



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

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## **Meeting of the ICOH Board 2015-2018 Session 1**

**April 28, 2018  
Dublin, Ireland**

**Time:** Saturday, 28 April 2018, 14.00 – 19.00

**Venue:** Winter Hall room, Royal College of Physicians – 6 Kildare Street, Dublin - Ireland

**Participants:** **Dr. Jukka Takala (Finland)** – ICOH President  
**Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy)** – ICOH Secretary General  
**Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA)** – ICOH Vice President  
**Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (Rep. of Korea)** – ICOH Vice President  
**Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan)** – ICOH Past President  
**Prof. Andrew Curran (United Kingdom)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Elia Enriquez (Mexico)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Mats Hagberg (Sweden)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Martin Hogan (Ireland)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Dingani Moyo (Zimbabwe)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Rosa Maria Orriols Ramos (Spain)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Christophe Paris (France)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Shrinivas Murlidhar Shanbhag (India)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Malcolm Sim (Australia)** – ICOH Board Member

**Mr. Carlo Petyx (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Ms. Erika Cannone (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Ms. Valeria Boccuni (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Mr. Pasquale Fruscella (Italy)** – ICOH Staff

**Apologies:** **Dr. Dag Ellingsen (Norway)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Monique Frings-Dresen (The Netherlands)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Seichi Horie (Japan)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Robert Orford (USA)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Kari Reijula (Finland)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Edoardo Santino (Brazil)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Ms. Maria Luisa Tupia Gonzales (Peru)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Jukka Vuori (Finland)** - ICOH Board Member



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### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The President of ICOH, Dr. Jukka Takala, opened the meeting welcoming all the participants. Dr. Takala offered his thanks to the ICOH2018 Congress Organizers for the excellent preparation of the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Occupational Health and wished everybody a successful and productive congress.

### 2. Approval of the minutes of the ICOH Board Meetings held in Florence on March 14-15, 2017

The minutes of the activities and decisions from the last Midterm Meeting held in Florence (March 14-15, 2017) were circulated among the ICOH Board members for comments and amendments and then made available on the ICOH website.

#### **Decision:**

- The Minutes were approved unanimously.

### 3. Approval of the minutes of the ICOH General Assembly held in Seoul in 2015

The minutes of the ICOH2015 General Assembly were circulated among the ICOH Officers and Board members for comments and amendments and then published on the ICOH website.

#### **Decision:**

- The Minutes were approved unanimously.

### 4. President's Report

ICOH President, Dr. Jukka Takala, briefly reported on the activities carried out during the triennium, and he referred to his written report included in the ICOH Triennial Report 2015-2017 for a more exhaustive description. He took the opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work done by Ms. Suvi Lehtinen in editing the Triennial Report.

The implementation of ICOH plans and priorities is progressing well in terms of engagement and good connection with the key organizations, in particular, the ILO and WHO.

An important project he was personally involved in was the *ICOH/ILO Global Estimates on Occupational Accidents and Work-related Diseases*. The project was carried out by the International Labour Organization (ILO), ICOH, EU-OSHA, the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Singapore Ministry of Manpower, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) and the WSH Institute in Singapore. ICOH managed the overall scientific coordination of the project. The outcomes of the Global Estimates were released by the ILO Director General during the 21<sup>st</sup> World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, which was held in Singapore September 3-6, 2017.

Another ICOH priority is the development of occupational health services. ICOH-promoted progress has been noted in several countries and regions, as also demonstrated by the results of the ICOH survey *Occupational Health Services for all. A global survey on OHS in selected countries of ICOH members* (Rantanen et al., 2017).

Dr. Takala also stressed the importance of the collaboration with ICOH Institutional, Sustaining and Affiliate members and called for exploring new ways and opportunities to keep active and increase these kinds of partnerships in the next triennium.



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Finally Dr. Takala expressed his cordial thanks to the ICOH Board, Vice Presidents and Secretary General, as well as to the Chairs and members of Task Groups (TGs), Working Groups (WGs) and the ICOH Secretariat staff for the work done during the triennium.

### **Decisions:**

- The President's report was approved unanimously.

## 5. Report on Scientific Committees

Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut, ICOH Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees (SCs), reported on the key activities of the tenure 2015-2017. All 37 SCs were active during the triennium. Thirty-six of the 37 SCs organized or participated in at least one conference, resulting in 96 conferences offered globally during this period. Many SCs jointly co-sponsored conferences with other SCs and authored some publications.

