreau**

We gained several Canadian individual members over the Triennium.

In particular, we now have OMSOC (Occupational Medicine Specialists of Canada) as an affiliate member.

Also, the IRSST (Institut de Recherche Robert-Sauvé en Santé et en Sécurité au Travail) resumed its membership as a Sustaining Member during this Triennium.

### **Uganda's National Secretary, Agaba Marianna Nyangire**

On 29 May 2023, members of the ICOH community in Uganda, aka the 'ICOH Uganda Chapter', convened for the first ever mini-symposium.

The theme for this event was 'Occupational Health: enabling a healthy and productive workforce' and we were privileged to have two ICOH members as guest speakers: Dr Deogratias Sekimpi, a senior occupational health practitioner from Uganda and Dr (Maj)Paul Bishwadeep, President of the Indian Association of Occupational Health.

From Dr Sekimpi, we learnt that in Uganda, workplaces have embraced the importance of occupational health and safety. However, it is recognised that an implementation system set up by the National Authority is lacking.

Dr Paul talked about realising the importance of the patient's occupation when the doctor enquires about their background; how the COVID-19 pandemic increased the focus on health at the workplace and resulted in more challenges and a need for OHPs to provide care and skills; how occupational health should be treated as a business enabler - 'Healthy people, healthy business.'

Overall, this was a fruitful and successful mini-symposium, and the 'ICOH Uganda Chapter' hopes that the different participants benefitted and appreciate the role they can play in improving occupational safety and health.

### **Colombia's National Secretary, Diana Elizabeth Cuervo Diaz**

I continue to enhance ICOH membership in Colombia. We currently have 49 members.

I also continue to promote the ICOH 2024 Congress on ICOH's Colombian website, [www.lcohcolombia.com](http://www.lcohcolombia.com).

### **Venezuela's National Secretary, Yohama Caraballo-Arias**

The primary focus has been on expanding the ICOH network across Latin America and other countries to create sustainable strategies to support low-income countries, in particular. This has resulted in strengthened communication between National Secretaries and ICOH members in South and Central America, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Nigeria, the USA, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, India, Malaysia, Australia, and Germany. This network aims to develop research projects pairing high-income researchers with low-income ones, ensuring financial sustainability and accessibility for vulnerable populations.

Venezuela, in collaboration with the National Secretaries of Colombia and Chile, developed and delivered two free public webinars in 2022 and 2023, respectively. These webinars addressed crucial topics such as psychosocial factors and the informal economy, and preventing and treating workplace burns. Plans are in place to offer more educational initiatives in 2024 with other National Secretaries of Latin America and currently Professor Caraballo-Arias is a partner of ICOH Colombia for their candidacy to host ICOH 2030. We strengthened our relationship with the Venezuelan Society of Occupational Health (SOVESO) by supporting their educational activities and having strategic meetings with their board of directors. We have also made agreements with the investigation and research unit of the 'Luis Razetti' Medical School of the Central University of Venezuela (UCV).

Recognizing the evolving communication landscape and the need to reach workers beyond traditional research papers and formal communications, Professor Caraballo-Arias established three social media accounts in 2022 (Instagram, YouTube shorts and TikTok). These platforms use simple language and concise messages to raise awareness of work-related issues, health promotion and overall well-being among workers and employees from various backgrounds.

She also presented a conference on the impact of health care worker brain drain at the National Academy in New York, organized by the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health for Healthcare Workers. During this event, an opportunity arose to collaborate with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Currently, Professor Caraballo-Arias is collaborating with 'Workplace Without Borders,' (ICSOEM), and the University of Maryland to develop a new strategy to support low-income countries especially on educational issues. Her belief in the power of international collaboration is unwavering. She firmly believes that 'brilliant minds working together can create innovative solutions and bridge the gap for the most vulnerable ones to reach sustainable goals'.

Thank you again to the NSs for their invaluable work. The above is only a sample of that work, but hopefully gives the reader an understanding of the types of activities that are going on in the different regions.



## REPORT OF THE EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE ICOH NEWSLETTER

*by Won-Jun Choi*

The aim of the ICOH Newsletter is to promote communication and mutual understanding among ICOH members. It typically consists of a Message from the President, News from the Secretary General, a Message from the Editor, Reports from the Scientific Committees (SCs) and National/Area Secretaries, Members' activities, and a French version of the articles from the President, Secretary General, and Editor-in-Chief. It also contains the contact information of the ICOH Officers and Board Members. Articles on activities related to occupational safety and health from affiliate members and associate members are published in the Newsletter, as are official statements endorsed by ICOH and special articles.



