

International Commission on Occupational Health Meeting of the Officers and Board of ICOH

Time Saturday, 10 June 2006, 14.00–20.00
 Sunday, 11 June 2006, 9.00–12.50
Venue Fiera Milano, Turquoise Room 1

Participants Separate list

1. Opening of the Meeting

ICOH President, Professor Jorma Rantanen opened the Meeting of the Board and wished everybody warmly welcome to Milan and to the historical Centennial Congress and Meetings of ICOH.

Professor Marco Maroni welcomed the participants on behalf of the Local Organizers of the ICOH2006. He introduced the structure of the ICOH2006 Congress programme. The days started with keynote lectures, followed by semiplenary lectures, and continued in the afternoon with Special Sessions and Oral Presentations and Poster Sessions. There was a total of 700 oral presentations and 800 posters in the Congress.

He also indicated that there are several publications in the meeting materials, one on Keynote Lectures, another on abstracts of presentations, and a third special issue on the History of Occupational Health. He also described the events of the social programme: Opening Session on Sunday, La Scala theatre on Monday, Centennial Plenary on Tuesday, and Social Dinner on Wednesday.

Funding to support participants from developing countries was allocated according to pre-set criteria. More applications were received than could be accepted, and grants were provided for 70 experts. In the first phase, a total of 100,000 euros were allocated. Later, a further funding of USD 50,000 was received from the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. This was allocated to participants indicated by the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health and Development, comprising two special groups, one for Asian and Latin American countries, and the other for African countries.

2. Minutes of the ICOH Board Meeting, 27–29 January 2005

Decision: The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Minutes of the ICOH General Assemblies in Iguassu, February 2003

It was noted that in the Iguassu General Assembly only auditors and no vice-auditors were appointed. As it later turned out, the auditors could not complete their task because of changing regulations both in the EU and in Italy, and a new Auditor was appointed by the President in order to complete the auditing of the accounts. He consulted the Finance Committee and Board immediately as soon as the situation arose.

Decision: The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. President's Report

Jorma Rantanen introduced the President's Report and mentioned the six objectives of ICOH for 2003–2005.

1. Structuring the organization of ICOH
2. Strengthening alliances with WHO and ILO
3. Increasing membership and recruiting more young members
4. Carrying out internal and external information activities
5. Supporting the activities of the Scientific Committees
6. Preparing the Centennial events.

1. Structuring the organization of ICOH

A total of eight Committees, two Working Groups, three Networks, 35 Scientific Committees, and twelve Liaisons are an indication of the decentralized and fragmented organization of ICOH. This has created great challenges to the Leadership and Secretariat of ICOH as to how best coordinate the activities so that the actors can carry out their work on their own, but at the same time ensuring that information on the activities is reported, received and stored. This is to ensure that anybody can make use of the information. All the operative bodies, including each of the Scientific Committees were given a minimum set of objectives for the 2003–2006 tenure. The task groups and the Working Groups were provided with specific tasks and objectives with target times.

A standardized reporting system for all bodies was established. The idea was to facilitate the reporting of the Committees. The ready-made format should also speed up the reporting of the Scientific Committees. In general reporting was carried out well, with the exception of a few bodies.

2. Strengthening alliances with WHO and ILO

A large number of activities were carried out jointly with the World Health Organization and the International Labour Office during the past triennium. This is important for ICOH as the International Organizations offer a forum for system-wide global policy impact. As an example, the ILO Framework Convention on Occupational Safety and Health is expected to be approved by the International Labour Conference during this same week. ICOH's contribution was also mentioned in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, FCTC. In addition, Basic Occupational Health Services were widely disseminated, trained, and piloted as an ICOH/ILO/WHO collaboration during the triennium, e.g. in China.

Professor Rantanen reported on ICOH representation in regional-level activities of International Organizations, and noted that as there are many important events at the regional level where ICOH contribution is sought, the practice of appointing one ICOH Board Member to represent ICOH will be also utilized in the future. The contributions of Professor Tee Guidotti and Dr. Kazutaka Kogi in two regional meetings were gratefully acknowledged.

