



Minutes of the 1st ICOH Board Meeting

February 12, 2020
Rome, Italy

Time: Wednesday, 12 February 2020, 15.00 – 19.00

Venue: INAIL Headquarters, Via IV Novembre 144, Rome

Participants:

Dr. Jukka Takala (Finland) - ICOH President
Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (Rep. of Korea) - ICOH Vice President
Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa) - ICOH Vice President
Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) - ICOH Secretary-General
Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan) - ICOH Past President
Prof. Jorma Rantanen (Finland) - ICOH Past President
Prof. Maureen Dollard (Australia) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Mats Hagberg (Sweden) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Martin Hogan (Ireland) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Seichi Horie (Japan) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Sunil Kumar Joshi (Nepal) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Stavroula Leka (United Kingdom/Ireland) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Olivier Lo (Singapore) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Rosa Maria Orriols Ramos (Spain) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Christophe Paris (France) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Shyam Pingle (India) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Kari Reijula (Finland) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Paul Schulte (USA) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Francesco Violante (Italy) - ICOH Board Member

Invited participants on specific items:

Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti (Morocco) – President of the ICOH2024 Organising Committee
Prof. Mustapha Aboumaarouf (Morocco) - Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Casablanca, Hassan II University of Casablanca

ICOH Secretariat Staff

Ms. Valeria Boccuni (Italy)
Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy)
Ms. Erika Cannone (Italy)

Apologies:

Dr. Eun-A Kim (Rep. of Korea) - ICOH Board Member
Ms. Maria Luisa Tupia Gonzales (Peru) - ICOH Board Member

1. Opening

The President of ICOH, Dr. Jukka Takala, opened the Board Meeting by welcoming all the participants. Dr. Takala expressed his thanks to the Italian Workers' Compensation Authority (INAIL) for hosting the ICOH 2020 Midterm Meeting.



2. Approval of the minutes of the ICOH Board Meeting May 5, 2018, Dublin, Ireland

The minutes of the ICOH Board Meeting of May 5, 2018, Dublin, Ireland were circulated among Board members and agreed electronically before the meeting.

Decision:

- **The Dublin Board minutes were approved.**

3. ICOH2024 Congress

Dr. Takala informed the Board members that the final contract between the National Organising Committee of the ICOH2024 Congress and ICOH was formally signed before the beginning of this meeting.

Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti took the floor and thanked ICOH leadership for the work done in a very positive and collaborative climate. The ICOH2024 Congress President gave an update on the congress organisation. The 34th ICOH International Congress will be jointly organised by the Moroccan Association on Occupational Health (MOHA) and the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Casablanca, Hassan II University of Casablanca. Prof. Mustapha Aboumaarouf, attended the meeting and co-signed the contract in his capacity of Dean of the Faculty. Prof. El Kholti unveiled the dates of the Congress - 28 April to 3 May 2024 - and the theme will be "Enhancing Occupational Health Practices: Tackling the gap!". The ICOH2024 Congress President presented the budget development and fees, which will be around 650 € for ICOH members from industrialised countries, while a discounted fee of 50% will be applied to the ICOH members from developing countries; he also confirmed that 110,000 € will be allocated for securing attendance of ICOH members from developing countries. Finally, Prof. El Kholti announced the other collaborations, including the agreement reached with the French National Research and Safety Institute for the Prevention of Occupational Accidents and Diseases (INRS), for the organisation of the Congress.

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli thanked Prof. Aboumaarouf, Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Casablanca, Hassan II University of Casablanca, who was essential for granting 110,000 € to fund the participation of ICOH members from developing countries. The Secretary-General pointed out that this sum is extraordinary, since the amounts allocated in the past were around 65,000 € on average, per congress. Therefore, he proposed assigning the sums exceeding 65,000 € for the support of Moroccan participants. ICOH Vice President, Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, highlighted that the envisaged registration fees are very low compared to previous congresses. Dr. Kazutaka Kogi, ICOH Past President, who made the site visit to Morocco in 2015, requested information about the security of the area. Prof. El Kholti confirmed that there are currently no security issues.

Dr. Paul Schulte asked for confirmation of whether the number of rooms is sufficient for the breakout sessions. The Secretary-General clarified that it is likely that the Movenpick Hotel rooms will be rented for this purpose, considering that the hotel is within walking distance from the congress venue. After the clarifications given to the Board members, the Moroccan delegation left the room.

4. Report of Task Group on Information and Communication (BD7)

Prof. Kang reported on the goals of the Task Group (TG) on Information and on the communication activities. He provided an overview of the main information tools such as the website, the Newsletter and the social network service. The Vice President also recalled the ICOH Statement presented at the 72nd World Health Assembly (2019) and the ICOH Statement on Tuberculosis Elimination in Workers (2018). Dr. Takala opened the discussion and Prof. Frida Marina Fischer proposed establishing an ICOH YouTube channel. Dr. Olivier Lo suggested that videos of ICOH events should be broadcast and Dr. Rosa Orriols Ramos highlighted the importance of using Twitter as communication channel. Prof. Kang clarified that any content,



which reflects the ICOH official position, must be validated before being published on either YouTube or Twitter.

Decision:

- **The Report of the TG on Information and Communication was approved.**

5. Report of the Task Group on Membership

Prof. Iavicoli reviewed the data on membership, already presented the day before, during the joint meeting of Scientific Committee (SC) Officers and Board members. He highlighted the excellent results achieved in the first half of the triennium, with 91% of ICOH members having already renewed their affiliation as of January 2020; there are 1,561 members in good standing (GS). The Secretary-General also reported on the good performance of India, as the top country, both in terms of membership number and in terms of new members. Another consolidated result was the more balanced distribution of ICOH members from industrialised countries and from developing countries, also thanks to the newly adopted fee system, which is facilitating the accessibility for developing and transitory countries.