Dr. Fingerhut submitted to the Board the following SC requests to change name:

1. SC Occupational Health for Healthcare Workers  
Name change to Occupational Health for Health Workers (OHHW)
2. SC Health Services Research and Evaluation in Occupational Health  
Name change to SC Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services (EOHS)

The Board members unanimously approved the changes.

Dr. Fingerhut also remarked on the contributions by the SCs to the scientific programme of the Dublin Congress. SCs recommended many of the 10 Plenary and 32 Semi-plenary speakers; they organized 94 of the 106 Special Sessions involving invited speakers. SC members peer reviewed about 1500 abstracts submitted by attendees. Finally, Dr. Fingerhut recalled the new tools implemented in the SCs Virtual Office during the triennium and expressed appreciation to the ICOH Secretariat for its technical assistance during the triennium.

### **Decisions:**

- The Board approved the request of the SC Occupational Health for Healthcare Workers to change name to Occupational Health for Health Workers (OHHW);
- The Board approved the request of the SC Health Services Research and Evaluation in Occupational Health to change name to SC Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services (EOHS);
- The Report on SCs was approved unanimously.

## 6. Report on activities of National/Area Secretaries

Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, ICOH Vice President in charge of the National/Area Secretaries (NSs), informed the ICOH Board of the NSs triennial activities. A total of 56 NSs were appointed for the triennium 2015-2017. Prof. Kang recalled the main tasks of the NSs and their strategic role in terms of membership recruitment at country level. Special efforts were made by many NSs to introduce ICOH and to recruit new members, particularly at the annual conferences of the occupational health associations/society of their respective countries. During the period 2015-2017, NSs were asked to jointly hold their regional meetings with regional occupational health meetings. The meetings were held in Johannesburg, South Africa; Kaohsiung, Taiwan, China; and Antigua, Guatemala. As for the communication exchange process, Prof. Kang noted that feedback from NSs was not very active and the use of the ICOH website Virtual Office was lower than in the previous triennium. Further development of multidirectional communication should be pursued in the forthcoming triennium in order to increase the communication with Officers and the Secretariat, the utilization of the ICOH website and the linkage with SCs on activities and conferences. Finally, Prof. Kang stressed the



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importance of having a meeting of old and new NSs during the ICOH2018 Congress as a unique opportunity for experience-sharing among the current NSs and the new candidates. Dr. Fingerhut took this opportunity to remind the participants that a meeting of old and new SC Chairs (and/or Secretaries) will also take place during the Congress for the same purpose. As additional comment, Prof. Iavicoli mentioned the monograph *Occupational Health Services for all. A global survey on OHS in selected countries of ICOH members* by Jorma Rantanen, Suvi Lehtinen and himself as a useful publication to better understand NSs' views and needs and as an important source of information about occupational safety and health (OSH) in different countries.

### **Decision:**

- The Report on activities of National/Area Secretaries was approved unanimously.

## 7. Report of the Task Group on Membership

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli reported on the achievements of the Task Group on Membership and on the main tasks carried out during the triennium according to the 2015–2017 work plan. Firstly, he pointed out the continuous growth of the membership starting from 2000, as shown by the final figures indicating a total number of 1,976 ICOH members in good standing at the end of the triennium (best performance since 2000). The NSs were more actively involved in the membership renewal campaign with very positive effects. Prof. Iavicoli showed the leading countries in ICOH membership and highlighted the best results achieved in USA, Japan, Italy, Peru and India. For the first time, members from developing countries (53%) exceeded members from industrialized countries (47%), also thanks to the new fee system approved in Seoul in 2015, which mainly encouraged people from low-income countries to join ICOH. Prof. Iavicoli expressed particular appreciation for the 20 Sustaining members of ICOH, whose support is strategic for ICOH in-kind activities. Then Prof. Iavicoli reported on the ICOH Survey project. The questionnaire was administered to all members in good standing with a response rate of 20%. The preliminary results of the study will be presented in the Poster Session during the Congress. As a next step, a deeper analysis will be conducted in the next triennium in order to investigate potential statistical differences among ICOH members belonging to different groups according to socio-demographic variables. The outputs will also contribute to identifying needs and perceptions of members with respect to ICOH commitment in the OSH sector and to improve the scientific activities of the organization in the coming years. Finally, Prof. Iavicoli illustrated the ICOH Heritage Repository Project carried out in collaboration with INAIL. Over 18000 abstracts (1906-2015) were made available in pdf. format together with all the proceedings of the congresses, about 45000 authors were listed. The final release of the Repository is due in December 2018 and will result in the most comprehensive collection on OH available on the web. A lively discussion followed the Secretary General's report. Main suggestions arising from the debate were: to show promotional presentations with ICOH updated figures more systematically during ICOH conferences and events; to identify motivated NSs as key figures of the membership campaign; to encourage ICOH collaboration with local or regional associations and academic institutions; to increase members' retention.