3. Increasing the membership

Next he briefly described the situation after the membership campaign. The results of the membership campaign were excellent. However, even though the situation is better than at the beginning of the triennium, more young members are needed at ICOH. All Scientific Committee events should be used for recruiting new members to ICOH.

4. Internal and external information

The Newsletter was revitalized immediately after the Iguassu meeting. It was decided that The Newsletter be published three times a year. ICOH's website was revised and the navigation was made more user-friendly.

5. Supporting Scientific Committees

It has been recognized the Scientific Committees sorely need financial support. The work of half of the Committees was deemed good, one third had exceeded the expectations, but one fifth was dormant. Something needs to be done about these dormant committees. Continuity, rotation and renewal of the Scientific Committees will be supported.

6. Centennial events

The Centennial events have been prepared and all the planned events are included in the ICOH2006 Congress programme.

Discussion

Kazutaka Kogi mentioned the Scientific Committee activities and referred to the wording of 'dormant committees' in the President's Report, and whether this should be clarified.

Tee Guidotti: Benefits from the Scientific Committees should be more clearly indicated. This would facilitate the participation of some members in the Scientific Committee activities.

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Richard Ennals: ICOH should improve its external visibility.

Decision: The President's Report was approved.

5. Report on the Scientific Committees

Vice-President Alain Cantineau reported on the Scientific Committee activities. A total of 50 meetings were organized by the Scientific Committees during the triennium. There were 14 inter-Committee activities altogether which were greatly appreciated. Three position papers were produced. All of the 35 Scientific Committees participated in the Milan Congress.

He acknowledged the communication difficulties among the Committees and the Officers, and also, relevance of the funding issues.

He also reported on the preparation of the Guidelines on Scientific Committees. Among other issues, the guidelines deal with the election process of the Committee Officers. The development of cross-activities among the Scientific Committees is discussed in the guideline. Position papers and key issues are to be published. Membership recruitment is also important.

Vice-President Cantineau expressed the following expectations from the Scientific Committees.

Action plan

- Reflection on topics

- Pesticides, asbestos diagnostics

Cooperation and networking

- Increasing activities towards developing countries

- More time for discussions

- Strengthening technology for better communication

Administration of Scientific Committees

Election of officers
Executive committee.

Discussion

Tee Guidotti: A feeling of participating in meaningful activities should be attached to the Scientific Committee activities. This would serve to attract more active members.

Ken Takahashi: We should look into the Scientific Committees which get along well on their own. We should ask what they can do for ICOH, as they are strong and attract many new members.

Tee Guidotti: Support services for the Scientific Committees should be strengthened, this could be crucial for improving the activities of some of the Committees.

Marco Maroni: The leadership in the Committees is vital.

Decisions:

1. The Report of the Vice-President was approved.
2. The Guidelines on Scientific Committees were left to be discussed and approved in the forthcoming Mid-term Meeting. Comments on further development of the guidelines were welcomed.

6. Reports of Task Groups

The Finance Committee

The Finance Committee Report was given by Tee Guidotti. The selection of the Vice-Auditors was approved by the Finance Committee. The funds of ICOH have been increased during the past few years, and the economy has been sound, providing a reasonable surplus. The Milan Congress outcome is crucial to the balance of ICOH. The funds of ICOH are safely invested in the bonds of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Republic of Austria. The resources of ICOH decreased in the triennium before 2000–2003.

The resources in the next triennium budget will be about the same as in 2003–2005. More funds are expected to be allocated to members from developing countries.

The possibility of finding potential sustaining members should be looked into because these are national institutions and are strong supporters of ICOH activities.

The Finance Committee could, in collaboration with some Scientific Committees, try to find out various ways to raise funds. The membership can be raised if we can meet the needs of potential members.

Less than one third of all ICOH members are members in some of the Scientific Committees.

Discussion:

Marco Maroni: The Scientific Committees should think of preparing guidelines as a vital activity. The guidelines are a good tool for attracting new members.

ICOH is grateful to ISPESL and the sustaining members, NIOSH, FIOH, and the other Scandinavian countries for their support to ICOH as sustaining members. The contributions and investment in ICOH activities have been crucial for keeping the economy of ICOH in good balance.