Professor Won-Jun Choi (Gachon University Gil Medical Center, Republic of Korea) has been Editor-in-Chief of the ICOH Newsletter since 2022. The Newsletter is published three times a year. Six editions were published between May 2022 and December 2023. From Volume 20 onwards (published in 2022) the Newsletter has only been available in electronic form, distributed via email and posted on the ICOH website.

In principle, the ICOH Newsletter should cover topics related to ICOH activities or to the work of ICOH members, but it is not limited to these, and can also publish ICOH members' research. There is no tight restriction on the content of the articles. However, it is highly recommended that authors take a scientific approach when suggesting or criticizing a particular issue. We are considering a new space to facilitate discussion on the OSH field.

Volumes 20 and 21 comprised 92 articles in addition to the Messages from the President, News from the Secretary General, and Messages from the Editor (see table below). Nineteen SCs, including a working group on the future of decent work, and 19 National/Area Secretaries have published articles at least once in the ICOH Newsletter in the last two years. Five sustaining and affiliate members and Indian and Nepalese members published their OH activities in the Newsletter. In addition, three invited special articles, two articles for the book review section, an official ICOH Statement, an announcement and a notice from the ICOH Secretariat, and a Report on the ICOH2022 Congress were published.

## Contributors to Volume 20 and 21 (2022-2023, in alphabetical order)

Contributors	Number of articles
<b>Reports from the Scientific Committees</b>	<b>39</b>
Accident Prevention	2
Allergy and Immunotoxicology	1
Biohazards and Occupational Health	1
Cardiology in Occupational Health	1
Epidemiology in Occupational Health	2
History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases	1
Indoor Air Quality and Health	1
Mining Occupational Safety and Health	1
Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses	1
Occupational Medicine	5
OH for Health Workers	2
OH in the Chemical Industry	2
OH in the Construction Industry	3
Radiation and Work	2
Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts	6
Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health	1
Women Health and Work	1
Work Organisation and Psychological Factors	5
Working Group on the Future of Decent Work	1

<b>Reports from the National/Area Secretaries</b>	<b>31</b>
Argentina	2
Brazil	1
Canada	1
Chile	1
China, PR of	3
Colombia	1
Greece	1
Indonesia	1
Iran	1
Ireland	1
Jamaica	6
Kenya	2
Mali	1
Nigeria	1
Russian Federation	1
Togo	1
Uganda	2
USA	2
Venezuela	2
<b>Members' Activity</b>	<b>13</b>
IOHA	3
IOSH	3
KSOEM	1

SASOM	1
SOM	4
India and Nepal	1
<b>Special Article</b>	<b>3</b>
Algorithm tax, algorithm-dependent insurance for gig economy workers	(by Prof. Jin-Ha Yoon)
ICOH-ILO fellowship participates in OSH	(by Dr Sunisa Chaiklieng)
Translational Epidemiology in Occupational Health	(by Prof. Alexis Descatha)
<b>Book Review</b>	<b>2</b>
Work and Health in Agriculture	1
Work and Health: 50 years of regulatory failure	1
<b>ICOH Statement and Official Announcement</b>	<b>4</b>
ICOH Statement on Protecting the Occupational Safety and Health of Migrant Workers	
Announcement of the candidates for the elections of ICOH Officers and Board Members for the 2024-2027 Triennium	
Notice from the Secretariat (call for nomination for the election of ICOH Officers and Board Members, Information on bid submission for ICOH2030 Congress)	
Report on the ICOH2022 Congress	

Editorial Board Members as of February 2024 are listed below

Editorial Board	Name
Editor-in-Chief	Won-Jun Choi
Manuscript Editor	Seunghon Ham
Editors	Diana Gagliardi Alexis Descatha Olivier Lo Eun-A Kim

The responsibility for the opinions expressed in the signed articles, studies, and other contributions rests solely with their authors, and publication does not constitute ICOH's endorsement of these opinions. The ICOH Newsletter contents may be freely translated into other languages and disseminated among ICOH members.