### **Decision:**

- The Report of Task Group on Membership was approved unanimously.

## 8. Report of Finance Committee

Dr. Elia Enriquez reported on the activities of the Finance Committee. The remittance of the ICOH2015 extra fees was executed in accordance with the institutional rules. The amount transferred to ICOH was 111,234 CHF. The new fee system was approved by the General Assembly during ICOH2015 Congress and adopted for the triennium 2015-2017 on an experimental basis. It was developed in order to increase accessibility for developing countries and to extend benefits to retired and young members from all countries. The new system did not affect the overall income which registered a slight increase, as planned. The other goal



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achieved was the increase in membership from low-income countries. The 2015-2017 budget shows that as of October 31, 2017 incomes reached 98.4% of the estimated budget, whereas expenditures were about 78%. General trends are secure as they reflect those of previous triennia. In December 2017, BDO completed the audit process and expressed a positive opinion on the ICOH accounting. The identification of new potential sources of income is constantly under investigation. One option could be related to the events organized by SCs during the triennial period and, similarly to the mechanism used for triennial congresses, SCs may develop a system of extra-fees to fund themselves. This issue will be investigated further in the next triennium.

### **Decision:**

- The Report of the Finance Committee was approved unanimously.

## 9. Financial Update and Budget 2015–2017 and Auditors' report

Prof. Iavicoli presented the interim budget from December 1, 2014 to June 5, 2015 and the triennial budget 2015–2017. These were audited by BDO according to international standards. The Auditors' report states: *"In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the International Commission on Occupational Health as of October 31, 2017 and of the results of its operations and cash flows for the period then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union."*

Then Prof. Iavicoli raised the issue of the appointment of new Auditor and Vice Auditor. Three leading international companies submitted their quotations: PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Ernst & Young (EY) and BDO. On the basis of costs calculation, the Secretary General submitted to the Board the proposal to elect BDO as Auditor and PwC as Vice Auditor for the next triennium. The Board agreed with the proposal, which will be presented to the General Assembly for final approval in execution of art. 4, section 1 of the Constitution. Finally, Prof. Iavicoli gave an update on the interim budget (November 1, 2017 to May 4, 2018).

### **Decisions:**

- The budget 2015–2017 and the interim budget from December 1, 2014 to June 5, 2015 were approved unanimously.
- The Board approved the proposal to elect BDO as Auditor and PwC as Vice Auditor for the next triennium. The proposal will be presented to the General Assembly for final approval.

## 10. Report of the Task Group on Information and Communication

Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang reported on the triennial work of the TG according to the tasks set by the President. He provided an overall description of the ICOH instruments for information and communication. As for the Social Network Service (SNS), ICOH communicates with its members and other OSH professionals also with popular SNS such as Facebook, twitter and Wikipedia. However, the number of followers is still low. The members seem to be unaware of such technologies, which are more familiar to the younger generations. Finally, Prof. Kang reported on the Newsletter on behalf of the Editor in Chief, Dr. Eun-A Kim. According to the publishing plan, eight editions were published between December 2015 and December 2017. During this period, the "Message from the President" in each issue delivered important key points, such as main strategies and the global role of ICOH. In the second issue of 2016, the new section "Message from the Secretary General" was introduced to deliver recent information to the members. The Editors tried to encourage the SCs and NCs to report on news regarding not only upcoming events, but also any achievements and challenges. News from members has been increasing recently. From 2017, a new 'corner' has been launched for young scientists or student members. Prof. Iavicoli took the floor to give an update on the ICOH website. He showed some figures related to website use: about 50,000 users from different countries (top five countries were USA, India, Brazil, Italy and UK), and the main contents displayed were the