Decision: The Report of the Finance Committee was approved.

Task Group on Membership

The membership fee has been reduced to persons under 36 years of age. The ICOH desk in the ICOH2006 provides materials for new members. A total of 1,600 e-mail addresses have been compiled to enable contact with ICOH members via e-mail.

The National Secretaries were deemed key actors in recruiting new members to ICOH.

As the result of all membership campaigns, ICOH currently has 1,835 members, i.e. 609 new members have joined ICOH since the Iguassu Congress. We are back to the situation of the mid-1990s. After the mid-1990s, the number of members has continuously decreased, to be further increased.

It can be seen that the commitment of the Board Members has also had an impact in the increase of the membership. However, only 3% of ICOH members are below 30 years of age. This needs to be further increased.

Sergio Iavicoli reported on the survey made in Japan and Italy on potential members' expectations of ICOH. In the survey, one question aimed to clarify 'Why the person is not an ICOH member'. The results clearly indicate that people do not know enough about ICOH.

The member fees at present:

300 CHF for members from industrialized countries with GDP over USD 15,000

60 CHF for members from developing countries with GDP under USD 15,000

60 CHF for young members (< 36 years)

Decision: The Report on Membership was approved.

Task Group on Transparency

Petter Kristensen reported on the work of the Transparency Group. The Declaration on Conflict of Interest forms were sent to all Officers, Board Members, as well as to Chairs and Secretaries of the Scientific Committees by the Secretary General. A total of 87 forms were sent in all, responses were received from 75. All members who run for a position within ICOH should fill in these forms before they come into these positions (Officers, Board members, Chairs and Secretaries of the Scientific Committees).

It was reported that two cases of misconduct have been reviewed by the Transparency Committee, the Rylander case (Secretary of one Scientific Committee and his activities with a tobacco industry). Another was the Surbek case, where the person involved used his ICOH membership to promote his own enterprise. He has violated the Constitution of ICOH: he promised to delete all mention but he still uses his membership for promotion.

The ICOH rules are not complete: we need to look at the structure of the rules and Codes of Ethics. We do not have enough guidance from the rules on how to handle cases such as these. Sanctions are missing.

In case of Surbek further actions will be undertaken by the President and Secretary General.

Conclusions:

1. The threshold for sanctions in the present ICOH regulations is too high. If somebody is observed acting in an unhonourable or unethical way, ICOH should be able to act quickly on the basis of the rules.

2. It was concluded that we should have a more thorough run-through of the Code of Ethics, Constitution and Bye-Laws concerning these cases before making the final decision.
3. Each Officer, Scientific Committee Chair and Secretary and National Secretary must fill in the Declaration on Conflict of Interest form before becoming Officers within ICOH. It will not be published in connection with the candidacies. As soon as the Scientific Committee has made the proposal concerning the appointment of the Chair and Secretary these forms should be attached into the request for appointment (SC Chair) approval (SC Secretary) which will be addressed to the President.
4. Also, guidance on sponsorship issues is sorely needed.

Decisions:

1. The report of the Transparency Committee was approved.
2. The necessary amendments in the ICOH regulations and Code of Ethics will be prepared by the forthcoming Mid-term Meeting.

Task Group on Information

Suvi Lehtinen reported on the activities of the Task Group on Information. The main activity was to revitalize the ICOH Newsletter. In addition, the ICOH website was renewed and the navigation structure was improved. The Task Group on Information acted also as the Editorial Board of the Newsletter. The members were Tar Ching Aw, Sergio Iavicoli, René Mendes, Louis Patry, Ken Takahashi, and Suvi Lehtinen. Nine issues of the Newsletter were published. In addition, a new brochure to support also the recruitment of new members was produced, as well as the Triennial Report to act as information material on ICOH.

The Newsletter was funded from the President's strategic initiative funds as it was not covered by the 20032005 budget. The Newsletter was published in English with French summaries.

Discussion: In the discussion, the Board expressed its appreciation of the development of the information activities of ICOH.