International Commission on Occupational Health

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
Financial Statements as at 11/30/2023

FGN-RC006672023BD0834



## Report on the audit of the financial statements

To the General Assembly of the  
International Commission on Occupational Health

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the International Commission on Occupational Health (the Commission), which comprise the balance sheet as November 30, 2023, the income statement and the cash flow statement for the financial period from October 1, 2021 to November 30, 2023 and the explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Commission as at November 30, 2023, and of the result of its operations and its cash flows for the financial period then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union.

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#### Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of this report. We are independent of the Commission in accordance with ethical requirements and standards applicable in Italy that are relevant to the audit of financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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#### Other matters

This report is not issued pursuant to the law, given the fact that laws and regulations applicable to the Commission do not require a statutory audit.

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#### Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and, within the limits of the law, for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Commission or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of the audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures in response to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of non detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control;
- Obtain and understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting principles used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made management;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Commission to cease to continue as a going concern;
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance, identified at the appropriate level as required by the ISA Italia, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Naples, March 13, 2024

BDO Italia S.p.A.



Filippo Genna  
Partner



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

November 30, 2023

	Notes	November 30, 2023 (CHF)	September 30, 2021 (CHF)
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>			
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	924.930	774.576
Other receivables	5	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b><u>924.930</u></b>	<b><u>774.576</u></b>
 <b><u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u></b>			
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
Other payables	6	49.735	243.556
Deferred revenue		-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b><u>49.735</u></b>	<b><u>243.556</u></b>
 <b>Fund balances:</b>			
Accumulated Funds		875.195	531.019
<b>Total fund balances</b>	7	<b><u>875.195</u></b>	<b><u>531.019</u></b>
<b>Total liabilities and fund balances</b>		<b><u>924.930</u></b>	<b><u>774.576</u></b>

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	2023		2021
Balance as at prior period ending	531.019		574.353
Period adjustment	1.972	-	651
Other receivables depreciation	-		-
Transfer from statement of income and expenditure	342.203	-	42.683
Balance as at current period ending	<b><u>875.195</u></b>		<b><u>531.019</u></b>

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Period from October 1, 2021 to November 30, 2023

	October 1,2021 to February 10,2022 (CHF)	February 11,2022 to November 30 ,2023 (CHF)	October 1,2021 to November 30,2023 (CHF)	November 1, 2017 to September 30, 2021 (CHF)	December 1, 2014 to October 31, 2017 (CHF)
<b>INCOME</b>					
Membership fees	20.285	249.223	269.508	400.548	386.255
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	9.126	13.712
Bank interest	-	-	-	3	-
Income from ICOH 2022 Virtual Congress	197.979	117.328	315.307	-	-
Income from ICOH 2022 from sponsorships and donations	54.774	-	54.774	-	-
Income from ICOH 2018	-	-	-	123.855	-
Income from ICOH 2015	-	-	-	-	111.234
Foreign exchanges profit	6.339	-	6.339	9	1.108
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>279.378</b>	<b>366.551</b>	<b>645.928</b>	<b>533.541</b>	<b>512.309</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Past President's expenses	-	-	-	690	1.611
Past Officers expenses	-	5.090	5.090	-	-
President's expenses	926	19.541	20.467	37.508	40.848
1st Vice President's expenses	-	4.102	4.102	14.177	24.656
2nd Vice President's expenses	-	-	-	7.153	10.931
Secretary-General's expenses	381	18.335	18.716	26.250	29.151
Secretariat office administration expenses	2.311	12.418	14.729	31.315	51.862
Secretariat admin. staff salary	1.000	58.329	59.329	121.018	112.737
Board meetings expenses	-	19.771	19.771	7.629	12.117
Officers' meeting	-	2.380	2.380	-	14.237
Scientific committees expenses	-	14.128	14.128	17.542	29.030
SCs Meetings of chairpersons/secretaries	-	-	-	8.076	11.662
ICOH Strategic Initiatives	2.000	22.113	24.113	28.676	74.028
Audit fees	-	11.899	11.899	13.229	15.093
Bank charges and taxes	-	9.161	9.161	9.445	17.436
ICOH 2015 Congress	-	-	-	-	26.573
ICOH 2018 Congress	-	-	-	22.018	-
ICOH 2022 Virtual Congress	76.556	-	76.556	199.218	-
Website account	480	11.421	11.901	20.936	20.746
Foreign exchanges loss	-	5.337	5.337	6.520	-
Printing expenses	-	6.045	6.045	4.824	21.479
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>83.654</b>	<b>220.071</b>	<b>303.725</b>	<b>576.224</b>	<b>514.195</b>
<b>OPERATING GAIN/(DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b>195.724</b>	<b>146.480</b>	<b>342.203</b>	<b>- 42.683</b>	<b>- 1.886</b>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