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homepage, event sections and the “Member Corner”. Almost all NSs signed up to the Virtual Office, while the SC Officers should be further encouraged to use it. Also, the use of the ICOH App increased during the triennium. Finally, Prof. Iavicoli raised the issue of twitter. ICOH twitter account is managed personally by Dr. Max Lum from NIOSH, USA (@ICOHBuzz) but it is not clearly recognizable as the organization’s account. It emerged from the Board discussion that there is interest in investigating an ICOH twitter institutional account, and evaluating how to link this advantageous opportunity of social media to the organization’s objectives.

### **Decisions:**

- The General Secretariat was given the task of exploring how to open and manage a twitter institutional account.
- The Report of the TG on Information was approved.

## 11. Report of the Task Group on Ethics and Transparency

Prof. Malcolm Sim, Chair of the TG on Ethics and Transparency, gave a brief update of the report presented in Florence during the Midterm Meeting, as the main activities of the TG were carried out in the first part of the triennium. A late request was submitted to the organisers of the ICOH2018 Congress to present a special session on the ICOH Code of Ethics and related topics in relation to professional practice and research in occupational health. Due to a very full programme, it was not possible to include such a session. However, Prof. Sim informed that this topic will be proposed to the organisers of the ICOH2021 Congress as a special session or workshop for that Congress. ICOH President stressed the importance of always keeping the ethics issue high on the ICOH agenda.

### **Decision:**

- The Report of the TG on Ethics and Transparency was approved unanimously.

## 12. Report of the Task Group on Constitution, Bye-Laws and Guidelines

Dr. Takala made a follow up of the main issues dealt with by the TG during the triennium 2015-2017:

1. During the Florence Midterm Meeting the Board approved the amendment of the ICOH Constitution in order to introduce the electronic vote. These amendments will be proposed to the ICOH2018 General Assembly for final approval, therefore they would be in force, starting from the next triennium.
2. During the Florence Midterm Meeting the Board agreed to include a new Bye-Law on the use of the ICOH logo. The amendment was drafted by the Officers to set out the conditions and procedures for the use the ICOH logo at international events involving the Officers, Board members, SCs or NSs, as the event organizers or speakers.

### **Decision:**

- The report of the TG on Constitution, Bye-Laws and Guidelines was approved unanimously.

## 13. Proposal for Honorary Members election

Prof. Iavicoli presented the five ICOH members to be proposed to the ICOH General Assembly for election as honorary members, in recognition of their long-lasting contribution to ICOH and occupational health.

- Dr. Edith Clarke, Ghana
- Prof. Masayuki Ikeda, Japan



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- Ms. Suvi Lehtinen, Finland
- Dr. Jorge A. Morales Camino, Mexico
- Prof. Antonio Mutti, Italy

### **Decision:**

- The Board decided to submit the five proposals to the General Assembly for the election.

## 14. ICOH Statements on TB

Dr. Fingerhut reported on the ICOH commitment to promote OSH strategies to prevent tuberculosis (TB) in high-risk occupations such as workers in the health sector (HW-TB) and silica dust exposed workers in mining, construction and other industries (Silica-TB). Despite decades of global efforts to end TB, it is still 9<sup>th</sup> in the top ten causes of death globally, with 10.4 million new cases occurring in 2016. ICOH seeks to bring governments, decision makers, and global health funders on board to recognize that health workers and workers exposed to silica dust are at significantly increased risk for TB and that this occupational risk can be reduced through comprehensive strategies.

To engage partners, including OSH organizations, employers, unions, etc., and to take these efforts forward, evidence is presented and suggestions are offered in two ICOH Statements.

1. Preventing Tuberculosis Among Silica Dust Exposed Workers
2. Preventing TB among Health Workers

The two draft statements were accepted by the ICOH Officers for submission when finalized to the ICOH Board for approval. Perry Gottesfeld, Director OK International and colleagues prepared the Silica-TB draft ICOH Statement. Erik Jørs, Chair SC MinOSH and Knut Ringen, Chair SC Construction reviewed it. Sophie Kisting, Director NIOH South Africa and colleagues prepared the HW-TB draft ICOH Statement. Gwen Brachman, Secretary SC HCW and Mary Ross, Chair ICOH Working Group Occupational Infectious Agents (WGOIA) reviewed it. The intent of each Statement is to provide a short document outlining key evidence and practical recommendations to facilitate inclusion of OSH in the UN TB resolution and ICOH's participation at the first ever UN General Assembly Meeting on TB in September 2018, and to bring this issue to the attention of global health funders and policymakers.