Decisions:

1. Information activities will be continued and further developed.
2. Printed publications are also needed.
3. The template of the Scientific Committee websites will facilitate the establishment of the Scientific Committees' websites.
4. The report of the Task Group on Information was approved.

7. Working Group Reports

Working Group on Women and Work

Alain Cantineau reported on the activities carried out during the triennium. He reported that the activities of this Working Group started slowly. During the discussion and work of the Group, it has turned out that most problems related to women and work seem to be social rather than health issues.

It was reported that there is a research group in Japan on women and work. A Practical Guide on the Occupational Safety and Health of Working Women has been recently published in Japan. This work could be reviewed by the ICOH Working Group on Women and Work.

The Millennium Development Goals also include the gender issue, and ICOH should support this work. Including work/life balance in the Working Group plan is also important. This

approach should include both social and health approaches. The health element alone is not sufficient, and often health is dependent on its social determinants.

Discussion:

Tee Guidotti: Men at work are treated as individuals, women more on the basis of their roles in the work community.

Kaj Elgstrand: There has been a series of congresses on women, work and health: The focus of these meetings has been the very issues that we also wish to focus on within ICOH. The work of these should be combined and synergies found.

Decisions:

1. The Working Group on Women and Work will continue and be made comprehensive, utilizing all aspects of women work and health.
2. The outcome should be proceedings of a meeting. Both the health dimension and social aspects as health determinants will be examined.

Working Group on Occupational Infectious Agents

Ruddy Facci reported on the activities of this Working Group. TB, SARS, Hepatitis, and HIV/AIDS were the topics that the Working Group on Occupational Infectious Agents decided to look into. The group convened a couple of times. Because of the lack of funds it could not meet more often, even though this would have been needed. The work and its costs need to be included in the ICOH budget. A proposal has been made to organize a joint meeting with the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health for Health Care Workers in Vancouver in 2007.

Decisions:

1. The Group on Occupational Infectious Agents will be continued.
2. Funding will be requested from national institutions that are involved in this activity. ICOH could also look for funds from external sources to carry out this activity.
3. Preparing a declaration is the first target. A good document by the Cape Town Congress is expected.

Child labour

Alain Cantineau reported that WHO and ISPESL organized a meeting in Fiuggi in 2004 in presence of ILO IPEC. The definition of child labour was then discussed. Toxicological impacts on the physiology of children were looked into. The meeting conclusions included the conclusion on the development of research on health consequences of child and adolescent work.

There is evidence on accident risks of teen-agers. In addition, information on toxic effects on working children's health is available. A state-of-the-art report on the health consequences of child labour is expected.

Richard Ennals informed the participants that the UK National Secretary David Harrison has been working on this topic. Alain Cantineau was encouraged to contact David Harrison in order to get more information.

Decisions:

1. Child labour activity will be continued.
2. Health aspects will be looked into. Input will be given to IPEC, academic circles will be searched for alliances to improve the knowledge basis.

3. A state-of-the-art report should be the outcome of the Working Group activity. This report should be given to ILO and WHO in due course for further actions at the global level.

Centennial Committee

Jorma Rantanen reported on the work of the Centennial Committee. The following events have been planned.

Centennial Opening on 11 June 2006 in connection with the Opening of ICOH2006
The Centennial Declaration has been prepared and will be signed in the Opening Ceremonies.
Centennial Plenary Session on the birthday of ICOH on 13 June 2006
The historical events were designed and prepared: Thesaurus on all ICOH Congresses organized so far, history booklet on ICOH 100 years, and a CD-ROM on ICOH organizational history.
Three types of Awards will be allocated: Centennial Awards, Distinguished Scientific Awards and ICOH Activity Awards.

Centennial Awards were allocated to the Clinica del Lavoro, Sven Hernberg, and Jerry Jeyaratnam.

Distinguished Awards were allocated to former Presidents of ICOH and to four Presidents of ICOH Congresses.

ICOH Activities Awards were allocated to out-going Chairs of Scientific Committees.

Sergio Iavicoli presented the CD-ROM on the organizational history of the ICOH activities based on original documents.

Ruddy Facci invited all the Board members to attend the ICOH Celebration on 29 September 2006, to be organized in Brazil.