CASH FLOWS STATEMENT

November 30, 2023

Notes	October 1, 2021 to November 30, 2023 (CHF)	November 1, 2017 to September 30, 2021 (CHF)
<b><u>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
<b>Income/Loss for the period:</b>	342.203 -	42.683
Finance costs recognised in profit or loss	- 9.161	9.442
Net foreign exchange gain/loss	5.337	6.167
	<u>338.379 -</u>	<u>27.074</u>
<i>Movements in working capital:</i>		
Increase/Decrease in trade and other receivables	-	1.818
Increase/Decrease in trade and other payables	- 193.821	132.376
Decrease in deferred revenue	-	-
	<u>144.557</u>	<u>107.120</u>
<i>Cash generated from operations</i>	144.557	107.120
Interest paid	9.161 -	9.442
Other changes in accumulated funds	1.972 -	650
Net foreign exchange gain	- 5.337 -	6.167
	<u>150.354</u>	<u>90.861</u>
<b>Net cash generated by operating activities</b>	<u>150.354</u>	<u>90.861</u>
<b><u>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
	-	-
<b><u>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
	-	-
<b><u>NET INCREASE/DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</u></b>	150.354	90.861
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD	774.576	683.715
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	<u>924.930</u>	<u>774.576</u>

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

November 30, 2023

### 1. GENERAL

The organization was founded in 1906 in Milan (Italy) as the Permanent Commission on Occupational Health. The principal place of operation of the organization is at INAIL, Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Epidemiology and Hygiene, Via Fontana Candida 1, 00078 Monteporzio Catone, Rome-Italy.

The principal activity of the organization is to foster the scientific progress, knowledge and development of occupational health and related subjects on international basis.

The functional currency of the organization is the Swiss Franc; therefore, all figures in the financial statements are expressed in Swiss Francs.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**BASIS OF ACCOUNTING** – The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention and are drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the International Financial Reporting Standards.

**FINANCIAL ASSETS** – Financial assets include cash and bank balances and other receivables. Other receivables are stated at their nominal values as reduced by appropriate allowances for estimated irrecoverable amounts.

**FINANCIAL LIABILITIES** – Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. Financial liabilities include other creditors and are stated at their nominal values.

**FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS** – Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded in Swiss Francs at the rates ruling at the date of the transactions. At each balance sheet date, recorded foreign currency monetary balances are reported at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. All realized and unrealized exchange adjustment gains and losses are dealt with in the income statement.

INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS – Interest on fixed deposits is recognized on an accrual basis.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS – Membership subscriptions are recognized on a cash basis.

RETIREMENT BENEFIT COSTS – Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit plans (including state-managed retirement benefit schemes) are charged as an expense when incurred (as stated below, the organization has currently no employees).

### 3. FINANCIAL RISKS AND MANAGEMENT

#### i) Credit risk

The organization has minimal credit risk as most of the organization's income are on cash terms.

#### ii) Interest rate risk

The organization is not exposed to any interest risk except for certain cash balances, which are interest bearing.

#### iii) Foreign currency risk

The organization's foreign currency exposures arise mainly from the fluctuations in the exchange rate for the Euro and the Swiss Franc, which is also the organization's reporting currency. The organization's management believes that their foreign exchange rate risk is minimal. Hence, the organization does not use any derivative financial instruments to mitigate this risk.

#### iv) Liquidity risk

The organization has sufficient liquidity at all times through efficient cash management. The organization's ability to meet its obligations is managed by maintaining appropriate level of cash balances.

#### v) Fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities reported in the balance sheet approximate their fair value.