### **Decisions:**

- The ICOH Statement 'Preventing Tuberculosis among Silica Dust Exposed Workers' was approved and posted on the ICOH website.
- The ICOH Statement 'Preventing TB among Health Workers' was approved and posted on the ICOH website.

## 15. Issues related to the Elections of ICOH Officers and Board members, Scrutineers Committee Appointment

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli described to the Board members the procedure related to the election of ICOH Officers and Board members. The procedure adopted was in line with the ICOH rules: the Call for Election was published in the ICOH Newsletter and on the website by April 29, 2017, then the candidatures were submitted by September 15, 2017 and finally the curricula were made available on the ICOH website starting from October 2017, and published in the ICOH Newsletter 2-2017. The ballots were sent out in October 2017 to all ICOH members in good standing (as at April 29, 2017), i.e. one year before the beginning of the Congress - and the deadline for voting and returning the ballots to ICOH Secretariat General was fixed at March 29, 2018, i.e. one month before the beginning of the Congress, as stated in the ICOH rules.

Prof. Iavicoli highlighted the special measures adopted by the ICOH Secretariat in order to facilitate voting procedures: the ballots were shipped earlier than in the past (5 months before the returning deadline);



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a reminder was sent to all voters; NSs were contacted to monitor correct receipt of ballots in their country; DHL shipments to NSs were done where needed (Ghana, Nepal, Venezuela, Panama, India). As a result, the voting rate was 37.9%.

ICOH Secretary General informed the Board members about the ballot counting planned for May 2, 2018 in the presence of the Scrutineers Committee composed by the following members: Dr. Jorge A. Morales Camino (Chairperson), Dr. Pat Lee, Prof. Mary Ross, Dr. Elia Enriquez and Dr. Shrinivas Shanbhag with the assistance of the Secretary General, Prof. Sergio Iavicoli.

**Decision:**

- The Board unanimously approved the proposal and the Committee of Scrutineers was appointed by the President.





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## **Meeting of the ICOH Board 2015-2018** **Session 2**

**April 29, 2018**  
**Dublin, Ireland**

**Time:** Sunday, 29 April 2018, 08.15 – 12.10

**Venue:** Liffey Meeting Room 2, Convention Centre Dublin (CCD), Spencer Dock, N Wall Quay, North Dock, Dublin 1, Ireland

**Participants:** **Dr. Jukka Takala (Finland)** – ICOH President  
**Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy)** – ICOH Secretary General  
**Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA)** – ICOH Vice President  
**Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (Rep. of Korea)** – ICOH Vice President  
**Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan)** – ICOH Past President  
**Prof. Andrew Curran (United Kingdom)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Dag Ellingsen (Norway)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Elia Enriquez (Mexico)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Martin Hogan (Ireland)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Seichi Horie (Japan)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Dingani Moyo (Zimbabwe)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Rosa Maria Orriols Ramos (Spain)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Kari Reijula (Finland)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Shrinivas Murlidhar Shanbhag (India)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Malcolm Sim (Australia)** – ICOH Board Member

**Mr. Carlo Petyx (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Ms. Erika Cannone (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Ms. Valeria Boccuni (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Mr. Pasquale Fruscella (Italy)** – ICOH Staff

**Apologies:** **Prof. Monique Frings-Dresen (The Netherlands)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Mats Hagberg (Sweden)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Robert Orford (USA)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Christophe Paris (France)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Edoardo Santino (Brazil)** - ICOH Board Member  
**Ms. Maria Luisa Tupia Gonzales (Peru)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Jukka Vuori (Finland)** - ICOH Board Member



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### 1. Voting on the venue of ICOH2024