Decisions:

1. The report was approved.
2. The Board accepted the planned events.

8. Report on National Secretaries

Vice-President Ruddy Facci reported on the activities carried out to improve the work of the National Secretaries. Several meetings were organized during the triennium. A model for the National Secretaries' report was created. A comprehensive slide show on ICOH was prepared for the use of Officers and National Secretaries. The slideshow can be utilized by the National Secretaries for presenting ICOH activities and recruiting new members.

Discussion:

The National Secretaries know their constituents well, and are aware of the conditions in their countries. A Regional Secretary covering several countries may not necessarily know the conditions in individual countries. If we have Regional Secretaries, it is important that they are aware of the situation in the countries in their Region. Also at the national level, the selection of one person as a National Secretary may exclude some other groups because of the competitive situation in a specific country. This should be looked into.

Conclusions:

1. The system of the National Secretaries has been substantially developed in 2003–2005.

2. For countries that have only a couple of members it would be possible to join forces with some existing regional organizations so that their Secretary Generals might act as regional secretaries for ICOH.
3. The possibility of appointing Regional Secretaries will be examined.

Decisions:

1. Efforts for the further development of the National Secretary system will be considered.
2. The terms of reference and status of the Regional Secretaries will be defined and the Bye-Laws renewed.
3. All National Secretaries shall fill in the Declaration of Conflict of Interest.

9. Liaisons

WHO-ILO relationships

Reported in connection with the President's Report. See the Triennial report.

Liaisons with NGOs

IEA is eager to strengthen its collaboration with ICOH. A practical guideline on occupational health practice is being finalized in collaboration with IEA and ICOH. This guideline is intended for developing countries in particular.

IOHA is an association whose members are federations of associations. IOHA is also interested in collaboration, and they have made a proposal to develop a more multidisciplinary curriculum for experts through collaboration between ICOH and IEA. The curriculum comprises ergonomics, medicine and occupational hygiene and is standardized stepwise for different categories.

IEA-ILO collaboration has produced a guideline on Ergonomic checkpoints. The second edition will be completed this year. The 'Ergonomic checkpoint for agriculture' will be published this year. This has been translated into 15 languages.

Decisions:

1. The reports were approved.
2. Practical collaboration will be further strengthened with the sister NGOs and International Organizations, aiming at practical products.
3. The collaboration with Collegium Ramazzini will be continued on an ad-hoc basis.

10. Proposal for Honorary Members

As a part of the Centennial Events, the Board makes the proposal on honorary members for the approval of the General Assembly. Those proposed are:

Bengt Knave, Sweden, former President, President of ICOH1996

Jean-Francois Caillard, France, former President, President of ICOH1993

Toshiteru Okubo, Japan, former President of UOEH, Chair of the SC on Education and Training

Antonio Werner, Argentina, Key person for ICOH activities in Latin America, life-long research and training career in occupational health

Kitta Rossi, Finland, former Board Member, former Chair of Scientific Committee on Occupational Health Nursing

Vito Foa, Italy, President of ICOH2006, Scientific Committee on Toxicology, life-long career on research and education in occupational health

Giovanni Berlinguer, Italy, Keynote speaker in ICOH2003, Chair of UNESCO Committee in Bioethics

Hubert Kahn, long-term ICOH Member, renewal of the Estonian occupational health service legislation, training of generations of occupational health experts.

Decision: The proposal was approved to be presented to the General Assembly.

11. Information on the Election of ICOH Officers and Board

Sergio Iavicoli presented the schedule for the work of the Scrutinizing Committee.

The results will be officially announced in the General Assembly 2 on Friday, 16 June 2006.

12. Voting on the venue of the ICOH2012

Four bids were presented to the ICOH: Australia, Mexico, Morocco and the United Kingdom.

1. Ian Eddington presented the Australian bid. The main arguments were: Professional background, profitability of congresses, multicultural environment.

2. Jorge Morales presented the Mexican bid. There are three organizations behind the bid – NIOSH, USA and IAPA, Canada. The countries have various societal and economical structures. Monterrey was mentioned as the second safest city in Latin America.