Prof. Iavicoli analysed the modes of payment used by the members, who mostly pay their membership dues electronically by credit card or PayPal. Direct bank transfer is used by 23% of the members. He also raised the idea of introducing mobile payments, which might facilitate payments for transitory and developing countries, especially in Africa. This new mode of payment must be consistent with the ICOH requirements on accountability and traceability of the funds. The data show that good results have been achieved in lowering the average age of members. Prof. Fischer pointed out that the membership profile may be improved if ICOH can proactively target not only the physicians, but also other professions in OHS, to become ICOH members.

Decision:

- **The Report of the TG on Membership was approved.**
- **The ICOH Secretariat will explore the possibility of introducing mobile payments.**

6. Reports of Working Groups (WGs)

WG on Future of Decent Work (BD9.1)

Dr. Schulte reported on the activities of the WG on the Future of Decent Work. The WG was very active during the first half of the triennium. The major work products for the triennium will be a white paper on the future of work and the development of communication materials derived from it. The white paper is being planned and developed in close collaboration with Prof. Fischer, who is the Chair of the WG on Demographic Changes and Occupational Health. Members of both WGs are contributing to the white paper. Dr. Kogi proposed a collaboration and discussion on this matter with the ILO.

Decision:

- **The Report of the WG on Future of Decent Work was approved.**

WG on Demographic Changes and Occupational Health (BD9.2)

Prof. Fischer summarised the aims and the actions of the WG. The main objective is to establish collaborative goals with the WG on Future of Decent Work, chaired by Dr. Schulte. Furthermore, the WG also mediates actions among several ICOH SCs on joint topics. Prof. Fischer gave an update on the future activities, which will be aimed at presenting an overview of the topics discussed during technical and scientific meetings. During the ICOH2021 Congress, joint sessions will be planned in order to present the topics related to the WG.

Decision:



- **The Report of the WG on Demographic Changes and Occupational Health was approved.**

WG on Implementation of the Global Strategy of Occupational Health for All, with a special reference to global ban of asbestos (BD9.3)

Dr. Kogi reported that the WG is currently compiling the recent developments in policies and approaches related to the tasks assigned by the President. ICOH has played a prominent role in contributing to the United Nations Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, 2019.

He highlighted that it is crucial to support extensive research and information dissemination to promote awareness-raising and application of practical measures to extend adequate occupational health services for preventing asbestos-related diseases. It is particularly important to integrate these actions into occupational health practice in every country. The ICOH2021 Congress and relevant SC conferences can play an important role in this respect.

Decision:

- **The Report of the WG on Implementation of the Global Strategy of Occupational Health for All, with a special reference to global ban of asbestos, was approved.**

WG on Revision of ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organisation (BD9.4)

Following the decision taken by the ICOH Board in Dublin on May 5, 2018, a WG was established to revise the ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organisation. This task was proposed as the existing guidelines were not truly reflective of everything that happens in the organisation of the ICOH congresses. Dr. Martin Hogan reported that the committee worked in cooperation with the President, Officers and the Secretariat of ICOH.

Given the geographical restrictions, all meetings were in the form of teleconferences/Skype calls. As a result of this joint work, amended versions of the Guidelines on Congress Organisation and of ICOH Bye-Law 7 were proposed and these were unanimously approved by the Board and are now available on the ICOH website for consultation. The main change was the establishment of three binding criteria for the organisation of the congresses. The important point was that these criteria will apply from before the bidding process all the way to the actual congress. A significant change was that only bidders who have the capacity to meet the criteria from the outset will be allowed to go forward to the election for the venue of the Congress.

The criteria were clear and transparent and, as before, there will still be a Board recommendation. The final decision on the venue of the congresses will as always be taken by the ICOH members.

Decision:

- **The Report of the WG on Revision of ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organisation was approved.**

WG on Occupational Cancer (BD9.5)

The objective of the WG was to widen and deepen the knowledge and actions to eliminate exposures at work leading to cancer. The main goal was to establish a global programme to reduce and gradually eliminate occupational cancer. Dr. Takala pointed out that actions and outputs have included research, scientific and other papers, editorials, posters and publications, conference presentations, contacts and discussions with international organisations WHO, ILO, EU, and their stakeholders, and with all interested institutions and policy makers. The ICOH President reported that the latest ILO global estimates on occupational cancer were released worldwide by the ILO; these were prepared under the overall guidance of ICOH at the ILO-ISSA World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health in Singapore.



He also reminded that the EU started a process called 'Roadmap of Carcinogens' in Amsterdam three years ago. The second Roadmap Conference, under the EU Presidency of Austria, asked ICOH to provide a keynote on "Carcinogens at work: A look into the future", in Vienna in September 2018. This was followed by the Helsinki Roadmap Conference under the EU Presidency of Finland in November 2019. The European Commission Directors and many other parties referred to ICOH data.

Decision:

- **The Report of the WG on Occupational Cancer was approved.**

These minutes reflect the general discussion and the decisions taken at the ICOH Midterm Meeting held in Rome on February 11-13, 2020. They will be approved electronically by the ICOH Officers and Board Members.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, which has spread in many countries and territories around the world since the beginning of the year and was declared a global pandemic by the WHO on March 11, 2020, the deadlines fixed in the minutes may be subject to adjustments, as required.