The first item on the agenda was the Bid Committees' presentation for determination of ICOH2024 Congress venue. ICOH Secretary General, Prof. Sergio Iavicoli, reminded the ICOH Board members of the decision-making process to determine the venue of ICOH2024 Congress – Bid submission process, Board recommendation, Voting by ICOH members – according to the Guidelines for ICOH Congress Organization. Four countries presented a bid for hosting ICOH2024: Canada (Montreal), India (Mumbai), Morocco (Marrakech) and Thailand (Bangkok). A fifth bid was originally presented by the Netherlands, but it was withdrawn at a later stage. Prof. Iavicoli reminded the meeting participants of the terms of reference and the criteria to be taken into consideration by the Board, as follows:

- professional strength, including the local Scientific Community
- occupational health situation in the country
- technical facilities, logistics, feasibility
- economic capacity
- geographical rotation
- demonstrated experience in organizing scientific conferences with the involvement of professional conference organizing company with large experience in the organization of international conferences.

A site visit was organized in each of the bidding countries (Prof. Iavicoli visited Thailand, Dr. Fingerhut visited Canada and Prof. Kang visited India and Morocco). Prof. Iavicoli presented a comparative table drawn up for the four venues, indicating the main information gathered by each Officer during their respective site visits.

The Bidding Committees from the four venues were invited to present a summary of their individual bids to the Board. The time allocated for each Bidding Committee was 10 minutes for the presentation and 3 minutes for discussion. The first Bidding Committee, in alphabetical order by country, was asked to join the meeting.

Ms. Marie Larue, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Institut de Recherche Robert-Sauvé en Santé et en Sécurité du Travail (IRSST) and member of the Local Organizing Committee, presented the bid for hosting the 34<sup>th</sup> ICOH Congress in Montreal, Canada.

Dr. Thirumalai Rajgopal, member of the Local Organizing Committee, presented the bid for hosting the 34<sup>th</sup> ICOH Congress in Mumbai, India.

Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti, member of the Local Organizing Committee, and Prof. Bouchra Rahmouni, presented the bid for hosting the 34<sup>th</sup> ICOH Congress in Marrakech.

After a brief introductory speech by Professor Jedsada Chokdamrongsuk, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Public Health, Prof. Naesinee Chaiear, member of the Local Organizing Committee, presented the bid for hosting the 34<sup>th</sup> ICOH Congress in Bangkok, Thailand.

The presentations of the bidding committees were followed by a discussion among the Board members. Then, the voting for the Board recommendation took place by secret ballot.

The results of the voting were:

- |                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| ▪ Canada (Montreal)   | 8 votes |
| ▪ India (Mumbai)      | 5 votes |
| ▪ Morocco (Marrakech) | 0 votes |
| ▪ Thailand (Bangkok)  | 3 votes |

#### **Decision:**

- The Board decided to recommend Canada as the venue for ICOH2024 Congress, based on number of votes;
- The Board was informed that the President appointed the Committee of Scrutineers for counting the votes for ICOH2024 Congress venue. The members were Prof. Ruddy Facci (Chairperson),



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Dr. Martin Hogan, Dr. Elia Enriquez and Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang with the assistance of ICOH Secretary General, Prof. Sergio Iavicoli.

## 2. Reports of Working Groups (Ref: background documents 5.1 – 5.5)

### a) Occupational Infectious Agents

Prof. Mary Ross reported on the activities carried out by the WG on Occupational Infectious Agents (WGOIA). She reminded the terms of reference. WGOIA currently has 24 members from 14 countries, all ICOH members. Meetings of the WGOIA were held during the Seoul Congress in 2015 and the Midterm Meeting in Florence to discuss progress and outputs for 2015-2017. The WGOIA was also represented at the midterm conference of SCHCW in Thailand. The main approaches are: "Fitness for work", "Risk assessment" and "Health surveillance". The WGOIA identified existing and new focus areas to be researched in the first part of the triennium, and for the development of fact sheets or other materials by the end of the triennium. A survey was conducted among the NSs of the 53 country members of ICOH to determine the extent to which occupational infections are recognised, notified and compensated as occupational diseases; and to determine the priority occupational infectious agents and worker groups plus the needs for materials, research and programmes. The response rate was over 70%.