3. Abdeljalil El Kholti presented the Moroccan bid together with the Minister of Employment.

4. John Harrison presented the UK bid. Arguments given were: Renaissance of ICOH in UK, The occupational health agenda, Government commitment, both academic and professional excellence, providing profit for ICOH, offering low registration fees, how to organize safe and OHS to all, 130,000 euros reserved for participants from developing countries. Scott Taylor: Marketing team, described the meeting facilities: single point of entry to city, well connected, process of flight tickets. An integrated conference site. Excellent infrastructure, economic security, affordable, accessible. Calculations on the registration fee had been made on the basis of 2,000 participants.

5. Those officers who had visited the places explained their observations. Alain Cantineau visited Australia, and he also explained the logistics and practical facilities of Morocco.

Sergio Iavicoli visited Mexico. He met with federal authorities, the city looked safe, 2-hour drive from the border of USA, the capacity for networking, support from NIOSH, and IAPA, Canada.

Ruddy Facci visited Glasgow, a good team, three universities, good convention centre with capacity to support ICOH. The hotels are close to the Convention Centre, as is the airport.

After the presentations by the bidding committees and after hearing the officers' observations on site visits, the Board carried out the ballot voting.

The criteria for the selection of the venue for ICOH2012 were

- professional strength
- occupational health situation in the country
- technical facilities, logistics, feasibility
- economic capacity
- geographical rotation.

The four Congresses organized before the 30th ICOH Congress

2000 Singapore	Asia
2003 Iguassu	South America
2006 Milan	Europe
2009 Cape Town	Africa

The Board voted on secret ballots in order to find the largest number of votes for a single bid. First round of votes: Mexico 6, Morocco 6, Australia 5, UK 2. As the first round resulted in equal support of two bids (Mexico and Morocco), the Board voted again between these two bids.

The results of the second round were: Mexico 10, Morocco 9.

Decisions:

1. The Board decided to recommend Mexico as the venue for ICOH2012 Congress.
2. The Board was informed that the President had appointed a Group of Scrutineers for counting the votes for ICOH Congress venue in 2012. The members were Toshiteru Okubo, Chair, Eduardo Santino, David Kocks, and Sergio Iavicoli.

13. Financial update and budget 2003-2005, and auditors report

Sergio Iavicoli reported that membership fees were increased during the previous period. The overall income was 20% more than forecast. The funding allocated for the Scientific Committees was almost totally used up.

Most of the costs were predicted, some of the money can be saved, and used in the next budget.

The Auditors Report will be presented for approval by the General Assembly.

Decision: The Board approved the proposal by the Secretary General.

14. The Network on Communication and Information Technologies

The Network on Communication and Information Technologies in Occupational Health and Safety was established to stimulate the exchange of information. Plans for the next year are slightly ambitious. The target for the Network membership is 250. Seminars will be organized in connection with the Congress in Seoul, Korea, where the National Safety Councils have their meeting. Intervention practices and communication are among the topics. A morning seminar is planned. The 'Things that Sizzle' Symposium organized in Philadelphia in 2002 will be repeated in 2008.

Overall, the Network welcomes Scientific Committees and they are encouraged to work closely together with the Training and Education Committee.

The website is being set up, however, more personnel resource are needed to maintain it.

Decision: The Board approved the report.

15. Constitution and Bye-Laws

The President explained the changes in the Constitution as proposed by the Mid-term Board Meeting in January 2005 for approval by the General Assembly.

Constitution: Article 2

There is a new wording for the article concerning the right and duties of the members. It was noted that this article could be utilized in the interpretation of the conduct of member behaviours.

Article 6: International Congresses was also slightly changed.

16. Election of Officers

The schedule for election of Officers was described by Sergio Iavicoli.

The ballots were sent in February 2006. There were a total of 25 nominations for Board membership. 1,726 ballots were sent, of which 710 were returned. 650 were accepted, 58 came late, and 2 were anonymous.

Decisions:

1. The Secretary General's report was noted.
2. The President announced that he had appointed a Scrutinizing Committee for counting the ballots for the Officers' election: Jerry Jeyaratnam, Chair, Sergio Iavicoli, Tar Ching Aw, and Norito Kawakami.