#### 4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	<u>2023</u> CHF	<u>2021</u> CHF
Time deposits	-	-
Cash and bank	<u>924.930</u>	<u>774.576</u>
	<u>924.930</u>	<u>774.576</u>

#### 5. OTHER RECEIVABLES

	<u>2023</u> CHF	<u>2021</u> CHF
Others	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#### 6. OTHER PAYABLES

	<u>2023</u> CHF	<u>2021</u> CHF
Accrued expenses	49.735	230.327
Audit fees payable	<u>0</u>	<u>13.229</u>
	<u>49.735</u>	<u>243.556</u>

#### 7. ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	<u>2023</u> CHF	<u>2021</u> CHF
Balance as at prior period ending	534.019	574.353
Period adjustment	1.972	- 651
Other receivables depreciation	-	-
Transfer from statement of income and expenditure	<u>342.203</u>	<u>- 42.683</u>
Balance as at current period ending	<u>875.195</u>	<u>531.019</u>

#### 8. STAFF COSTS

	<u>2023</u> CHF	<u>2021</u> CHF
Staff costs	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Costs of defined contribution plans included in staff costs	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Number of employees at end of the period	-	-

9. RECLASSIFICATIONS AND COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Financial statements for the period 2021-2023 cover the financial period from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The financial statements for the period 2017-2021 cover the financial period from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The current financial period is referred to approximately two years instead of the usual three years, following the postponement of the 2021 ICOH Congress to the year 2022 and the one-year extension of previous budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior period's financial statements classification has been kept for comparability with the current period's financial statements. The figures related to the period ending on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 are split for the Statement of Income and Expenditure purposes in two columns, referred to the period October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and to the period February 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to provide separate evidence of the incomes and expenditures pertaining to current and prior management respectively.

760321 J



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**Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST**

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TO BDO Italia S.p.A.

Via S. Tommaso D'Aquino, 16  
80133 NAPOLI

Monte Porzio Catone, March 13, 2024

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of ICOH - INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH for the financial period ended February 10, 2022 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

We confirm that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

*Financial Statements*

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith.
- The methods, the data, and the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
- All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- There are no uncorrected misstatements.

*Information Provided*

- We have provided you with:
  - Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation and other matters;
  - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
  - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.





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- All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the entity and involves:
  - Management;
  - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
  - Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. (ISA 240)
- We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

With our best regards

Dr. Jukka Takala  
ICOH Past President

Dr. Diana Gagliardi  
ICOH Acting Secretary-General



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We confirm that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

*Financial Statements*

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith.
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With our best regards

Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang  
ICOH President

Dr. Diana Gagliardi  
ICOH Secretary-General

## Sustaining Members

Organization	Country
Institut de Recherche Robert-Sauvé en Santé et en Sécurité du Travail - IRSST	Canada
National Research Centre for the Working Environment - NFA	Denmark
The Finnish Work Environment Fund	Finland
National Research and Safety Institute for the Prevention of Occupational Accidents - INRS	France
Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin - BAuA	Germany
Italian National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work - INAIL	Italy
University of Occupational and Environmental Health	Japan
National Institute of Occupational Health, Norway - STAMI	Norway
Occupational Safety and Health Council Hong Kong SAR	P. R. China
Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency - KOSHA	Republic of Korea
Management and Labour Improving Work Environment - PREVENT	Sweden
International SOS Foundation	The Netherlands
Institution of Occupational Safety and Health - IOSH	United Kingdom
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health - NIOSH	USA

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National Association of Occupational Medicine of Brazil - ANAMT	Brazil
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Colombian Society of Occupational Medicine - SCMT	Colombia
MEDICHEM	Germany
Asociación de Medicina del Trabajo de Guatemala - ASOMET	Guatemala
Indian association of Occupational Health - IAOH	India
Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland	Ireland
Italian Society of Occupational Medicine - SIML	Italy
Japan Society for Occupational Health	Japan
Malaysian Society of Occupational Health Doctors - MSOHD	Malaysia
Federación Nacional de Salud en el Trabajo - FeNaSTAC	Mexico
Philippine College of Occupational Medicine - PCOM	Philippines
Korean Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine - KSOEM	Republic of Korea
South African Society of Occupational Medicine - SASOM	South Africa

Asociación de Especialistas en Enfermería del Trabajo - AET	Spain
The Society of Occupational Medicine	United Kingdom
International Occupational Hygiene Association - IOHA	USA
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine - ACOEM	USA
Venezuelan Society on Occupational Health - SOVESO	Venezuela



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