Prof. Ross submitted to the Officers and Board members the proposal to form the ICOH Scientific Committee on Occupational Biological Agents (SCOBA). The Board members expressed general interest and appreciation for the proposal. However, they also agreed that the WGOIA has a transversal position and many of its competencies are already included in other SCs. Dr. Fingerhut suggested that one of the tasks of the next Vice President for SCs should be to think about how to better integrate the SCs which already exist and their interaction with WGs. Dr. Takala stressed the importance of the specific topic and reported that the Officers agreed to postpone the decision in order to evaluate what may be the best options or alternatives to move forward.

#### **Decision:**

- The Report of the WGOIA was approved unanimously.
- The decision to form a new SC was postponed in order to evaluate what may be the best options or alternatives to move forward.

### b) Implementation of the Global Strategy on Occupational Health for all, with special reference to the Global Ban of Asbestos

Prof. Kari Reijula reported on the activities carried out by the WG on Implementation of the Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All with a special reference to the Global Ban of Asbestos, since its launching in Seoul in 2015. Based on the terms of reference, the WG carried out a review of the situation on relevant topics. The WG was very active during the triennium and Prof. Reijula summarized the main ICOH actions, outputs and follow up for each of the five identified focus areas:

1. Promoting Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All. Special mention was made of the ICOH survey *Occupational Health Services for all. A global survey on OHS in selected countries of ICOH members* (Rantanen et al. 2013 and 2017);
2. Global Ban of Asbestos and Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases;
3. Occupational Health Services and BOHS;



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4. Investing in the health workforce and improving competence of the Occupational Health Professionals;
5. Prevention of Occupational Cancer. Dr. Takala will report on this specific topic in the next agenda item.

### **Decision:**

- The Report of the WG on Implementation of the Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All with a special reference to the Global Ban of Asbestos was approved unanimously.

### c) Participatory Approaches in Occupational Health

The Chair of the WG, Dr. Ton That Khai was absent. Dr. Kogi spoke in his place inviting the Board members to read the WG report included in the background documents, where detailed information was provided on the activities carried out in relation to the following main tasks:

1. Review the national and international programmes applying participatory approaches in the field of OSH.
2. Produce guidelines on participatory approaches in occupational health practice.

### **Decision:**

- The Report of the WG on Participatory Approaches in Occupational Health was approved unanimously.

### d) Young Workers and Child Labour

Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut, Chair of the Working Group on Young Workers and Child Labour, reported on the activities carried out during the Triennium. She reminded that a network of professionals active in the field of young workers and occupational health was established as part of the WG, with particular emphasis on the inclusion of members from developing countries. As a step forward, she would suggest the shift to tying into existing networks in order to (a) reduce the practical and mechanical challenges of networking for which specialized expertise is required, and (b) engage and interact with OSH professionals who have heretofore not been concerned with young worker occupational health in any way. Among the activities undertaken, she reported that many sessions were organized during the ICOH2018 Congress on this specific topic. During this year, a webinar was offered on young workers' occupational health. Concerning liaison with international organizations, joint actions were undertaken with ILO, WHO and FAO. Before concluding, she proposed the appointment of Prof. Monique Frings-Dresen as new Co-Chair of the WG.

### **Decision:**

- The report on the WG on Young Workers and Child Labour was approved unanimously.

### e) Occupational Cancer

Dr. Takala reported on the Working Group on Occupational Cancer. The WG was established as a result of discussions at the ICOH2015 Congress and ICOH General Meeting in Seoul in 2015. The objective is to widen and deepen the knowledge and actions to eliminate exposures at work leading to cancer. The goal would be to establish a global programme to reduce and gradually eliminate occupational cancer. In addition to the WG members, a large number of ICOH individual and institutional members contributed significantly to this effort. Occupational cancer will also feature prominently at the ICOH2018 Congress.

Actions and outputs have included research, scientific and other papers, editorials, posters and publications, conferences and presentations, contacts and discussions at WHO, ILO, EU, and with their stakeholders, and



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with all interested institutions and policy makers. A list of selected actions was included in the WG written report.

**Decision:**

- The Report on the WG on Occupational Cancer was approved unanimously.

### 3. Other issues presented by Board Members

The Board members presented no additional issues. The concluding remarks included some recommendations for future work: to take strategic initiatives to increase ICOH membership numbers and to implement the use of social media to promote the ICOH organization and activities. ICOH President closed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting expressing his thanks to all the participants for their active contribution to the meetings, and particularly to the outgoing Board members who concluded their two-term mandate.