17. Task Group on Language Matters

Tar Ching Aw reported on the work of the Task group on Language Matters. He mentioned that in addition to the English and French versions of the core documents they are now also available in Japanese, Spanish, and Portuguese translations.

Abdeljalil El Kholti had a draft of the ICOH Constitution in Arabic, which could be put on the ICOH website. Tar Ching Aw noted that a disclaimer needs to be put on any translations that are not official languages of ICOH. Translation of the key documents into Chinese is under preparation. This has been agreed upon with Professor Hua Fu. When the translations are ready, a quality check should be made before printing.

The question was asked: How should the Language Group continue? The core documents of ICOH: the Constitution and Bye-Laws, and Code of Ethics are important documents, which should be translated. Greek and Turkish translations are also under preparation. German translations are expected. The possibility of translation into Russian was also brought up.

Decisions:

1. The report of the Task Group on Language Matters was approved.
2. The President and the Secretary General will examine the process of translation in the future.

18. Other issues

- Vice-President Ruddy Facci proposed to organize a group of previous ICOH Congress Presidents to advise on the organization of the *ICOH Congress*. The ICOH Triennial Congress is a major event, orientation and advice is sorely needed for any country and city that takes the responsibility for organizing the ICOH World Congress.

Decisions:

1. This proposal was taken positively.
2. The President will appoint a Group of previous ICOH Congress Presidents.

- Tee Guidotti made a proposal for improving the publishing of ICOH scientific papers and publications by making a more permanent agreement with the Archives of Occupational and Environmental Health. The Journal could act as a publishing forum for the Scientific Committees. Networking relationships could also be looked into. The publisher has expressed its interest to also publish in French.

It was noted that ICOH needs to look into this issue very carefully, because there has been some experiments of similar type in the past which have not proven successful.

Decision:

1. The examination of the proposal on the Journal issue was delegated to the Task Group on Information.
- The President referred to the IOHA-IEA-ICOH training proposal. Within the IEA Congress in Maastricht, future collaboration will be discussed in more detail. Dr. Kogi will represent ICOH in this meeting.

Decision: The implementation of the IOHA proposal will be organized on ICOH's behalf by Dr. Kogi with the help of the Scientific Committee on Education and Training.

- Hua Fu proposed that ICOH pay more attention to India. Training is another area where ICOH should be more active. Distance learning possibilities are also an option.

Decision: The President informed the meeting participants that India has asked for BOHS approach, and this should be started with a WHO high-level visit to India.

- The President thanked the outgoing >>Board members for a very effective and active tenure. Those who will continue in the next Board were encouraged to continue in the same way, to work for ICOH and workers' health throughout the world.
- The President presented sincere thanks to the outgoing Senior Vice President Ruddy Facci for his outstanding and full- tenure services for ICOH and expressed a wish that Ruddy will work further for ICOH in new capacities. He also promised to return to the issue later on in the Congress days.

Special thanks to Dr. Suvi Lehtinen and Ms. Daniela Fano for their precious collaboration in the writing of the minutes.

Annex 1 - Participants list

Officers:

Prof. Jorma Rantanen (Finland) - ICOH President
 Prof. Alain Cantineau (France) - ICOH Vice-President
 Dr. Ruddy Facci (Brazil) - ICOH Vice-President
 Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) - ICOH Secretary General

Board Members:

Mr. Ian Eddington (Australia)
 Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti (Morocco)
 Mr. Kaj Elgstrand (Sweden)
 Prof. Richard Ennals(United Kingdom)
 Prof. Hua FU (China) from Sunday June 11

Prof. Tee Lee Guidotti (USA)
Prof. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan)
Dr. Petter Kristensen (Norway)
Ms. Suvi Lehtinen (Finland)
Prof. Marco Maroni (Italy)
Prof. Renè Mendes (Brazil)
Prof. Louis Patry (Canada) from Sunday June 11
Prof. Gustav Schacke (Germany) from Sunday June 11
Prof. Ken Takahashi (Japan)
Tar Chin Aw (United Kingdom) from Sunday June 11